



## **Export Guidelines in Lebanon**



## Export Guidelines in Lebanon

### 1. Introduction

The export guidelines include: the country's international trade laws, the three-stage export process (planning, preparation and export) along with a list of all the required procedures and related documents and official authorities. In addition to the technical export requirements related to a number of countries and international groups, which are also specific to the food, textile and information and communication technology sectors.

#### International Trade Laws in Lebanon

##### **International trading companies are subject to:**

- Amendment of the Land Trade Law issued by Legislative Decree No. 304 dated 12/04/1942 and its modifications, adding new provisions and amending Article 844 of the Code of Obligations and Contracts. **The law may be consulted through the following link:**  
<http://77.42.251.205/Law.aspx?lawId=280636>  
[ar](#)
- Resolution No. 422 of 06/30/1954 (Customs Law). **The law may be consulted through the following link:**  
<http://77.42.251.205/LawView.aspx?opt=view&LawID=244232>  
[ar](#)
- Law of maritime trade issued on February 18, 1947. **The law may be consulted through the following link:**  
[The law of maritime trade](#)

## 1. Export phases

### 1.1 First phase (planning)

**Communication and agreement with the customer:** The basic step before starting the export procedures is to locate the customer and agree with him, after offering your product at a competitive price. After agreeing with the customer, the exporter shall study the export laws of the country to ensure that the requirements are met and that the product meets the specifications and standards required by the importing country. At the end of this phase, the final agreement is made with the customer with the agreement on the final quantity to be exported.

### 1.2 The second phase (preparing)

Typically, export procedures begin after the exporter and the foreign importer agree on offers in terms of price, specifications, delivery terms, quantities, packaging, payment system, etc., and then the exporter begins to prepare the export documents. The laws and regulations governing export operations vary according to the products to be exported and the country to which they are exported, since some products require the issuing of special certificates such as conformity to standard specifications and others.

In order to be able to import and export, companies shall follow the following steps:

- That the import and export process is part of the company's operations.
- Determine the types of goods that will be exported or imported.
- The company shall be registered with the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Beirut.

#### 1.2.1 Approving the commercial invoice

The commercial invoice is a document issued by the exporter that includes the details of the commodity sold. The commercial invoice shall contain:

- Name and address of the seller and buyer
- Place and date of issuance of the invoice
- Shipping method
- Quantity, description and price of goods
- Terms of shipment and payment
- Information on the bill of lading and other documents.

In addition to the above, the following shall be respected:

- The description of the goods on the invoice should be the same as the one on the letter of credit.
- Keep the description in the letter of credit as brief as possible and provide the same number of copies, as required for it, to the bank.
- Prepare the invoice in the name of the buyer or the person named in the letter of credit.
- The invoice description, details, number of packages and weight should be consistent with what appears on the invoice upon loading.
- Specify the pricing basis, e.g. CIF - FOB, in the letter of credit. The amount shown on the invoice should not differ from the amount shown on the letter of credit.

**Further information may be found via the following link:**

<https://bit.ly/35CUUoZar>

### **1.2.2 Issuance of Bill of Lading for export from Lebanon**

- The Bill of Lading is one of the most well-known traditional shipping documents in Maritime transport.
- The bill of lading is one of the most important documents when the goods arrive at the borders of the importing country, as it is the only evidence of ownership of goods by the owner.
- The document replaces the contract between the exporter and the shipping company as it covers the transportation of the goods from the port of export to the port of import.

- The police replace the acknowledgement of receipt and confirm the right of ownership of the goods to the document holder.
  - The goods are delivered to the consignee named on the bill of lading.
  - A notice of delivery against the goods will not be issued by the shipping agent nor accepted by the customs authorities if the document does not indicate the name, address and numbers of the consignee.
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- The other documents accompanying the copy of the bill of lading being recovered by the carrier include the following:
    - 1- A copy of the commercial invoice.
    - 2- A copy of the certificate of origin.
    - 3- Packing declaration. Weight certificate.
    - 4- Other certificates related to the products issued by the exporting country.

