

Required Report: Required - Public Distribution

Date: March 31, 2022

Report Number: GM2022-0012

Report Name: FAIRS Export Certificate Report Annual

Country: Germany

Post: Berlin

Report Category: FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:

Germany is a Member State of the European Union (EU) and applies the certification requirements described in the EU Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) Certification Report. Products not yet harmonized are subject to German national rules. This report provides Germany specific information that complements the EU FAIRS Export Certificate Report.

Disclaimer

This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Berlin, Germany 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.**

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Report highlights

This report provides Germany specific information that complements the EU-27 FAIRS Export Certificate Annual Report, which covers the harmonized EU certificate requirements.

Executive Summary

This report outlines specific German export certificates. The export certification requirements for most products destined for the European Union (EU) market have been harmonized. Germany, as a member of the EU, conforms to all EU regulations and directives. It is therefore recommended that this report is read in conjunction with the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) export certificate report produced by the U.S. Mission to the EU in Brussels, Belgium which you can find in the public [FAS GAIN database](#). The report was last updated in March 2022, information on the certificate of inspection for organic products was added.

Section I. List of All Export Certificates Required by Government (Matrix)

Germany 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 Germany is read in conjunction with the EU Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) Certificate Report, which references all existing certificates that are valid for export to all 27 countries of the European Union. In addition, it provides links to U.S. agencies or organizations which issue certificates. The [EU-27 FAIRS Export Certificate Report](#) is produced by the U.S. Mission to the European Union in Brussels, Belgium. It is also available at the FAS GAIN Report Database at <https://gain.fas.usda.gov/#/search>.

The few products not yet harmonized are subject to German national regulations. Examples of such products include but are not limited to blood, blood products, and material containing epizootic pathogens. The competent German authority needs to be consulted on a case-by-case basis to address requirements for non-harmonized products. There are no standardized certificates for non-harmonized products.

Imported products must meet existing EU and Member State requirements and products must be accompanied by the proper certification at port of arrival. In general, health certificates are required for all imported products of animal origin and phytosanitary certificates are needed for all plant products that could introduce pests into the EU. It should be noted, however, that model certificates may not be available for products that have never been exported to the EU before or if the relevant U.S. authority is not in a position to provide the guarantees as required by the EU. References to the EU legislation that forms the basis for the health certificate are also provided in the [EU-27 FAIRS Report](#).

While certification requirements are developed at the EU level, the member state (MS) inspection services are responsible for the enforcement of EU legislation through inspection of imported goods and the corresponding certificates. In Germany, food safety is the primary responsibility of the 16 federal states (*Bundesländer*). Official surveillance is coordinated by the respective state ministries or, in city-states, by the respective senate administration department. The different states have issued authority for food safety to different ministries (see table below).

List of State Ministries Responsible for Food Safety and Border Inspection

| State | Ministry | English translation |
|--------------------|--|---|
| Baden-Wuerttemberg | Ministerium für Ernährung, Ländlichen Raum und Verbraucherschutz (MLR) | Ministry of Food, Rural Areas, and Consumer Protection |
| Bavaria | Bayerische Staatsministerium für Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz (StMUV) | Bavarian State Ministry for the Environment and Consumer Protection |
| Berlin | Senatsverwaltung für Justiz, Verbraucherschutz und Antidiskriminierung | Senate Administration for Justice, Consumer Protection, and Anti-Discrimination |

