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Iberian Peninsula

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

Export Certificate Report

2005

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Report Highlights:

This report describes Iberian Peninsula application of the EU-harmonized legislation regarding certification on imports of food and agricultural products into Portugal and Spain. This report will only focus on Portuguese and Spanish certification requirements when they differ from the EU-harmonized certification. (MG16LJ5SH)

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
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I. Iberian Peninsula EU-Harmonized Certification Requirements

Imports of food and agricultural products into Portugal and Spain are not subject to special legislation other than that of the European Union. European Union legislation calls for many health and supervisory requirements that are meant to guarantee that imports meet the standards of production in Member States. Portugal and Spain, as EU member states, follow all rules and regulations that govern food legislation, including certification, within the European Union. National legislation is also applied when there are no EU-harmonized certification requirements.

Success in introducing your product in the Iberian Peninsula market begins by locating local representation and/or an importer/distributor. The advantages of this contact include market knowledge, up-to-date information and guidance on trade laws and business practices, sales contacts, and market development expertise. **The local importer is the first responsible to either the Portuguese Government or the Spanish Government for imported food and agricultural products when they enter the Portuguese or the Spanish territories.** Therefore, the Portuguese or the Spanish importer should guide you through the whole process to market your product in either Portugal or Spain.

II. Application of the EU-Harmonized Certification Requirement

Portugal

EU-harmonized certification requirements are applied to all imports of food and agricultural products into Portugal.

For detailed information on the EU-harmonized certification requirements, please consult the EU-25 FAIRS report, E35010 at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200501/146118538.doc>. Under this report, you may find information on the U.S. competent authority that is authorized to issue the food and agricultural import certificates required by the European Union.

For more information on food standards and regulations, please consult the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standard Report for the Iberian Peninsula, PO5014 at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200507/146130240.doc>, dated July 2005.

This report should be read in conjunction with the equivalent report done by the FAS Office in the U.S. Mission to the European Commission (USEU), E34054 at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/gd.asp?ID=146107373>.

Also, please check the U.S. Mission to the European Union webpage at <http://www.useu.be/agri/expguide.html>, which will guide you on exporting into the EU.

Spain

EU-harmonized certification requirements apply in Spain on all imports of food and agricultural products **EXCEPT on imports of processed ready-to-eat products of non-animal origin**. In the case of ready-to-eat products of non-animal origin, the Spanish competent authority requires a certificate stating that the product is intended for human consumption issued by the competent authority of the country of origin. Certification of shipments of this category of processed products into the Spain may be handled by the

Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/index.htm>

For detailed information on the EU-harmonized certification requirements, please consult the EU-25 FAIRS report, E35010 at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200501/146118538.doc>. Under this report, you may find information on the U.S. competent authority that is authorized to issue the food and agricultural import certificates required by the European Union.

For more information on food standards and regulations, please consult the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standard Report for the Iberian Peninsula, SP5020 at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200507/146130239.doc>, dated July 2005.

This report should be read in conjunction with the equivalent report done by the FAS Office in the U.S. Mission to the European Commission (USEU), E34054 at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/gd.asp?ID=146107373>.

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