**Further information may be found via the following link:**

<https://bit.ly/35CUUoZ>

[ar](#)

### **1.2.3 Lebanon Export Insurance Policy**

- With respect to insurance documents, banks will not accept the "insurance plan" unless the "insurance policy" or customs document are acceptable under the letter of credit.
- The insurance plan shall cover the required risks in an adequate amount.
- The exporter shall also indicate this when the terms **CIF** (cost, insurance, and freight) and **CIP** (Carriage and Insurance Paid To) are used in the quotation.
- The exporter shall regulate the export in accordance with the rules governing the letter of credit.
- Coverage is paid on the main cargo for up to 110% of the CIP & CIF value if it is not of that value and banks usually refuse to accept the insurance policy.

- The insurance plan shall be in the name of the consignor and shall be approved by the bank except in cases specified in that country.
- The document shall be signed and notarized.
- It is necessary that the insurance plan indicates the name of the vessel carrying the exported goods and that it is identical to the name mentioned in the B/L (Bill of Lading) and the description of the goods shall correspond to the description in the B/L or the invoice.
- The place of payment shall be as stated in the letter of credit.

**Further information may be found via the following link:**

<https://bit.ly/35CUUoZ>

#### 1.2.4 Issuance of the certificate of origin

A certificate of origin is issued by the chamber of commerce or of industry.



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#### 1.2.5 Obtaining an export licence

The Lebanese Customs Administration requires certain documents from export license applicants in order to complete the customs clearance process, and among these required documents:

- Health certificates.
- Certificates of components.
- Customs control declaration
- Pre-shipment inspection certificates.
- Packing certificates
- Quarantine certificate

Further information may be found via the following link:

<https://bit.ly/3s6vVSlar>

### 1.2.6 Certifying the documents at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the Consulate of the importing country

### 1.2.7 Obtaining the Customs Approval

- Obtaining customs approval for export documents from the moment the export declaration is completed.
- The Lebanese customs law may be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.lebanesecustoms.gov.lb/post/219/%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%88%D9%86->

- You may also access the table of restrictions and prohibitions related to import and export provided by the Lebanese Customs Administration via the following link:

[http://www.customs.gov.lb/Government\\_Controls/Government\\_Controls.aspx](http://www.customs.gov.lb/Government_Controls/Government_Controls.aspx)

## 1.3 Third phase (export)

### 1.3.1 Agreement with a shipping company/customs broker

After agreeing with the customer and preparing all the required documents, an agreement is made with a shipping company or a customs broker to facilitate the required procedures and smooth the export process.