| State | Ministry | English translation |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Brandenburg | Ministerium für Soziales, Gesundheit, Integration und Verbraucherschutz des Landes Brandenburg (MSGIV) | Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Integration, and Consumer Protection |
| Bremen | Lebensmittelüberwachungs-, Tierschutz- und Veterinärdienst des Landes Bremen (LMTVET) | Food Monitoring, Animal Welfare, and Veterinary Service of the State of Bremen (LMTVET) |
| Hamburg | Behörde für Justiz und Verbraucherschutz | Administration for Justice and Consumer Protection |
| Hesse | Hessisches Ministerium fuer Umwelt, Klimaschutz, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz | Ministry of Environment, Climate Protection, Agriculture and Consumer Protection of the State of Hesse |
| Lower Saxony | Ministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz | Ministry for Food, Agriculture, and Consumer Protection |
| Mecklenburg Western Pomerania | Ministerium für Landwirtschaft und Umwelt | Ministry for Agriculture and the Environment |
| Northrhine- Westphalia | Ministerium für Umwelt, Landwirtschaft, Natur- und Verbraucherschutz | Ministry for the Environment, Agriculture, Nature- and Consumer-Protection |
| Rhineland Palatinate | Ministerium für Klimaschutz, Umwelt, Energie und Mobilität | Ministry for Climate, Environment, Energy, and Mobility |
| Saarland | Ministerium für Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz | Ministry for the Environment and Consumer Protection |
| Saxony | Sächsische Staatsministerium für Soziales und Gesellschaftlichen Zusammenhalt (SMS) | Saxonian State Ministry for Social Affairs and Social Cohesion |
| Saxony-Anhalt | Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Tourismus, Landwirtschaft und Forsten | Ministry of Economy, Tourism, Agriculture and Forestry |
| Schleswig Holstein | Ministerium für Justiz, Europa und Verbraucherschutz | Ministry of Justice, Europe, and Consumer Protection |
| Thuringia | Ministerium für Arbeit, Soziales, Gesundheit, Frauen und Familie | Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Health, Women, and Family Affairs |

Matrix of Export Certificates Required by the EU and its Member States

This matrix lists the type of certificates the EU requires. For details and links to model certificates please refer to Appendix I of the [EU-27 FAIRS Export Certificate Report](#).

| Product(s) | Title of Certificate | Attestation Required on Certificate | Purpose | Requesting Ministry |
|---|---------------------------|---|--------------|---|
| Products of animal origin | Health Certificates | Attestation is dependent on the product. Models of the new certificates for food of animal origin were published in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 2020/235 , as amended by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1471 . | Food Safety | Competent authority in the state of point of entry – See list above Through respective Border Inspection Point (BIP) |
| Composite products | Health Certificate | Regulation (EU) 2019/625 defines composite products. | Food Safety | Competent authority in the state of point of entry – See list above Through respective BIP |
| Plant products that can introduce pests | Phytosanitary Certificate | APHIS inspectors, attest to specific requirements of EU legislation by making additional declarations in the relevant phytosanitary certificate boxes. These declarations are specific for different plant species, and they are subject to change, thus the shipper needs to check for the most recent change before export. For details please refer to Appendix I section K of the EU-27 FAIRS Export Certificate | Plant Health | Competent authority in the state of point of entry – See list above Through respective BIP |

| Product(s) | Title of Certificate | Attestation Required on Certificate | Purpose | Requesting Ministry |
|------------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|--|
| | | Report | | |
| Various plant products | Other than Phytosanitary Certificate. For details see the EU-27 FAIRS Export Certificate Report | Aflatoxin levels in almonds: Use of the Pre-Export Checklist Program Certificate (the PEC Certificate) is not mandatory but the EU regulation mandates that consignments with this certificate are controlled for aflatoxin levels at less than 1%. USDA/AMS is the competent authority for the PEC program. | Food Safety and Quality | Competent authority in the state of point of entry – See list above Through respective BIP |
| Organic Products | Certificate of Inspection (COI) | Attestation is dependent on the product. Detailed attestation can be found in the model certificate available at EUR-Lex . | Proof of Organic Production Method | Competent authority in the state of point of entry – See link below |

A list of competent authorities of the Federal States of Germany for the control of the COI can be accessed here: <https://oekolandbau.de/service/adressen/fachbehoerden-oeko-importe/>

Common Certification Issues

Certification issues are often at the basis for the detention of shipments in German BIPs and are no different than the problems reported by other FAS posts in EU countries:

- The certificate was issued after the date of departure.
- There were typographical errors.
- EU plant approval number mentioned on the certificate did not match the approval number on the product label or on the list of EU approved establishments. Please note that the approval number must be identical on the certificate, label, and the EU list. German BIPs will not accept small inconsistencies such as the addition of a letter to FSIS establishments which is commonly accepted in the United States.
- The shipper used the wrong/old certificate model.
- A certificate was absent.
- The certificate was lacking one or more of the required pages.
- A certificate was not provided for every animal origin ingredient in the final product.
- The copy of the certificate is not the original;
- Incorrect strike outs of standard text in certificates were implemented or initials were missing by strike outs.
- The stamp was unclear, or the stamp is not original.

Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

Please refer to the EU FAIRS Export Certificate Annual Report.

