

MEWA Launches Licensing Service to Import Fresh Vegetables and Fruits

The Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture has launched a licensing service for importing fresh vegetables and fruits, with the aim of continuing the flow of fresh vegetables and fruits to enhance food security, control the quality of their import, and protect the plant wealth of the Kingdom.

The "Environment" clarified that the procedures for issuing the license begin by submitting the application online through the electronic platform <https://eservices.mewa.gov.sa/request/111111>. Noting that the request will be studied within a period not exceeding 3 days, and then the applicant will be notified of the outcome of his request, provided that in the case of rejection, it will be justified. Noting that once the approval is issued, the import license will be issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and will be valid for a period between 3 and 10 years, depending on the category of the license.

It also indicated that the importer obtaining an import license enables him to obtain import permits, which will start on the first of next Muharram (09 Aug 2021), emphasizing that no shipment of fresh vegetables and fruits can enter the Kingdom without a prior import permit.

The "Environment" also indicated that one of the conditions of the import license is that the importer is a Saudi legal person licensed to practice the activity, or that he is a foreign investor licensed to practice the activity in accordance with the foreign investment system, with financial solvency.

It also stated that the health conditions of the shipment include the importance of it being free of the pests mentioned in the lists of Plant Quarantine Pests in the Kingdom, that it must be free of pesticide residues or within the limits permitted by law in the Kingdom, and that it conforms to the provisions of the agricultural quarantine system and its executive regulations in the Kingdom.

The Ministry stated that the clearance of shipments of fruits and vegetables depends on the shipment conforming to the requirements of the technical regulations and specifications approved by the Ministry, in addition to being received through the ports approved by the Ministry, and that the validity of the import license is valid. Stressing that the Ministry has the right to verify the

imported quantities according to the import license issued, as well as canceling the license or permission and stopping the shipment in the event of the emergence of epidemic diseases in the country of export.

Ref: <https://www.mewa.gov.sa/ar/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News2732020.aspx>