



Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 9/20/2002

GAIN Report #RO2016

Romania

Livestock and Products

Export Requirements September Update

2002

Approved by:

Holly Higgins

U.S. Embassy

Prepared by:

FAS Regional Staff

Report Highlights:

This report describes new requirements for shipments of animal casings, offals, and meat products to Romania.

New Requirements For Shipments Of Animal Casings To Romania

A new Romanian law has been implemented requires that animal casings from the United States and other countries meet new sanitary requirements. According to Order 325/2002, issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, on August 6, 2002, animal casings originating from ovine species raised in regions which have had confirmed cases of scrapie, cannot be imported from the United States. This requirement is consistent with Romania's commitments to the WTO's Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement, particularly Article 6 regarding regionalization. USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) can provide a certificates for shipments to Romania, provided that the product does not originate from areas where scapie is found in ovine species

Not affected by this order are shipments of animal casing from swine: scrapie is not present in swine. Unfortunately, the U.S. cannot ship animal casings from bovine animals due to other, previous regulations that prevent certification of U.S. shipments.

New Statements for Specified Risk Materials (SRMs) on Shipments of Offals and Meat Products

For shipments of offals, a new Romanian regulation (Order 144/2002) requires a supplementary statement that the product does not contain SRMs. Specific Risk Materials are defined for the purpose of this regulation as portions of the vetebra column of bovine, ovine, and caprine species produced after March 31, 2001. EU Directives 999/2001 contains a precise definition of such SRM that was adopted by Romania for use in this new regulation. This includes mechanically recovered meat from bones of these three species.

FSIS inspectors will provide a similar statement for shipments of offals. The FSIS statement is virtually the same as one required by the European Union, and is not expected to constrain U.S. exports of tripe and other offals to Romania. Exporters, however, should insure that they have the FSIS signed statement before shipping the product. Romania's veterinary inspectors will not accept the shipment without an offal supplementary statement.

Unfortunately, for other meat products, the SRM regulation may be an impediment to U.S. shipments. It is unlikely that shipments of meat products from the United States, like mechanically recovered meat, will be certified by FSIS inspectors for export to Romania under this new regulation. Exporters should check with FSIS to determine whether their specific product is eligible for certification by FSIS inspectors.

The Agricultural Affairs Office in Bucharest is currently evaluating whether this regulation is a violation of Romania's national treatment obligations to the WTO.