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Mexico

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:

This report identifies current certificates, issued by the competent authorities in the United States, required by Mexico in order to export food and agricultural products into Mexico. It supplements FAS/Mexico's Food and Agricultural Importation Regulation Report (FAIRS), MX5064, which was published in July 2005.

Includes PSD Changes: No
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INTRODUCTION

This report identifies current certificates, issued by the competent authorities in the United States, required by Mexico in order to export food and agricultural products into Mexico.

SECTION I. LIST OF EXPORT CERTIFICATES

Product	Title of Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
Grocery food items, frozen foods	Certificate of Free Sale	Health certificate	Secretariat of Health (SSA)
Meat and Poultry products	Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness	Health certificate	Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA)
Plant and plant products – perishable products	Phytosanitary Certificate - Plant Protection and Quarantine	Health certificate	Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA)
All products	Certificate of Origin	Origin of product	Customs

SECTION II. PURPOSE OF EXPORT CERTIFICATES

Certificate of Free Sale

This document is issued by several state and federal government agencies and US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) certified laboratories. It assures the authorities of the importing country that these products comply with US requirements and are sold freely in the market of the country of origin. For example, the FDA or state health authorities issue these certificates for non-alcoholic goods. The US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) issues US Free Sale Certificates for alcoholic beverages. In the case of poultry products, the USDA-FSIS export certificates of wholesomeness described above are accepted as an equivalent to the free sale certificates requested by Mexican authorities.

Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness

The Meat and Poultry Export Certificate is issued by the Field Operation Staff of the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), USDA. This document certifies that the meat products included in the shipment are from animals that received both antemortem and postmortem inspection and were found sound and healthy. In the case of poultry and poultry products, it certifies that the birds were officially inspected and are wholesome and fit for human consumption. This document is issued to the exporter and also includes the general data of the consignee. Other data included in the format are district office, country of destination, folio number, plant number, city, type of facility, total marked net weight, total containers, and products as labeled with their individual market weight, number of packages and plant number. It is very important to put slaughter date, packing date and lot number in the remarks section. The name of the species on the product description line is also required (for example, hot dogs, beef, pork, or turkey). There are various sanitary statements required in the remarks section, as well. These are listed in the Hoja de Requisitos for any given product. The document is not valid unless signed by an inspector of the Meat and Poultry Inspection Program, listing his name and the date. An original of the document is required.

Phytosanitary Certificate-Plant Protection and Quarantine-PPQ

Mexico requires a certificate of inspection attesting to the specifications of the fruits and vegetables shipped. This certification is obtained by the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The phytosanitary certificate is issued by the Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) office of APHIS to the producer and it certifies that the plants or plant products described in this document have been inspected according to appropriate procedures and are considered to be free from quarantine and other injurious pests. An original of this document is required at Mexican Customs.

Certificate of Origin

Mexico requires a signed statement as to the origin of the imported item. Such certificates are usually obtained through a semi-official organization such as a local chamber of commerce. This document certifies that the listed products originated in the territory of the exporting company, and comply with the origin requirements specified for those goods in the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The certificate ensures preferential treatment for goods originating in this region. The US Customs Office of the Department of the Treasury will also issue certificates of origin for exporters.

SECTION III. SPECIFIC ATTESTATIONS REQUIRED

Specific attestations required for the export of meat, poultry and egg products to Mexico from the United States can be found at the FSIS website below:

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Frame/FrameRedirect.asp?main=http://OFO/export/MEXICO.htm>

Additional information, including specific requirements, on the export of plants and plant products to Mexico can be found at the APHIS website below:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/pim/exports/index.html>

SECTION IV. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information on food standards and regulations, please consult the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Report for Mexico at:

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200507/146130410.pdf>

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