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Report Highlights:

Sections Updated: I. List of All Export Certificates Required by Government (Matrix). II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate (s). III. Specific Attestations Required on Export Certificate(s). IV. Government Certificates Legal Entry Requirements. V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements. Appendix I. Electronic Copy of Export Certificate.

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DISCLAIMER: This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Tegucigalpa, Honduras for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, 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 foreign customers, who are 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 HONDURAS

The agencies of the Honduran Government (GOH) involved in the importation of food and agricultural products are the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG) through the National Plant and Animal Health Service (SENASA), and the Ministry of Health through the Sanitary Regulation Directorate (SRD). SENASA is responsible for the inspection of agricultural products that enter Honduras, such as the importation of plant and animal products, pesticides, agricultural chemicals, veterinary products and raw materials. The SRD is responsible for securing the safety of processed food products sold to the consumer at retail and wholesale levels.

All animal products or by-products imported into Honduras must be done by an importer registered by SENASA. SENASA closely monitors the importer's establishment and its compliance with all food safety, cooling and hygiene conditions. In order to obtain the registration number, the importer should submit a legal request to SENASA with the Sanitary License, Municipality Permit, the water analysis of the establishment, the deed, and plant blueprint. SENASA then visits the establishment to verify the conditions reported by the importer.

All processed food products imported into Honduras must be registered with the SRD through this process: First, the importer must have a valid Sanitary License. Second, the importer must register the product through a process called Sanitary Registration and Enrollment. The **Sanitary License** applies only to Honduran establishments. Through the license, the SRD authorizes the establishments to manufacture or import and store processed food products, based on their compliance with food safety and hygiene requirements. The **Sanitary Registration** is the established procedure through which processed foods are approved to be sold. The **Sanitary Enrollment** is the authorization granted to an importer or distributor of a product previously registered. This regulation issued through Resolution No.176-2006 titled "Prepared Food. Procedures for Granting Sanitary Registration and Certification" is part of the Central America Customs Union (CACU) agreements. The text of the above mentioned regulation can be found at the Central America Council of Ministers of Economic Integration (COMIECO) site under "COMIECO Resolutions" on the Central America Secretariat of Economic Integration (SIECA) website: <http://www.sieca.org/gt/site/Enlaces>

In general terms, import regulations are geared toward: a) protecting consumer health as it relates to the consumption of food products; b) avoiding fraud in transactions dealing with food products; and c) protecting Honduras' economic interests in both domestic and international trade of food products.

The following is an Export Certificate Matrix which provides all Export Certificates required by Honduras:

Product (s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required On Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
Dairy products	- Certificate of Free Sale - Certificate of Origin	None	Health	Health
Live Animals	- Zoosanitary Export Certificate - Certificate of Origin - Veterinary Certificate	The Veterinarian must be registered with USDA	Health	Agriculture
Bovine meat	- Meat and Poultry Export Certificate (FSIS Form 9060-5) - Certificate of Origin	None	Health	Agriculture
Pork meat	- Meat and Poultry Export Certificate (FSIS Form 9060-5) - Certificate of Origin	None	Health	Agriculture
Poultry meat	- Meat and Poultry Export Certificate (FSIS Form 9060-5) - Certificate of Origin	Additional declaration indicating that "the poultry product or by-product originates in areas free of high or low pathogenic avian influenza"	Health	Agriculture
Fish and Crustaceans	- Export Health Certificate - Certificate of Origin	None	Health	Agriculture
Grains	- Phytosanitary Certificate - Certificate of Origin	None		Agriculture
Flours	- Certificate of Free Sale - Certificate of Origin	Should have added iron, folic acid, vitamins B1, B2 and niacin	Health	Health
Fresh fruits and Vegetables	- Phytosanitary Certificate - Certificate of Origin	None	Health	Agriculture
Processed Food Products	- Certificate of Free Sale - Certificate of Origin	None	Health	Health