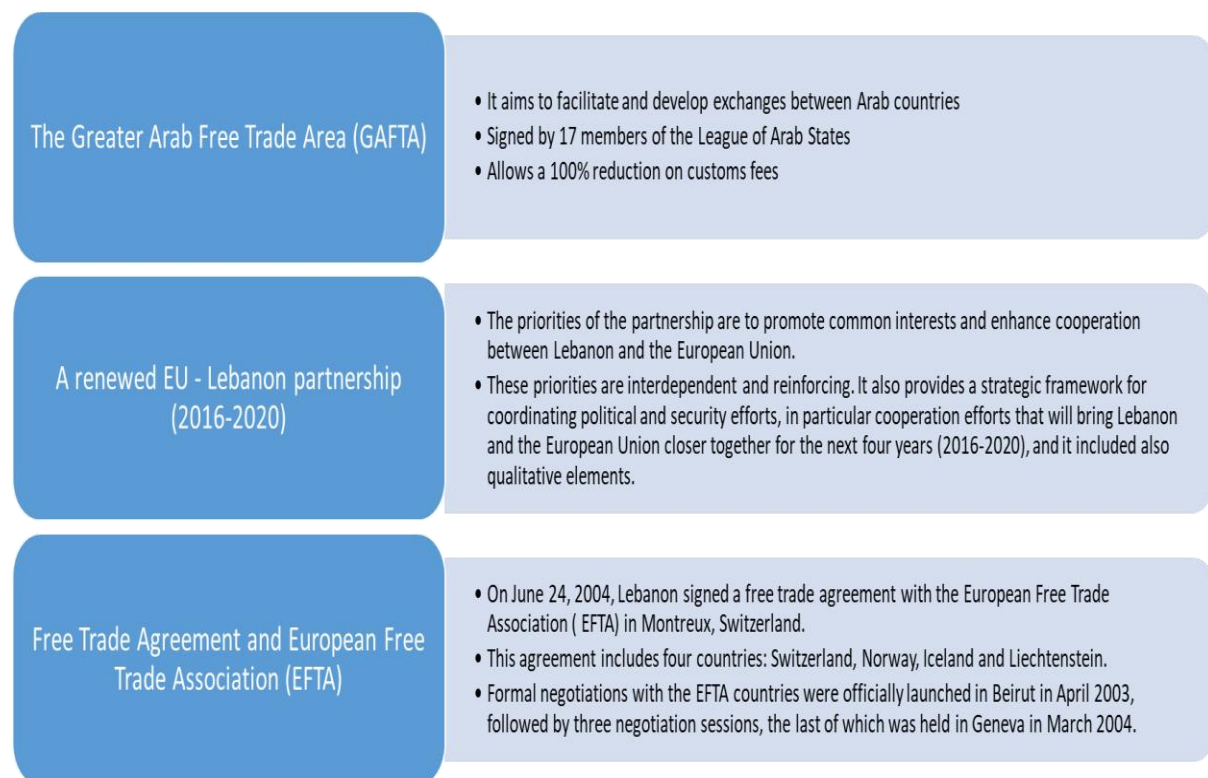
### 1.3.2 Shipment tracking

The last step comes after the export process, which includes tracking the shipment, communicating with the customer and verifying that the goods are in good condition and meet the customer's requirements, and finally, verifying that the agreed amount has been received.

## 2. Trade agreements signed by Lebanon

The following chart shows some of the trade agreements signed by Lebanon, under which customs exemptions are obtained in the import and export process.

**Figure 2: Some trade agreements signed by Lebanon**



## 3. Technical requirements of export

Exports shall always comply with the official requirements imposed by the government of the importing country (mandatory requirements) and the commercial requirements of the importer (buyer's requirements). Therefore, the exporter shall determine these requirements, which differ by sector and from one country to another



## Mandatory laws and regulations

**1.1 Technical regulations and rules:** They are compulsory production standards imposed by the countries that specify the characteristics of the final product and the production methods, in order to ensure the quality of the products and to protect human, animal and plant health and the safety of the environment. It states:

- List of products banned for import
- Permitted pesticide residue levels: The percentage of pesticide residues allowed varies by product.

**1.2 Government standards specifications:** These are mandatory standards imposed by countries that also specify the characteristics of the final product to ensure the prevention of trade fraud and the safety of the product. The World Trade Organization's Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures encourages countries to base their requirements on international standards, such as those of the [CODEX](#) Alimentarius, the World Organization for Animal Health ([OIE](#)) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

## Technical requirements of food exports for each international group

### A - European Union

#### 1. Food and feed of non-animal origin

**1.1 Certain food and feed of non-animal origin exported from Lebanon are subject to import restrictions, namely<sup>1</sup>:**

- Brassica rapa" turnip: 50% of the shipments are checked to ensure that the prescribed pesticide residue percentages are not exceeded.
- **You may learn more about import restrictions for other countries by visiting the EUR-Lex website;**

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<sup>1</sup> EUR-Lex, Access to European Union Law, April 2021, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32021R0608>

[EUR-Lex - 32021R0608 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

## 2. Food of animal origin

2.1 The non-EU country shall be approved for the export of a particular category of food of animal origin and shall be on the list of non-EU countries approved for that specific category of food.

