

# Riba Smith Enterprises

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Panama, R. P.  
20 August 2002

Food and Drug Administration  
Dockets Management Branch  
12420 Parklawn Drive, Room 1-23  
Rockville, Maryland 20857  
United States of America

Reference: Docket No. 97D-0202

Gentlemen:

The Republic of Panama has a sanitary law that requires what is called a Registration Number for every food item imported into the country.

This Number is obtained through a process of registration performed by the Ministry of Health at the cost of the importer.

It basically consists of a presentation of a series of documents, including, as the most important one, a Certificate of Free Sale, issued by a government agency from the country and/or state in which the product is manufactured.

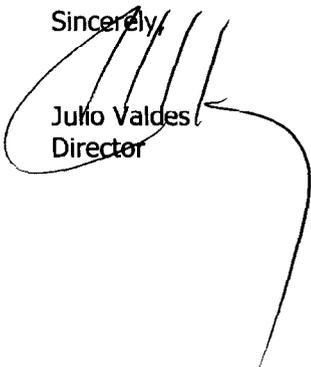
The process theoretically includes a laboratory analysis in order for the Ministry to confirm if the list of ingredients on the presented formula (another one of the required documents) agrees with the reality found in the analysis. This takes approximately 2 to 3 weeks, and the cost is an average of \$500.00 (per single product) including the lawyer's fees, since, as another requirement, everything has to be done through an attorney.

Panama signed a treaty in which clearly agrees that it would accept the Registration of products from countries that also signed this treaty in replacement of the process performed in our country as (very briefly) described above.

As large importers of US food products, we urgently need to know if there is such thing as a Registration process for food products manufactured in the US either for local consumption or for export or for both. We are currently preparing legal action against our Ministry of Health in order to obtain their approval of the conditions signed in the mentioned treaty, but it is imperative that we prove that the US has a Registration process or something similar that could be accepted in lieu of the one described.

Hoping to hear from you soon, we remain,

Sincerely,

  
Julio Valdes  
Director

97D-0202

LET 2

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 Sender's FedEx Account Number: [blank]  
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Commodity Description	Harmonised Code	Country of Manufacture	Value for Customs
[blank]	[blank]	[blank]	[blank]
[blank]	[blank]	[blank]	[blank]
[blank]	[blank]	[blank]	[blank]

Total Declared Value For Carriage: [blank] Specify Currency: [blank] Total Value For Customs: [blank]  
 For Harmonised Code #'s over U.S. \$2,500 or those which require a U.S. Dept. of Commerce validated Export License, attach a completed Shipper's Export Declaration form and tick here

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**6 Service** Not all services available to all destinations  
 FedEx Intl. First (Postal code required) (Higher rates apply)  
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 FedEx Intl. Economy (FedEx Letter/Envelope/Pak rate not available)  
 FedEx Intl. Priority Freight  
 FedEx Intl. Economy Freight

**7 Packaging**  FedEx Letter/Envelope  FedEx Pak  Other Packaging

**8 Special Handling** Not all options available to all destinations

Does this shipment contain dangerous goods? (One box must be ticked)  
 No  Yes (As per attached Shipper's Declaration)  
 Yes (Shipper's Declaration not required)  
 Tick here if goods are not in free circulation and provide C1 (For EU only)  
 CA Cargo Aircraft Only  
 Dry Ice, 9, UN 1845 x kg

**9 Payment TRANSPORTATION CHARGES PAID BY:** Obtain Recipient/Third Party FedEx Account No  
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Received above shipment in good order and condition. We agree to pay all charges including Customs duties and taxes as applicable and to the Conditions of Contract as stated on the reverse side of the consignee copy.

Recipient's Signature: [blank] Date: [blank]

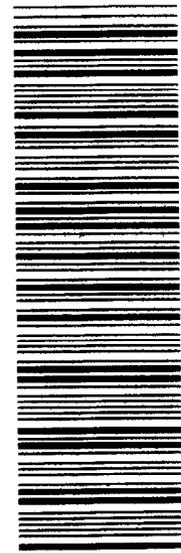
FedEx Courier Receipt: [blank] Date: [blank]  
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FedEx Tracking Number **8315 2795 5929 0423** Form ID No [blank]

Handling Units	Origin Station I.D.	Destination Station I.D.	URSA Routing
Total Volume (cm): [blank]	PITL	CAIA	MEX/CAIA
Received At: <input type="checkbox"/> Reg Stop <input type="checkbox"/> On-Call Stop <input type="checkbox"/> Drop Box <input type="checkbox"/> World Service Center <input type="checkbox"/> Station	Forms Attached: <input type="checkbox"/> CI <input type="checkbox"/> SED <input type="checkbox"/> CO		
Base Charges: [blank]	Declared Val Chrg: [blank]	Other: [blank]	ODA/OPA: [blank]
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