

Low-Acid Foods Regulations and Requirements in Africa

1. Definition

- pH > 4.6 and water activity > 0.85
- Examples: canned vegetables, sauces, soups, ready-to-eat meat/fish

1. South Africa – Department of Health / NRCS

- Regulated under Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act
- Must comply with R962 (General hygiene requirements)
- Thermal processing validation for canned and shelf-stable foods
- HACCP required for all food manufacturing
- Importers must register and provide Certificate of Acceptability

2. Egypt – NFSA

- Authority: National Food Safety Authority (NFSA)
- Law 1/2017 governs food safety and risk-based inspections
- Shelf-stable low-acid foods must undergo thermal treatment validation
- Requires HACCP plans and facility licensing
- Imports need pre-registration and technical data submission

3. Nigeria – NAFDAC

- Authority: National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control
- All retort/canned foods require product registration
- Must comply with Codex-based safety standards
- Requires evidence of GMP, sterility validation, shelf-life testing
- Facilities inspected before product approval

4. Kenya – KEBS / Ministry of Health

- Regulated under Public Health Act and Standards Act
- KS EAS 39 applies to processed/canned vegetables
- HACCP mandatory for food processors
- Canned/retort foods must be tested for commercial sterility
- Products for export or import must be pre-certified

5. Morocco – ONSSA

- Authority: Office National de Sécurité Sanitaire des Produits Alimentaires (ONSSA)
- Retorted and shelf-stable foods need product registration
- Must validate thermal processing conditions
- Requires GMP, sanitation program, and traceability
- Imported foods undergo border inspection and lab tests

6. Common Requirements

- HACCP-based food safety systems
- Thermal process validation for shelf-stable LACFs
- Labeling, traceability, and expiration date rules
- Facility registration or inspection
- Shelf-life and microbiological testing

Key References:

Country	Authority / Standard	Link
South Africa	Dept. of Health / NRCS	https://www.health.gov.za / https://www.nrccs.org.za
Egypt	NFSA, Law 1/2017	https://www.nfsa.gov.eg
Nigeria	NAFDAC	https://www.nafdac.gov.ng
Kenya	KEBS / MoH	https://kebs.org / https://www.health.go.ke
Morocco	ONSSA	http://www.onssa.gov.ma

For expert assistance with African LACF regulations, process validation, or import/export compliance: Advanced Food-Tech Solutions | www.advfood.tech | info@advfood.tech