### **2.2 Poultry import restrictions include some of the following criteria<sup>2</sup>:**

Exporting countries shall have a competent authority responsible to implement an effective inspection in all stages of the poultry production chain. The authority shall be empowered, organized and resourced to carry out effective inspection and ensure both public and animal health.

That the country or region of origin meets the applicable animal health standards.

The country should be a member of the World Organization for Animal Health formerly the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) and should comply with the organization's standards and reporting requirements.

To notify the approved countries within 24 hours of an outbreak of avian influenza and Newcastle disease, including also significant changes in health status, to the European Commission's Directorate General for Health and Food Safety.

You may access the European Commission's website for the complete list of restrictions on the export of poultry to the European Union via the following link

[ia\\_trade\\_facstheet\\_poultry-and-products.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

### **2.3 Meat import restrictions include some of the following criteria<sup>3</sup>:**

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<sup>2</sup> European Commission, "European Union Import Conditions for Poultry and Poultry Products", [https://ec.europa.eu/food/system/files/2018-06/ia\\_trade\\_facstheet\\_poultry-and-products.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/food/system/files/2018-06/ia_trade_facstheet_poultry-and-products.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> European Commission, "EU Import Conditions for Fresh meat and meat products", [ia\\_trade\\_import-cond-meat\\_en.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

- Exporting countries should have a competent authority responsible to ensure credible inspection and controls throughout the production chain. The authority shall be empowered, organised and resourced to carry out effective inspection and ensure public and animal health.
- Imports are only allowed from approved establishments such as slaughterhouses and cutting plants that have been inspected by the competent authority of the exporting country and found to meet EU requirements.
- To export meat of bovine, ovine or caprine species (cattle, sheep and goats) to the European Union, exporting countries have to apply for a determination of the bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) status.
- **You may access the European Commission's website to find out the rest of the restrictions imposed on the export of meat to the European Union via the following link:**

[ia\\_trade\\_import-cond-meat\\_en.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

#### **2.4 Fish import restrictions include some of the following criteria<sup>4</sup>:**

- Exporting countries should have a competent authority responsible to ensure credible inspection and controls throughout the production chain. The authority shall be empowered, organized and resourced to carry out effective inspection and ensure public and animal health.
- Live fish, their eggs and gametes intended for breeding and live bivalve mollusks shall fulfill the relevant EU animal health standards. Consequently the veterinary services in the non-EU country shall ensure effective enforcement of all necessary health controls and implement appropriate health monitoring programs.
- Specific conditions apply for imports of live or processed bivalve mollusks (e.g. mussels and clams).
- Echinoderms (e.g. sea urchins) or marine gastropods (e.g. sea-snails and conchs).
- **You may log into the following European Commission website for the rest of the restrictions on exporting fish to the European Union:**

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<sup>4</sup> European Commission, "EU Import Conditions for seafood and other fishery products", [ia\\_trade\\_import-cond-fish\\_en.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

[ia\\_trade\\_import-cond-fish\\_en.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

### **3. Trade in plants & plant products from non-EU countries<sup>5</sup>**

1.1 Certain plants, plant products and other materials entering the European Union shall be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate ensuring that they were subject to appropriate inspection.

**Mandatory phytosanitary checks are carried out on all plants and plant products from non-EU countries, and the following shall be provided:**

- Phytosanitary certificates and documents to ensure that the shipment meets the EU requirements;
- Identity to ensure that the shipment is in compliance with the certificate;
- Inspection to ensure that the shipment is free of pests.

**EU countries charge fees for document, identity and phytosanitary controls that shall be paid by the importer or his customs agent.**

[List of plant products banned from entering the EU from third world countries](#)

#### **B - The United States of America**

1. Imported food products are subject to FDA inspection when they are tendered for import at U.S. entry ports

2. The U.S. FDA may detain shipments of products offered for import if the shipments are found not to be in compliance with U.S. requirements.

