

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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POLICY

Voluntary Public

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Belgium [without Luxembourg]

Post: Brussels USEU

FAIRS Export Certificate Report - Belgium

Report Categories:

FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:

Belgium is a Member State of the European Union (EU) and applies the certification requirements described in the [EU-28 Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards \(FAIRS\) Certification 2018 Report](#). Products not yet harmonized are subject to Belgian national rules.

General Information:

Disclaimer

This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Brussels, European Union (EU), 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.**

Belgium is a Member State of the European Union (EU) and adheres to all food import and certification requirements that are harmonized throughout the EU. We therefore recommend that this report on the certification requirements for exports to Belgium is read in conjunction with the [EU-28 Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards \(FAIRS\) Certification 2018 Report](#), which references all existing certificates that are valid for export to all 28 countries of the European Union.

The EU has created model certificates for the vast majority of products imported into the EU, reflecting general and product specific import requirements spelled out in EU animal health and food legislation.

This report focuses on the limited products for which the United States and Belgium negotiated a bilateral export certificate in the absence of an EU certificate. It also addresses the occasional authorizations for shipments for non-harmonized products and the certification requirements for food samples.

The Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC) (in Dutch: Federaal Agentschap voor de Veiligheid van de Voedselketen (FAVV); in French: Agence Fédérale pour la Sécurité de la Chaîne alimentaire (AFSCA)) is the Belgian authority in charge of import controls both for EU harmonized and non-harmonized products shipped to Belgium. Below is the agency contact information, in Dutch and French:

Federaal Agentschap voor de Veiligheid van de Voedselketen (FAVV)
DG Controle-Import, Export & Notificaties
AC-Kruidtuin-Food Safety Center
Kruidtuinlaan 55
B-1000 Brussel
Fax: +32 2 211 84 70
E-mail: import.export@favv-afsc.be

Agence Fédérale pour la Sécurité de la Chaîne alimentaire (AFSCA)
DG Contrôle-Import, Export & Notifications
CA-Botanique-Food Safety Center

Boulevard du Jardin botanique 55
B-1000 Bruxelles
Fax: +32 2 211 84 70
E-mail: import.export@favv-afsca.be

Bilateral Export Certificates

Turtles: Veterinary Health Certificate for Export of Commercial Turtles from the United States of America to Belgium. Exporters of turtles should contact APHIS to obtain this certificate. Contact sara.kaman@aphis.usda.gov in USDA, APHIS, VS National Import Export Services.

Lanolin: Belgium requires facilities to be registered by APHIS for the export of lanolin (wool grease). For information regarding how to become registered, facilities should contact the VS Field Office covering the area from where the product will be exported or is produced. For further information see: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/products/downloads/be_lanolin_grease.pdf.

Occasional Shipments of Non-Harmonized Products

The Belgian authorities may accept occasional shipments of products for which no harmonized specific EU legislation exists. In those cases, the Belgian authorities will require on an ad hoc basis guarantees about animal and public health issues related to the specific product. An import authorization from the FASFC will list the import requirements. The importer in Belgium has to request the authorization by means of standardized documents ([Import Authorization Request for Animals](#); [Import Authorization Request for Products of Animal Origin](#)). The U.S. exporter will likely have to work with the appropriate regulatory agency in the United States to demonstrate that the import conditions set by FASFC are satisfied, before the FASFC will grant the import authorization to the requesting operator in Belgium. FAS can help facilitate this process.

Food Samples Shipped to Belgium

Under EU legislation, food samples sent to Belgium with the intention to be consumed are considered foods for human consumption and are subject to the same listing and certification requirements as regular commercial shipments. As mentioned above, these requirements are largely harmonized throughout the EU and are described in the [EU-28 FAIRS Export Certificate Report](#). In other cases (e.g. for the testing of equipment, diagnostics materials etc.), such goods come under the animal by-products regulation ([Regulation EC No 1069/2009](#)). Only registered users in Belgium can receive such goods after they have obtained an import permit from the Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain. The importer in Belgium has to request the authorization by means of a standardized document ([Import Authorization Request for Commercial Samples](#)). The FASFC will check whether the products originate from a country that is authorized to ship to the EU. The FASFC will also check whether the applicant for the permit is included in the [list of registered users](#).