

Food and Pharma Checklist

Certificates and approvals for importing food and pharmaceuticals

Food and medicines are regulated because they affect health. Requirements are stricter and the paperwork must be in place before shipping.

Food and food products

Done	Document / item	Notes
☐	Commercial invoice and packing list	Product descriptions, batch numbers and quantities.
☐	Transport document	Bill of Lading, Air Waybill or road consignment note.
☐	Health certificate	Issued by the competent authority in the exporting country for food of animal origin and processed food where required.
☐	Phytosanitary certificate	For plants, fruit, vegetables, grain and other plant products.
☐	Veterinary certificate	For meat, dairy, eggs and other animal products.
☐	Import permit	From the relevant ministry for plant and animal products. Apply before shipping.
☐	CBCA Certificate of Conformity	Food and agricultural products are covered by the CBCA programme.
☐	SAZ requirements	Standards Association of Zimbabwe standards and labelling requirements may apply to the product.
☐	Labelling	Labels should meet Zimbabwean requirements: product name, ingredients, net content, manufacturer and expiry.

Pharmaceuticals

Done	Document	Notes
☐	MCAZ registration	Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe registration of the product.
☐	MCAZ import permit	Required for the consignment. Only authorised, licensed importers may import medicines.
☐	Certificate of Analysis	Batch-specific quality certificate from the manufacturer.
☐	Manufacturer's licence / GMP evidence	Shows the product is made to recognised quality standards.
☐	Cold chain documentation	For temperature-sensitive products: temperature requirements, data loggers, and a handling plan from origin to delivery.
☐	Commercial invoice, packing list, transport document	With batch numbers and expiry dates on all documents.

Cold chain: Plan the whole journey, not just the flight or the truck. Arrange cold storage and agent availability before arrival so goods are not left waiting at ambient temperature.

Need help with this consignment? Speak to your George Steward clearing agent before the goods ship. Getting the paperwork right at the start avoids delays and storage charges at the border.

General guidance only, not legal or tax advice. Requirements, permits and rates are set by ZIMRA and other regulators and change from time to time. Confirm the requirements for your specific shipment with your George Steward clearing agent before you ship. Last reviewed: October 2026.