Product (s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required On Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
Bottled water	None	Physical, chemical, biological and microbiological laboratory analysis	Health	Health
Plants and Plant products	- Phytosanitary Certificate - Certificate of Origin	None	Health	Agriculture
Planting Seeds	- Phytosanitary Certificate - Certificate of Origin	None		Agriculture
Pesticides	- Certificate of Free Sale - Certificate of Analysis - Certificate of Origin	None	Health	- Agriculture - Natural Resources
Sugar	- Certificate of Free Sale - Certificate of Origin	Must have vitamin "A" added	Health	Health
Salt	- Certificate of Free Sale - Certificate of Origin	Must have iodine added	Health	Health
Honey	- Certificate of Free Sale - Certificate of Origin	Must indicate the bee specie	Health	Health

SECTION II. PURPOSE OF SPECIFIC EXPORT CERTIFICATES(S)

SENASA recognizes certificates issued by various U.S. Government agencies. The list of certificates most widely used follows:

1. Certificate of Origin. SENASA requires a certificate from the manufacturer of the product. SENASA has reported that importers often confuse the product's "origin" with the "point of shipment". Products made in the United States, and shipped from any port must have a certificate indicating the United States as the country of origin. In the case of products not made in the United States, but distributed by U.S. companies, the United States Chamber of Commerce can issue a Certificate of Origin which indicates the country of origin of the product.

Under the United States-Central American-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR), a special form of Certificate of Origin for imports from the United States must be submitted. The form will allow the product to receive the preferential tariff treatment agreed upon in CAFTA-DR. A sample of this certificate can be found at www.sic.gob.hn/formularios.

2. Sanitary and/or Phytosanitary Certificate. The certificate aims to protect the sanitary condition of the importing country and acknowledges that the product is pest or disease free. It should be issued in the country of origin. In the case of the United States, SENASA requires the certificate to be issued by a federal government authority. SENASA does not accept documents from commercial trading companies.

3. Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness. The certificate officially states that the meat or meat food product is derived from animals that received both ante mortem and postmortem inspections and were found sound and healthy. It also states that the product passed the inspection in compliance with applicable laws and regulations and is wholesome and fit for human consumption. The certificate is issued by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS). It is also called FSIS Form 9060-5.

4. Zoosanitary Export Certificate. The certificate states that the live animal imported does not bring pest or diseases that might cause an outbreak into the importing country. The certificate should comply with the health regulations held by the importing country for the importation of live animals and animal products, to avoid outbreaks of pathogens responsible for diseases in animals and humans alike. In the case of live animal exports from the United States, the certificate is issued by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

5. Export Health Certificate. The certificate confirms that the product was inspected and found to be in compliance with the applicable regulations. It also certifies that the product was found to be wholesome, edible and fit for human consumption. In the case of fish and crustacean exports from the United States, the certificate is issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service.

6. Health Certificate/Export Certificate/Animal Products. This certificate is for veterinary purposes only. It officially states the names of the animal diseases that do not exist in the United States. It also declares that live animals are healthy with no pests or diseases. The certificate is issued by the USDA APHIS's Export Veterinary Medical Officer.

7. Medical Veterinary Certificate. This certificate is issued by a Veterinarian and states that the live animal is healthy with no pests or diseases. The requirements could change according to the sanitary conditions of the country where the animal is coming from. SENASA checks the website of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) to determine the status of that specific country. In the case of the United States, the Veterinarian should be registered and authorized by USDA APHIS.

8. Certificate of Free Sale. It is issued by the appropriate State Authority in the country of origin. It indicates that the exporter has an annual food permit to manufacture, distribute and pack food products for human consumption. It states that the exporting establishment is regularly inspected for compliance with all health and sanitation requirements held by the state authority. It also certifies that the products are freely sold and consumed in the United States as well as exported.

9. Certificate of Analysis. The certificate provides the results of the laboratory analysis of the composition of the product. The tests confirm the physical, chemical, biological and microbiological compliance of the product with international food safety standards.

10. Certificate of a Registered Pesticide Product. This certificate declares that after a registrant of pesticides has obtained final registration for the basic product, the registrant may then supplementally distribute his/her product. The certificate is issued by the Office of Pesticide Programs of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

SECTION III. SPECIFIC ATTESTATION REQUIRED ON EXPORT CERTIFICATE(S)

The certificates required by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health provide the information needed to comply with the import requirements of Honduras. However, some specific attestation will be requested when the animal or plant health conditions of the exporter country change. SENASA indicates that it is the responsibility of the importer as well as the exporter to keep themselves updated on any animal or plant pests or diseases outbreaks.