**3. Import restrictions imposed by the FDA include some of the following criteria:**

#### **3.1 Prior notification of foods to be imported<sup>6</sup>**

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<sup>5</sup> EUR-Lex, [EUR-Lex - 32019R2072 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>6</sup> FDA, "Prior Notice of Imported Foods, [Prior Notice of Imported Foods | FDA](#)

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) shall receive prior notification of any food, including animal feed, imported or proposed for import into the United States.

### **3.2 Final Rule on Preventive Controls of Human Food<sup>7</sup>**

- Importers shall verify potential risks from foreign suppliers, including<sup>8</sup>:
- Facilities subject to the regulation are required to establish and implement a food safety system that includes a preventive analysis based on these risks. The regulation sets forth requirements for the development of a written food safety plan that includes a risk analysis, preventive controls, and monitoring and management of preventive controls.
- The food is produced in compliance with section 418 (concerning hazard analysis and risk-based preventive controls) or 419 (concerning standards for the safe production and harvesting of certain fruits and vegetables that are raw agricultural commodities (RACs)) of the FD&C Act (21 U.S.C. 350g and 350h), as appropriate;



350h.pdf



21 U.S.C. 350g.pdf

- The food is not adulterated under section 402 of the FD&C Act ([21 U.S.C. 342](#)).



21 U.S.C. 342.pdf

- The food is not misbranded under section 403(w) of the FD&C Act ([21 U.S.C. 343\(w\)](#)) (concerning food allergen labeling).



21 U.S.C. 343.pdf

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<sup>7</sup> FDA, “FSMA Final Rule on Foreign Supplier Verification Programs (FSVP) for Importers of Food and Humans and Animals”, [FSMA Final Rule on Foreign Supplier Verification Programs \(FSVP\) for Importers of Food for Humans and Animals | FDA, download \(fda.gov\)](#)



2. Certifying shipments is dependent on the possession of complete documentation of their respective details, so the exporting country shall take all measures to ensure that the official certificates are accurate and correct, and that the certificates are from officially recognized authorities.

3. The import restrictions imposed on the Gulf Cooperation Council include the existence of health certificates for all types of food, including processed foods, meat, dairy products, eggs, seafood, plants and plant products, and honey.

**Some of the criteria required by these certifications include the following:**



### **3.1 Export health certificates for processed foods**

- Ensure food safety and suitability for human consumption
- Conduct food handling procedures in a food facility under the control of a competent regulatory authority and/or officially authorized authority, and apply the food safety management system based on the principles of the HACCP system or an equivalent system.

### **3.2 Export health certificates for meat and meat products**

- Ensure the safety and suitability of meat and meat products for human consumption
- Animals have been slaughtered in a slaughterhouse approved and under the supervision of the competent authority of the exporting country, and is approved by the GCC authorities.
- Conduct an ante mortem and post- mortem inspection on the meat and/or meat product from animals by veterinarians assigned by the Competent Authority of the country of origin.
- Handle the meat and/or meat product at an establishment that has been subjected to inspections by the competent authority and implements a food safety management system based on HACCP principles or an equivalent system.

- Apply good veterinary practices in the use of veterinary medicines (including growth promoters) and agriculture chemicals in live animals, and any residues in meat and/or meat products comply with GCC requirements.
- Make sure that the meat and/or meat product originates from animals that have not been slaughtered for the purpose of disease eradication or disease control.
- Make sure that the meat and/or meat product has not been derived from animals fed on processed animal protein, excluding milk substitute during lactation period and fishmeal.

### **3.3 Export health certificates for milk and milk products**

- Make sure that the milk/milk products are safe and fit for human consumption
- Make sure that the milk /milk products have been derived from healthy animals that are subject to the official veterinary service inspections in the country of origin.
- Handle the milk/milk products in an establishment that has been subjected to inspections by the competent authority and implements a food safety management system based on HACCP principles or an equivalent system.
- Apply good veterinary practices in the use of veterinary medicines (including growth promoters) and agriculture chemicals in live animals and any residues in milk or milk products comply with GCC requirements.



