EXPORTING FOOD TO THE UNITED STATES: FDA CHECKLIST 2026

Ten steps, each with the federal rule behind it. Check them with your importer and freight forwarder before the first shipment.

THE CHECKLIST

1. FDA facility registration	*Before manufacturing or holding food for the US; renewal in even-numbered years between 1 October and 31 December (21 CFR 1.230).*
2. US agent	*A person residing or keeping a place of business in the US, never a mailbox (21 CFR 1.227).*
3. DUNS number	*The unique facility identifier FDA accepts for registration.*
4. Importer's FSVP	*The importer must have a foreign supplier verification programme for each food (21 CFR 1.502): get ready the documents they will ask for.*
5. Prior notice	*Before arrival, in English: at least 2 hours by road, 4 by rail or air, 8 by water (21 CFR 1.279 and 1.281).*
6. Nutrition Facts	*Required unless an exemption in 21 CFR 101.9(j) applies, including the low-volume exemption.*
7. Major allergens	*Nine for FDA: milk, eggs, fish, crustacean shellfish, tree nuts, peanuts, wheat, soybeans, sesame (sesame since 1 January 2023).*
8. How allergens are declared	*At least once: in brackets after the ingredient, "lecithin (soy)", or in a "Contains" statement next to the ingredients.*
9. Tariff code and duty	*The six HS digits are shared; read the duty in the US Harmonized Tariff Schedule on the day of the offer.*
10. Wine and spirits	*You also need an importer with a basic permit and a TTB-approved label (COLA).*

Sources: 21 CFR 1.227, 1.230, 1.279, 1.281, 1.502, 101.9 (1 April 2025 edition); FDA, food allergies (11 March 2026); 27 CFR 1.20 and 4.40 for wine.

Checklist produced by Itria from the federal regulations. Each step explained (page in Italian): itria.io/esportare-alimentari-stati-uniti

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If you redo this by hand for every order, an AI agent can do it from the data you already have and leave it for a person to approve. A couple of lines on WhatsApp to +39 350 574 3578 or an email to info@itria.io. How it works: itria.io/en/documenti-per-esportare-ai