

EU COUNTRY · SOUTHERN EUROPE

Spain: What your customers there expect

Same language, old trade routes, plenty of direct connections: for exporters from South America, Spain is often the first market in the EU. Legally, the same EU rules apply there as in Hamburg or Milan, plus a few Spanish particulars.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	LARGEST CONTAINER PORTS	NIS2	DATA PROTECTION AUTHORITY
Spanish (Castilian); others in some regions	Valencia, Algeciras, Barcelona (Eurostat 2024)	no law yet; draft since Jan 2025, Commission lawsuit Jul 2026	AEPD, Agencia Española de Protección de Datos

VAT
21% standard rate (10% and 4% reduced)

Spain as a market for South America

According to Eurostat, Spain imported goods worth about €16.2 billion from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay in 2025. Brazil was the largest supplier at €8.2 billion, followed by Peru at €2.7 billion and Chile at €1.9 billion. Goods worth €9.4 billion went the other way.

The list is heavy on raw materials. Crude oil from Brazil leads at €3.7 billion, followed by copper ores from Peru, Brazil and Chile (€2.3 billion). Then come goods where food law and supply chain rules matter: soybean meal from Brazil and Argentina (just under €1 billion), soybeans from Brazil, shrimp from Ecuador and Argentina, canned tuna from Ecuador, avocados and mangoes mostly from Peru, coffee from Brazil and Colombia, and refined copper from Chile. If you ship coffee from Huila or soy from Paraná to Spain, you will run into the [EUDR](#) early on.

The country's largest container ports are Valencia and Algeciras, each handling about 5.4 million TEU in 2024, followed by Barcelona at 3.9 million TEU (Eurostat). Which port works best for your goods depends on the shipping line and the destination region.

What applies EU-wide and what is Spanish

Customs, the customs tariff, rules of origin and product law are the same throughout the EU. A customs declaration in Algeciras follows the same rules as one in Rotterdam. The basics are in the [guide to exporting to the EU](#).

The main points regulated nationally:

- **Language:** Mandatory information on food labels must at least be in Spanish (Art. 18 Real Decreto 1334/1999). For producers from Spanish-speaking countries this is usually easy, but check regional terms anyway, such as "palta" where Spain says "aguacate".
- **Packaging:** Real Decreto 1055/2022 requires producers and companies that first place packaged goods on the market to register in the Registro de Productores de Producto (packaging section) with the environment ministry MITECO and report every year. For imports this usually falls on your Spanish importer, who will ask you for data on packaging materials and weights. The EU Packaging Regulation (EU) 2025/40 has also applied since August 12, 2026.
- **VAT:** 21% standard rate, with reduced rates of 10% and 4%. The Canary Islands are part of the EU customs territory but not of the VAT area; they have their own tax, IGIC.

NIS2 in Spain

Spain still has not transposed the [NIS2 Directive](#). On January 14, 2025, the Council of Ministers approved a preliminary draft law on the coordination and governance of cybersecurity (Anteproyecto de Ley de Coordinación y Gobernanza de la Ciberseguridad). As of October 2026, no law has appeared in the official gazette BOE. The European Commission therefore took Spain to the Court of Justice of the EU on July 8, 2026 and asked for financial penalties.

Until then, the transposition of the old NIS Directive applies: Real Decreto-ley 12/2018 together with Real Decreto 43/2021. Companies report to INCIBE-CERT, the public sector to CCN-CERT. Public bodies and their service providers are also covered by the Esquema Nacional de Seguridad (ENS, Real Decreto 311/2022).

For suppliers, the delay changes little. Large Spanish customers in energy, banking or telecoms have been preparing for NIS2 for a while and are writing reporting deadlines, audit rights and security measures into their contracts. When the law does arrive, expect short transition periods. Suppliers who already document their measures along NIS2, for example in [Sightadel](#), will not have to start from scratch then.

Data protection and supply chain

The supervisory authority for the [GDPR](#) is the Agencia Española de Protección de Datos (AEPD). Ley Orgánica 3/2018 (LOPDGDD) adds national rules, among them which organizations must appoint a data protection officer. The AEPD imposes fines regularly and publishes its decisions.

Spain has not passed a supply chain law of its own along the lines of Germany's LkSG. What will matter is the European [CSDDD](#), which Spain must transpose by July 26, 2028. Many Spanish groups already ask about human rights, working conditions and environmental data, because they have

reporting duties of their own.