Currently, the Meat and Poultry Export Certificate (FSIS Form 9060-5) should have an additional declaration indicating that "the poultry product or by-product originates in areas free of high or low pathogenic avian influenza".

SECTION IV. GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATE LEGAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The legal entry requirements of imports of raw and processed agricultural products are established by the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health and the Customs and Income Agency (DEI).

1. The product should have the sanitary registration number prior to entering the country. Only food samples to be used for the registration process will be allowed to enter the country without such number. The importer can find the application form under the "Procedure to provide Licenses" at www.sieca.org.
2. Unlabeled containers of food waiting to be processed, labeled, or repacked do not need a sanitary registration number to enter. However, the packer has to have a sanitary license issued by the SRD. Raw poultry sold at retail level should have a sanitary registration number.
3. The product should have an import permit before entering the country. The import permit request is submitted to SENASA. The request should be clear with precise amounts, description, origin and point of shipping. The request should be accompanied with a copy of the Phyto or Zoo Sanitary Certificate, Certificate of Origin and Photocopy of Commercial Invoice. The import request form can be found at www.senasa-sag.gob.hn.
4. The importer must present the import request, a copy of the documents and pay 255 Lempiras (about US\$13.50) at SENASA.
5. The importer's request is reviewed by SENASA's Food Safety Department. It has a registry of importers of dairy products, beef, pork, poultry and fish establishments that have been inspected by them. The establishments have to comply with good agricultural and manufacturing practices to keep the product safe.
6. SENASA's Animal and Plant Health Divisions review the sanitary status of the country which exports the product.
7. SENASA does not accept a Suppliers or Manufacturers Export Declaration. The only ones accepted are those found in Section II.
8. The import permit process in SENASA will take 72 hours if all the documents are complete. The permit is applied to one shipment and is valid for 30 days.

9. SAG delegated the responsibility of all quarantine inspections and treatment of agricultural imports to the International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health (OIRSA). OIRSA's Plant and Animal Protection Service (SEPA) Offices are located at borders, ports and airports. They follow SENASA's instructions to enforce the import requirements of raw and processed foods imports.
10. A SEPA Inspector, a DEI Inspector, and an Enforcement Official of the Ministry of Finance are usually involved in clearing imports of food products. The original certificate needs to accompany the product at the time of entry.
11. Prior to granting customs clearance, the SEPA Inspector will conduct the appropriate inspection or will detain the product. The entry of animal products and by-products depends on the food safety conditions of the product itself. It also depends on the animal health status at that time of the exporting country.
12. Shipments of food products that were not registered with SENASA prior to importation are normally detained at the port of entry where product sampling is conducted. The samples are later subjected to laboratory analysis to check the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of the product. If the laboratory analysis indicates that the product does not meet acceptable standards, the product may be confiscated and later destroyed, re-exported, or tagged for animal consumption depending on its condition and characteristics as determined by the authorities.

Additional information on product registration and food import regulations can be found at the Honduras's Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) report (HO8011) at www.fas.usda.gov under Attaché Reports.

SECTION V. OTHER CERTIFICATION/ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS

None.

APPENDIX I. ELECTRONIC COPY OF EXPORT CERTIFICATE**Poultry and Meat Export Requirements for Honduras**

HO-13 (May 31, 2007)

Asterisks (*) indicate the most recent revision to these requirements.

Eligible/Ineligible Products**A. Eligible Products**

1. Red meat and red meat products, including all beef and beef products.*
2. Poultry and poultry products.*

Documentation Requirements

- A. Fresh/frozen red meat, red meat products, and cooked poultry products - Obtain FSIS form 9060-5, Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness.
- B. Fresh/ Frozen poultry - Obtain FSIS form 9060-5, Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness. Additionally, the following statement must be typed in the "Remarks" section of FSIS Form 9060-5:

"All fresh/frozen poultry meat, including mechanically deboned meat (MDM), comes from an area free of high or low pathogenic Avian Influenza."

Note: The term "area" refers to farm or premise.

Note: The importer in Honduras must apply for a permit to be able to import U.S. product.

Plants Eligible to Export

All Federally inspected establishments are eligible to export to Honduras.

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http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/Honduras_Requirements/index.asp