

Office of Inspections and Investigations/OII

SPECIAL EVENTS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR IMPORTING FDA-REGULATED PRODUCTS

June 2026



Importing FDA-Regulated Products into the United States for Special Events. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) wants international visitors attending special events in the United States to have a safe experience. This guide covers bringing food, medications, and other FDA-regulated products for personal use.

WHAT DOES FDA REGULATE?

- Food and beverages (including dietary supplements)
- Medications
- Medical devices
- Cosmetics
- Biological products
- Tobacco products

CAN I BRING FOOD FROM MY HOME COUNTRY?

Yes, you can bring food for personal consumption in amounts appropriate for your stay. However, some items may be restricted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) or U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) due to agricultural concerns.

What to do: Prepare an inventory, declare all food items to CBP upon arrival, and note that certain fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, and plant products may be prohibited.

CAN I BRING MEDICATION AND MEDICAL DEVICES?

Yes, for personal use. Bring only what you need for your stay, keep medications in original packaging with labels, and carry a copy of your prescription or physician letter (in English, if possible).

For teams: All medications and equipment should be supervised by the team physician or trainer. Maintain an inventory of all items. See [Chapter 9 of FDA's Regulatory Procedures Manual](#) for details.

CAN I BRING TOBACCO PRODUCTS AND VAPING DEVICES?

Yes, with limitations. You must be at least 21 years old. You must declare all tobacco and vape products to CBP upon arrival. Vapes without premarket tobacco authorization may be refused admission. For a list of vapes that have premarket tobacco authorization, please visit: <https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/searchtobacco>. Please see the [Importing Tobacco Products](#) page. **Note: Tobacco products brought into the U.S. for personal use must comply with CBP regulations. For more information, visit www.cbp.gov or contact CBP.**

ADVANCE NOTICE TO FDA

Personal items: No advance notice required for reasonable quantities.

Commercial shipments or large food quantities: Prior notice may be required. See [Filing Prior Notice of Imported Foods](#) page.

AT U.S. ARRIVAL

- Declare all FDA-regulated products to CBP
- Present your inventory if requested
- Provide documentation (prescriptions, physician letters)

QUESTIONS WHILE IN THE U.S.

Local FDA office: www.fda.gov/industry/contact-fda-import-program/import-offices-and-ports-entry

Email: imports@fda.hhs.gov | **Phone:** 301-796-0356

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- **FDA Prior Notice:** <https://www.fda.gov/industry/fda-import-process/prior-notice-imported-foods>
- **CBP:** www.cbp.gov
- **TSA (Disabilities/Medical):** www.tsa.gov/travel/tsa-cares/disabilities-and-medical-conditions
- **USDA:** <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/traveling-with-ag-products>