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Export Certificate FAIRS Report

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Report Highlights: This report lists the required export certificates for exports to Belgium, which are not yet EU harmonized.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
The Hague [NL1]
[BE]

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DISCLAIMER: This report has been prepared by the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in The Hague, The Netherlands for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural product. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, the information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their Belgian customer (importer), who is normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. Final import approval of any product is subject to the importing country's rules and regulations as interpreted by border officials at the time of product entry.

Section I. List of All Export Certificates Required by Government

Notes for using the Guide

Belgium, as a member of the EU, conforms to all EU regulations and directives. We therefore recommend that this report is read in conjunction with the EU Certification Guide produced by the US Mission to the EU in Brussels, Belgium: Gain Report Number: E47088
<http://www.fas.usda.gov/scriptsw/attacherep/default.asp>

Unfortunately for exporters, the EU's rules on certification for imports are complicated and are not always harmonized across Member States. This report lists the required export certificates for exports to Belgium, which are not yet harmonized.

Belgian Competent Authorities

Both veterinary inspection and food inspection are within the domain of the Federal Agency for Food Safety (FAVV). The FAVV belongs to the Ministry of Social Affairs, Health and Environment. The Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment of this Ministry is in charge of policy and legislation on food issues. Regulation 2004/882/EC sets out the standards for control of compliance with the General Food Law (2002/178/EC).

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U.S. Competent Authorities, issuing Export Certificates

The U.S. issuing agencies are identified by their acronyms. Following is a list of these and the relevant websites of each agency for further information.

USDA / FSIS: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA

Export Requirements for the European Union:
www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/European_Union_Requirements/index.asp

USDA / APHIS: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

USDA International Animal Export Regulations:
www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie/iregs/animals/ee.html

International Animal Product Export Regulations:
www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie/iregs/products/pr_ee.html

Export Services:
www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/pim/exports/

USDA/ AMS: Agricultural Marketing Service

USDA European Union Health Certification Program: www.ams.usda.gov/dairy/eu_prgm.htm

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

www.fda.gov/cber/gdlns/expcert.htm#iv

USDA / FGIS: Federal Grain Inspection Service;

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

www.usda.gov/gipsa/international/intl-services.htm

NOAA: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/trade/EUCONTENTS.htm>

List of non Harmonized Export Certificates

Product	EU Legislation	Belgian Legislation	Belgian Model Certificate	U.S. Issuing Agency	U.S. Agency Form	Title	Comments
"Other Products of Animal Origin"	1992/118/EC (a)	Not implemented in Belgian legislation	Not available	FSIS			As from June 4, 2007, EC Regulation 2007/275/EC has been imposed. In Appendix II, food products are listed which are not inspected according Directive 1997/78/EC: -Meat extracts and meat concentrates. -Soup stocks and flavorings packaged for the final consumer, containing meat extracts, meat concentrates, animal fats, or fish oils, powders or extracts. Contact FAS The Hague for latest status.
Dairy Products	1992/46/EC (b)			APHIS		www.ams.usda.gov/dairy/international/dyint.htm	AMS must first endorse the Public Health Attestation and then the exporter should take the Certificate to APHIS for endorsement.
Colostrum	1992/46/EC (b)			APHIS		www.ams.usda.gov/dairy/international/dyint.htm	The declaration needs to correspond with the EC health certificate required for the import of heat treated milk for human consumption with the exception of: -11.1a sub VI regarding the cell count and the number of somatic cells -11.1c regarding the requirements for the heat treatment. The FDA and AMS are, however, not able to certify such a certificate for colostrum. Contact FAS The Hague for latest status.

(a) Available at http://europe.eu.int/eur-lex/en/consleg/pdf/1992/en_1992L0118_do_001.pdf

(b) Available at http://europe.eu.int/eur-lex/en/consleg/pdf/1992/en_1992L0046_do_001.pdf

N.A. = Not Applicable

Related reports from FAS offices in the EU:

Visit the USEU website: the website www.useu.be/agri/usda.html provides a broad range of useful information on EU import rules and food laws and allows easy access to USEU reports, trade information and other practical information. More information on certification can be found at <http://www.useu.be/agri/usda.html>.

Report Number	Title	Date Released
BE7003	Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Country Report - Belgium	09/24/2007
E47088	EU Certification Guide – Update	10/01/2007
These reports can be accessed through the FAS website: http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/attacherep/default.asp		

Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

The Netherlands, as a member of the EU, conforms to all EU regulations and directives. EU harmonized certificates are listed in the EU Certification Guide produced by the US Mission to the EU in Brussels, Belgium: Gain Report Number: E47088

Section III. Specific Attestations Required on Export Certificate(s)

See comment under Section II.

Section IV. Government Certificates' Legal Entry Requirements

See comment under Section II.

Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements

See comment under Section II.