Halal Certificate  
forms.pdf



Health Certificate  
Forms.pdf

## **Technical requirements for the export of textile products for each international group**

### **A - European Union**

The European Union has harmonized the laws in all EU countries with the Textile Regulation (EU) No..1007/2011 on textile fiber names and related labelling and marking of the fiber composition of textile products. This was done to protect the interests of consumers and eliminate potential barriers to the smooth functioning of the internal market.



The main elements are :

- General compliance with the full fiber composition of textile products;
- Minimum technical requirements for applications for a new fiber name ;
- The requirement to indicate the presence of non-textile parts of animal origin;
- Exemption for customized products made by self-employed tailors;

**According to the regulation, textile products shall be distinguished whenever they are available on the market:**

- The indication of the fiber composition of a product is mandatory at all stages of the industrial processing and commercial distribution of that product.
- All products containing at least 80% by weight of textile fibers, including raw, semi-worked, worked, semi-manufactured, semi-made, and made-up products are covered by the Regulation.
- The Regulation does not cover size, country of origin, or wash/care labelling.

### **Requesting a new Fiber name**

The information required to submit an application to amend Regulation (EU) No.1007/2011 shall comply with the minimum requirements set out in Annex II of the Regulation.

Each application and its technical file will be examined according to the following criteria:

- The fiber is radically different from other fibers by chemical composition and/or by fiber properties.
- The fiber is detectable and distinguishable from other fibers by standardized test methods
- The fiber is commercially available from at least two independent producers
- A new generic name is justified as the fiber cannot be classified into an existing generic name

If deemed necessary, samples of the fiber (yarns and/or fabrics) provided by the applicant will undergo a technical analysis of the proposed fiber parameters, such as agreed allowance, correction d factors for loss in mass (to be applied for each method) etc. The purpose is to assess whether the fiber is identifiable and distinguishable from other already existing fibers. Further information available on the following website [Legislation \(europa.eu\)](http://Legislation.europa.eu)

## **B- The Gulf Arab Countries**

The GCC countries require similar naming requirements for textiles and clothing, and they are as follows:

- Care instructions should be indicated primarily by symbols, but may be accompanied by
- words, when necessary, but words should be kept to a minimum
- Care instructions shall include, in this order:
  - Washing,
  - Chlorine-based bleaching,
  - Drying,
  - Ironing,
  - Dry cleaning
  - Tumble drying
- Ready-made apparel products shall bear their country of origin
- Required information shall be written in Arabic only or in Arabic and English
- Ready-made apparel products shall bear fiber identity labeling
- Per the standard, fiber content shall be expressed as a percentage, by mass
- Ready-made apparel products shall bear manufacturer or importer identity labelling
- All textile products shall bear size labeling.

**Further information may be found via the following link:**

[https://rbis.averydennison.com/content/dam/averydennison/rbis/global/en/images/Solutions/Accelerate%20Performance/doc/Kuwait\\_Care\\_Labeling\\_Legislation\\_Guide.pdf](https://rbis.averydennison.com/content/dam/averydennison/rbis/global/en/images/Solutions/Accelerate%20Performance/doc/Kuwait_Care_Labeling_Legislation_Guide.pdf)

## C- United States of America

U.S. Customs laws require that all foreign-produced clothing be identified by the country of origin marking.

All wearing apparel items shall be marked with the name of the country of origin by means of a fabric label unless a precedent exists which has ruled in favor of another form of marking. Following are the general rules for locating such a fabric label on upper and lower body garments.

In the case of garments that cover the upper torso such as shirts, blouses, coats, sweaters, dresses and similar apparel, country of origin marking shall be placed on the “inside center of the neck midway between the shoulder seams or in that immediate area”.

“Trousers, slacks, jeans and similar wearing apparel shall be marked by means of a permanent label affixed in a conspicuous location on the garment, such as the inside of the waistband”

The following information should be included in English for editing or labelling purposes:

- Fiber content, by percentage in descending order by weight, using generic fiber names.
- Fiber names approved by the FTC or by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) may be used. For example, either spandex (an FTC approved name) or elastane (an ISO approved name) may be used to name the same fiber.