The import of special products like blood, blood products, and material containing epizootic pathogens must be approved by the competent authority of the respective federal state. Usually, the importer¹ applies to the authority with all relevant details. There is no set form for this kind of application.

Import Derogation for Product Samples

Under EU legislation, food samples sent to Germany 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.

Sample shipments of food products that are intended for machine testing and/or contain meat, poultry, or cheese from plants that are not approved for export to the EU require a derogation (special import permit) from the (state) veterinary authority at the first port of entry into the European Union. For shipments to Germany, this is often Frankfurt Airport. Frankfurt Airport is located in the State of Hesse; thus, the veterinary office in the Hessian capital Wiesbaden is responsible for issuing the import permit. It can be contacted at:

Hessisches Ministerium für Umwelt, Klimaschutz, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz

(Ministry of Environment, Climate Protection, Agriculture, and Consumer Protection of the State of Hesse)

Mainzer Straße 80

65189 Wiesbaden, Germany

Tel.: +49 611 815 -0 (or -1437)

E-Mail: veteinfuhr@umwelt.hessen.de

The request for derogation can be made informally by e-mail stating

- the quantity,
- country of origin,
- production plant,
- composition (e.g., raw or cooked meat) of the product,
- the intended purpose (e.g., machinery testing, trade show display, product competition),
- undergone treatment (e.g., heating) if applicable,
- registration number of recipient company.

Based on this information the veterinary office will issue an import permit that specifies the veterinary certificates required in that particular case.

¹ Theoretically, the exporter can also apply for the import permit. However, due to the language barrier and time difference we recommend leaving the application to the importer.

The import permit is in German and the veterinary office charges a small fee. Because of language and time difference, it is recommended that the German recipient of the product handle the application for the import permit, wherever feasible. If the point of entry is different from Frankfurt, please contact FAS Berlin for information on the applicable veterinary office.

Composite Products

Regulation (EU) 2019/625 defines composite products as foodstuffs intended for human consumption that contain processed products of animal origin and ingredients of plant origin. Composite products include a wide variety of products, including cheesecakes, high protein food supplements, pizza, and lasagnas. U.S. exports of “composite products” continue to be restricted due to burdensome certification requirements. While the U.S. is eligible to ship hormone-free meat, dairy products, egg products, and fishery products separately, it is often not possible to ship the composite products that combine these eligible ingredients.

Exporters should be aware that in parallel with the aforementioned changes to the composite product certificate that was triggered by an update of the EU’s Animal Health Law, the EU also made changes to the categories of composite products that require U.S. Government-issued health certificates. The new system is no longer based on the percentage of ingredients of animal product in the final product. Instead, it establishes three categories of composite products: (1) non-shelf stable composite products, (2) shelf stable composite products that contain meat products and (3) shelf stable composite products that do not contain meat products. All processed products of animal origin have to be sourced from EU-approved establishments. The EU continues to require composite product certificates for all non-shelf stable products and for shelf stable composite products with a meat ingredient.

For shelf stable products not containing meat, no certificates signed by the U.S. Government are required. For these products, the representative of the importer must declare that the goods meet the relevant EU requirements, using the “Private Attestation” model form.

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

Please refer to the EU FAIRS Export Certificate Annual Report. Germany does not require any additional attestation when EU certificates are used. Specific attestation requirements for non-harmonized products depend on the product and will be communicated by the competent German authority upon request.

Section IV. Government Certificate’s Legal Entry Requirements

Please refer to the [EU FAIRS Export Certificate Annual Report](#). Export certificates must be in the official language of Germany, which is German. Certified translations of the certificates into German may be used.

Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements

Please refer to the [EU FAIRS Export Certificate Annual Report](#). The German government does not impose additional certification/accreditation requirements. However, importers may request certification according to private industry standards, for example *GLOBALG.A.P.* and *QS* for fresh food. For details, please refer to section VI. of the FAIRS country report for Germany. Additionally, for oilseeds and

vegetable oils sustainability certification according to the EU renewable energy directive is not formally required for importation of these products but may be requested by the importer if the products are destined for biofuel production.

Appendix I. Electronic Copy or Outline of Each Export Certificate

Please refer to the [EU FAIRS Export Certificate Annual Report](#). There are no additional German certificates (other than EU certificates) for food products derived from plants and animals for the time being. Import of products that are not harmonized in the EU have to be approved by the competent authority of the respective German state of entry (See section II).

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Attachments:

No Attachments