

**SHEA TECH CERTIFICATION**  
**ONLINE COURSE**  
**MODULE 4**



**Import/Export and US  
Customs' Regulations of  
Shea Butter**

**ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.**

This course contains material protected under International and Federal Copyright Laws and Treaties. Any unauthorized reprint, publishing or use of this material is prohibited. No part of this course may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information storage and retrieval system without express written permission from the Author/Publisher.

# GOVERNMENTAL REGULATIONS

## A. Two Categories of Shea Butter

There are two types of Shea Butter currently available to the US consumer.

- i. Shea Butter used for manufacturing confectionery products;
- ii. Shea used for manufacturing personal care products.

Note: Unrefined Shea butter does not qualify for use by confection manufacturers. Unrefined Shea butter is used exclusively for nonedible uses.

## B. Regulatory Codes and Resources

i.[Code of Federal Regulations]  
[Title 21, Volume 3]  
[Revised as of April 1, 2002]

ii.From the U.S. Government Printing Office via GPO Access  
[CITE: 21CFR184.1702][Page 538]



# GOVERNMENTAL REGULATIONS

## B. Regulatory Codes and Resources (Continued)

[CITE: 21CFR184.1702][Page 538]

TITLE 21--FOOD AND DRUGS

CHAPTER I--FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (CONTINUED)

PART 184--DIRECT FOOD SUBSTANCES AFFIRMED AS  
GENERALLY

RECOGNIZED AS SAFE--Table of Contents

Subpart B--Listing of Specific Substances Affirmed as GRAS

iii. Sec. 184.1702 Shea nut oil.

(a) Shea nut oil is produced from Shea nuts derived from the Shea tree *Butyrospermum parkii* and is composed principally of triglycerides containing an oleic acid moiety at the 2-position and saturated fatty acids, usually stearic or palmitic acids, at the 1- and 3 positions.



# GOVERNMENTAL REGULATIONS

## B. Regulatory Codes and Resources (continued)

iv. The ingredient meets the following specifications when tested

using any appropriate validated methodology:

- (1) Saponification value of 185 to 195
- (2) Iodine value of 28 to 43
- (3) Unsaponifiable matter not to exceed 1.5 percent
- (4) Free fatty acids not more than 0.1 percent as oleic acid,
- (5) Peroxide value not more than 10 mill equivalents/equivalent (meq/eq)
- (6) Lead not more than 0.1 part per million (ppm)
- (7) Copper not more than 0.1 (ppm)

In accordance with Sec. 184.1(b)(3), the ingredient is used in the following food categories at levels not to exceed current good manufacturing practice, except that the ingredient may not be used in a standardized food unless permitted by the standard of identity: Confections and frostings as defined in Sec. 170.3(n)(9) of this chapter, coatings of soft candy as defined in Sec. 170.3(n)(38) of this chapter, and sweet sauces and toppings as defined in Sec. 170.3(n)(43) of this chapter.[63 FR 28895, May 27, 1998]



# GOVERNMENTAL REGULATIONS

## B. Regulatory Codes and Resources (continued)

The US government regulation for Shea Butter used in the personal care industry is spelled out under FDA regulations regarding labeling of OTC and cosmetic products. For those seeking directives for these requirements are advised to contact US FDA for advice and directives. The intent of government labeling requirements among other things is to protect the consumer from false claims and unethical practices. Some Shea Butter products on the market are labeled as Pure Shea Butter, or 100% Shea Butter, however these same products are mixed with a number of other substances. This practice is taking advantage of consumers, and we do not believe that the government will allow such practices to continue indefinitely.



# IMPORT/EXPORT CODES

The harmonizing and schedule B codes for import and export tracking are defined below:

Harmonizing Codes: For Import a 6-digit number

Schedule B Codes: For Export a 10-digit number, the first six digits are often the same as the harmonizing code.

Harmonizing Import-Export code for Shea Butter:

**1515.90**

Schedule B for Import/Export code for Shea Butter:

**1515.90.2000 (Most commonly used code)**

- 1515.90: Fixed vegetable fats and oils and their fractions, whether or not refined but not chemically modified, nesoi
- 1515.90.2000: Nut oils and their fractions nesoi, whether or not refined but not chemically modified.

Description of other seed oils (for examples only):

1515.90.6000: Jojoba oil and its fractions, whether or not refined but not chemically modified

1515.90.8010: Hemp oil and their fractions nesoi, whether or not refined but not chemically modified.



# IMPORT/EXPORT CODES

## 1. What are the duties and fees for importation of Shea butter?

Bulk Shea butter has always gained admission into the USA without import duty or taxes. Vegetable oil is considered an agricultural product.

## 2 .What are the post 9/11 changes to importation of Shea butter into the USA?

It is now required that all importers into the USA must be registered with US customs. Your African supplier must also be registered. Make sure the person in USA receiving the Shea (importer) and the person in Africa sending the butter (exporter) is registered with US customs. You should include for customs a certificate of analysis or a MSD Sheet.

For additional information and assistance, contact Mr. Harold Hagans, Founder and President of Atlanta Customs Brokers and International Freight Forwarders, Atlanta, GA.