**Further information may be found via the following link:**

<https://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/assets/documents/2020-Feb/ICP-Marking-for-Wearing-Apparel-2008-Final.pdf>

- The Flammable Fabric Act prohibits the manufacture for sale, the sale, or the offering for sale, in commerce, or the importation into the United States, or the introduction, delivery for introduction, transportation or causing to be transported, in commerce, or the sale or delivery after a sale or shipment in commerce of any product, fabric, or related material which fails to conform to flammability standards or regulations issued under this Act. Standards have been established for the flammability of clothing textiles, vinyl plastic film (used in clothing), carpets and rugs, children's sleepwear, and mattresses and mattress pads.



USCODE-2011-title1  
5-chap25.pdf

- Children’s sleepwear shall be flame resistant and self-extinguish when exposed to a small ignition source. The rules cover all children’s sleepwear between size 9 months and size 14. The fabric, seams, trim, and garments shall pass certain flammability tests or the garment shall be tight-fitting as defined by specified dimensions.
- **The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act**  
<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/PLAW-110publ314/html/PLAW-110publ314.htm>  
(CPSIA) enacted in 2008 regulates specific substances in children’s products, including children’s apparel and sleepwear. The CPSIA sets limits for lead content and phthalates in children’s products. With respect to children’s apparel, Section 101(a) of the CPSIA restricts children’s products, including children’s apparel and sleepwear, to a lead content limit of 100 parts per million (ppm). In addition, the use of paint or similar surface coating on children’s apparel and sleepwear shall not exceed a lead content limit of 90 ppm.

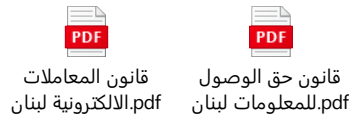
- **Further information may be found via the following link:**

<https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/Guide-to-US-Apparel-and-Household-Textiles.pdf>

### **Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Sector**

- Based on the strategic plan launched by the Network for Digital Transformation in Lebanon at the Parliament of Lebanon in July 2019, the Network has repeatedly expressed its willingness to cooperate productively and provide everything necessary to transform the governmental and parliamentary sessions into interactive digital sessions and e-cabinet sessions, considering the delicate security protection and taking into account the confidentiality, server installation, archiving, etc.
- Undertaking these steps towards digital governance is in line with what the Lebanese governments have repeatedly announced about their intention to approve the national strategy for digital transformation. But the disease may have turned into the drug in the Lebanese administration leading them to make the necessary steps toward the approval of the national digital transformation strategy proposed by the office of the

Ministry of State for Administrative Development, that the network welcomes to review some of its details. It is also necessary to accelerate the approval of the implementing decrees for the Right to Information Law and the E-Transactions Law, which were approved in the Parliament in 2017 and 2018, respectively.



- Therefore, the Digital Transformation Network in Lebanon and all Lebanese citizens are waiting for the steps that the Lebanese government shall take during this golden age of digital transformation to build a digital governance that combines digital democracy (based on the principles of participation, accountability, and transparency) and digital government (based on remote services in all sectors that facilitate the life of citizens, save them efforts, money, and time, and avoid burdens on public finances.

**On the other hand, the network illustrates the challenges faced by the government in this regard, and we list them as follows:**

- First - the telecommunications infrastructure, especially the Internet, by the ease of access, cost fairness, and quality...
- Second - Continuous power cuts.
- Third - Security and privacy, and facing threats of breach of privacy and data security.
- Fourth - Social inclusion through the ability of all citizens to interact with digital technology across the skills gap between the digital generation and the traditional generation.
- Fifth - Resisting change, especially in public administrations due to inability or inefficiency, or because it limits corruption

**Further information may be found via the following link:**

<https://www.ad-dawra.com/2020/04/15/19313/>