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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.

**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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**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 written in March 2023, and information on certificates for composite products was updated.

## 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 (*Bundeslaender*). 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

State	Ministry	English Translation
Berlin	Senatsverwaltung für Justiz, Verbraucherschutz und Antidiskriminierung <a href="https://www.berlin.de/sen/verbraucherschutz/">https://www.berlin.de/sen/verbraucherschutz/</a>	Senate Administration for Justice, Consumer Protection, and Anti-Discrimination
Brandenburg	Ministerium für Soziales, Gesundheit, Integration und Verbraucherschutz des Landes Brandenburg (MSGIV) <a href="https://msgiv.brandenburg.de/msgiv/de/">https://msgiv.brandenburg.de/msgiv/de/</a>	Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Integration, and Consumer Protection
Bremen	Lebensmittelüberwachungs-, Tierschutz- und Veterinärdienst des Landes Bremen (LMTVET) <a href="https://www.lmtvet.bremen.de/">https://www.lmtvet.bremen.de/</a>	Food Monitoring, Animal Welfare, and Veterinary Service of the State of Bremen (LMTVET)
Hamburg	Behörde für Justiz und Verbraucherschutz <a href="https://www.hamburg.de/bjv/">https://www.hamburg.de/bjv/</a>	Administration for Justice and Consumer Protection
Hesse	Hessisches Ministerium für 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 <a href="https://www.ml.niedersachsen.de/startseite/">https://www.ml.niedersachsen.de/startseite/</a>	Ministry for Food, Agriculture, and Consumer Protection
Mecklenburg Western Pomerania	Ministerium für Klimaschutz, Landwirtschaft, ländliche Räume und Umwelt <a href="https://www.regierung-mv.de/Landesregierung/lm">https://www.regierung-mv.de/Landesregierung/lm</a>	Ministry for Climate Protection, Agriculture, Rural Areas, and the Environment
Northrhine- Westphalia	Ministerium für Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz <a href="https://www.mlv.nrw.de/">https://www.mlv.nrw.de/</a>	Ministry for Agriculture and Consumer-Protection
Rhineland Palatinate	Ministerium für Klimaschutz, Umwelt, Energie und Mobilität <a href="https://mkuem.rlp.de/de/startseite/">https://mkuem.rlp.de/de/startseite/</a>	Ministry for Climate, Environment, Energy, and Mobility
Saarland	Ministerium für Umwelt, Klima, Mobilität, Agrar und Verbraucherschutz <a href="https://www.saarland.de/mukmav/DE/home/home_node.html">https://www.saarland.de/mukmav/DE/home/home_node.html</a>	Ministry for the Environment, Climate, Mobility, Agriculture, and Consumer Protection
Saxony	Sächsische Staatsministerium für Soziales und Gesellschaftlichen Zusammenhalt (SMS) <a href="https://www.sms.sachsen.de/">https://www.sms.sachsen.de/</a>	Saxonian State Ministry for Social Affairs and Social Cohesion

State	Ministry	English Translation
Saxony-Anhalt	Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Tourismus, Landwirtschaft und Forsten <a href="https://mwl.sachsen-anhalt.de/ministerium/">https://mwl.sachsen-anhalt.de/ministerium/</a>	Ministry of Economy, Tourism, Agriculture and Forestry
Schleswig Holstein	Ministerium für Justiz und Gesundheit <a href="https://www.schleswig-holstein.de/DE/landesregierung/ministerien-behoerden/II/ii_node.html">https://www.schleswig-holstein.de/DE/landesregierung/ministerien-behoerden/II/ii_node.html</a>	Ministry of Justice and Health
Thuringia	Ministerium für Arbeit, Soziales, Gesundheit, Frauen und Familie <a href="https://www.tmasgff.de/">https://www.tmasgff.de/</a>	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 2020/2235, in its latest <a href="#">consolidated version</a> of December 2022.	Food Safety	Competent authority in the state of point of entry – See list above  Through respective Border Inspection Point (BIP)
Composite products	Health Certificate	See paragraph below	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,	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
		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 <a href="#">EU-27 FAIRS Export Certificate Report</a>		
Various plant products	Other than Phytosanitary Certificate.  For details see the <a href="#">EU-27 FAIRS Export Certificate Report</a>	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 <a href="#">EUR-Lex</a> .	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/>

### Composite Products

The EU defines a composite product as a food product containing both processed products of animal origin (dairy, egg, fishery products, or meat products) and products of plant origin. [USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service \(FSIS\) will issue EU composite product certificates](#) for composite products produced at FSIS-regulated facilities and bearing the USDA mark of inspection. AMS Dairy Program will issue the EU composite product certificates for composite products NOT produced in an FSIS-regulated

facility and not bearing the USDA mark of inspection, regardless of whether dairy is an ingredient in the composite product.

The new EU requirements for composite products will impact stakeholders who have not been required to obtain an export certificate from AMS Dairy Program in the past. Prior to requesting a certificate from AMS Dairy Program, a new customer will need to establish a USDA level 2 e-authentication account. [Go to How to Apply for an AMS Dairy or Composite Product Export Certificate for more information.](#)

### **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 BCPs 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.

Additionally, for organic products:

- The certificate of inspection (COI) for organic products was uploaded into TRACES NT after the product left the United States.
- The HS/CN code in field 13 of the COI is incorrect.

## Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

Please refer to the [EU-27 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 importer<sup>1</sup> 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](mailto: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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

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

Please refer to the EU-27 FAIRS Export Certificate 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-27 FAIRS Export Certificate 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-27 FAIRS Export Certificate 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-27 FAIRS Export Certificate 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 on a case-by-case basis (See section II).

#### **USDA FAS Contact in Berlin, Germany:**

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[www.fas-europe.org](http://www.fas-europe.org)

**Attachments:**

No Attachments