What Spanish customers typically ask for

In food retail, a certificate under [IFS](#), [BRCGS](#) or [FSSC 22000](#) is standard, and for fish and fruit, traceability and residue analyses come on top. Software and IT providers working for Spanish public bodies or their contractors will be asked about ENS conformity. In the private sector, [ISO 27001](#) is the usual answer to security questionnaires. [Sightadel](#) is available in Spanish, which helps if your team works in Spanish while the customer wants evidence in English.

Many car plants in Spain work for German groups, and they often require [TISAX](#) from engineering and IT providers. Spanish companies also tend to run compliance programs under Art. 31 bis of the Criminal Code and ask suppliers to sign a code of conduct.

Where to get help

- The Cámaras Oficiales de Comercio de España en el Exterior: 44 Spanish chambers of commerce in 42 countries, grouped in the Americas under the FECECA federation. You will find them in Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia, among other places. The network is coordinated by the Cámara de Comercio de España in Madrid.
- The trade section of your country's embassy in Madrid, which can put you in touch with importers and trade fairs.
- The Enterprise Europe Network, with partners in every Spanish region, for cooperation requests and questions on EU law.
- Spanish customs: the Departamento de Aduanas e Impuestos Especiales of the tax agency AEAT.

For goods from Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, take a look at the [EU-Mercosur Agreement](#), whose trade part has been provisionally applied since May 1, 2026.

FAQ

Does NIS2 already apply in Spain?

The directive has not been transposed yet; there is only a draft law from January 2025. Your Spanish customers often impose its requirements by contract anyway, and the old NIS transposition (Real Decreto-ley 12/2018) still applies.

Do I have to register in the Spanish packaging registry?

Registration is required for whoever places packaged goods on the Spanish market, which for imports is usually the Spanish importer. They will need data from you on packaging materials and weights.

Is a Spanish-language label from South America good enough?

Language-wise, usually yes. The content has to comply with EU food law, though: allergen labeling, the nutrition table and the name of the food business operator in the EU follow their own rules.

What is the ENS?

The Esquema Nacional de Seguridad (Real Decreto 311/2022) sets security requirements for the public sector. It also applies to private companies that supply services or IT solutions to public bodies.

Which tool helps me with ISO 27001 and NIS2 evidence for Spanish customers?

[Sightadel](#) covers ISO 27001, NIS2 and the GDPR in one platform, in Spanish among other languages, and is hosted in Germany. The ENS is not a predefined framework, but customer-specific requirements can be set up as a framework of their own.

Sources · Last updated: October 11, 2026

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La Moncloa, Council of Ministers, January 14, 2025:

<https://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/consejodeministros/resumenes/paginas/2025/140125-rueda-de-prensa-ministros.aspx>

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BOE, Real Decreto-ley 12/2018: <https://www.boe.es/buscar/act.php?id=BOE-A-2018-12257>

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BOE, Real Decreto 1334/1999 (labeling): <https://www.boe.es/buscar/act.php?id=BOE-A-1999-17996>

MITECO, Registro de Productores de Producto, packaging section: <https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/calidad-y-evaluacion-ambiental/temas/prevencion-y-gestion-residuos/prevencion-y-gestion-residuos/registro-productores-producto-seccion-envases.html>

AEPD: <https://www.aepd.es/>

INCIBE-CERT: <https://www.incibe.es/incibe-cert>

Cámara de Comercio de España, Red global: <https://www.camara.es/en/global-network>

General information, not legal advice. The official texts are authoritative.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE WITH TOOLS MADE IN GERMANY

 Sightadel

Sightadel walks your team through NIS2: templates, tasks, evidence and audit preparation in one place. Built and hosted in Germany, with an optional consultant package.

[See Sightadel →](#)

 veyrisk

veyrisk shows what attackers can see of your company from the outside: open services, certificates, known vulnerabilities. You can hand the report to EU customers and auditors.

[See veyrisk →](#)

 valar

Valar is a hardware firewall running neonotu software. It protects offices and sites and produces the logs NIS2 and ISO 27001 ask for.

[See Valar →](#)

Sightadel, veyrisk and Valar are products of neonotu GmbH, which operates MercoEU.

Which of these apply to your company?

The free EU Readiness Check shows you by industry and country in 10 minutes.

<https://www.mercoeu.com/en/eu-readiness-check>