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Report Highlights:

This report focuses on specific Spanish certification requirements that differ from or are in addition to EU-harmonized certification. Compared to 2023, this report contains new country-specific certificates as well as updated links to relevant information sources and contacts. This report should be read in conjunction with the EU FAIRS Export Certificate report prepared by the FAS Office in the U.S. Mission to the European Union (USEU).

Disclaimer: This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service for Spain and Portugal 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 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 confirm requirements with local authorities, before any goods are shipped.

FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

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Executive Summary

As an EU member since 1986, Spain applies EU harmonized regulations on import certificates for plant or animal products whether or not they are intended for human consumption. However, in the absence of an EU-harmonized certificate, Spain may **require certain specific health certificates and occasionally the lack of specific details in the governing regulation also provides significant leeway for border inspectors’ interpretation.**

There are several Border Inspection Points (BIP) in Spain that carry out import controls. Contact details of the EU BIPs, listed by countries, are available in the [link](#).

As of October 1, 2024, import controls, with direction from the Ministry of Territorial Policy, are integrated into the functional areas of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food (MAPA).¹ A new Spanish regulation has reorganized official border controls through a common integrated system for the import of food and related products ([Ministerial Order PJC/756/2024](#), in Spanish language only). This regulation was put forward by the Ministry of Territorial Policy, in coordination with the Ministries of Health and Agriculture.

The approved regulation guarantees unity of action and simplifies administrative procedures for imports of agricultural and food products for human consumption. It aims to strengthen the effectiveness of the system, guarantee an optimal distribution of resources, and boost the competitiveness of the Spanish agri-food sector. An Inter-ministerial Commission for Monitoring Official Border Controls has also been established, whose goal is to guarantee coordination of competencies. The new system brings all animal and plant health inspectors responsible for the import of agricultural products meant for human consumption under the authority of MAPA.

The Spanish Consumption, Food Safety and Nutrition Agency (AESAN), ascribed to the Ministry of Consumption, is responsible for Food Safety and coordinates control of the food chain. AESAN was established as an independent agency, and it is also responsible for risk management. Within MAPA, the Sub Directorate General for Livestock Resources coordinates the national plan in feedstuffs.

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación

Dirección General de la Sanidad de la Producción Agraria

Sub directorate General for Sanitary Agreements and Border Control

Almagro, 33. 5^a planta

28071 Madrid

Tel.: +34-91-347-8241

Fax: +34-91-347-6969

Website: [Plant Products](#) / [Animal Products](#)

Email: sgacuerdos@mapa.es;

importacionanimal@mapa.es (animal products)

inspfito@mapa.es (plant products)

¹ Until October 1, 2024, in Spain, the Ministry of Health (MOH) controlled the imports of agricultural products intended for human consumption; while the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) controlled imports of animal feed/ingredients and live animals not intended for direct human consumption.

Section I. List of All Export Certificates Required by Spain

Please consult the latest [EU FAIRS Export Certificate report](#) for the Export Certificates required for EU harmonized products.

The import of live animals and products of animal origin, for purposes other than food (including live animals, reproductive material such as semen, ovules and embryos and other products of animal origin, and Used Cooking Oil) are subject to specific Spanish certification requirements.

All models of Import Certificates that are not harmonized at the EU level can be found on the [MAPA website](#). Forms can be obtained also in the following links (certificates are bilingual):

Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
ANIMALS				
ANNELIDS FOR FISHING BAIT	Health Certificate	Certify animals' health condition and that measures have been put in place to avoid subsequent contamination.	Animal Health	MAPA
RODENTS TO EXPERIMENTATION	Health Certificate	Certify animals' health condition, establishment animal health status, and establishment registration.	Animal Health	MAPA
LAGOMORPHS TO EXPERIMENTATION	Health Certificate	Certify animals' health condition, establishment registration.	Animal Health	MAPA
NO LISTED AQUATIC ANIMALS INTENDED FOR ORNAMENTAL CLOSED FACILITIES²	Health Certificate	Certify animals' health condition, establishment registration.	Animal Health	MAPA
SALAMANDERS AND NEWTS	Health Certificate	Certify animals' health condition.	Animal Health	MAPA
GENETIC MATERIAL				
REPTILES EGGS	Health Certificate	Certify donor health condition, establishment registration and that measures have been put in place to avoid subsequent contamination.	Animal Health	MAPA
SEMEN AND EMBRYOS OF RODENTS AND RABBITS FOR EXPERIMENTATION	Health Certificate	Certify that the product was collected and stored in an approved facility, the donors were clinically healthy and, in the case they were used, diluents, additives, or extenders, present no animal health risk.	Animal Health	MAPA
SEMEN FROM CETACEOUS	Health Certificate	Certify that the product has been obtained from clinically healthy animals in a Zoological Institution controlled by the Official Veterinary Service.	Animal Health	MAPA
CERVIDAE SEMEN³	Health Certificate	Donor health condition, establishment registration, chain of custody of the product and documentary checks.	Animal Health	MAPA
FELINE AND CANINE SEMEN, OOCYTES AND EMBRYOS⁴	Health Certificate	Certify donor health condition, establishment registration, chain of custody of the product and documentary checks.	Animal Health	MAPA

² Information on aquatic animals destined to ornamental closed facilities is available in the [link](#) (Spanish language only).

³ Information on *cervidae* semen import requirements is available in the [link](#) (Spanish language only).

⁴ Information on *feline* and *canine* sperm is available in the [link](#) (Spanish language only).

Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
OTHER PRODUCTS				
<u>REPTILE SKINS</u>	Health Certificate	Certify that the product has been obtained from animals with the appropriate health status as described.	Animal Health	MAPA
<u>NON-UNGULATES AND NON-BIRDS WILD GAME TROPHIES</u>	Health Certificate	Certify that the product has been treated as appropriate, and measures have been put in place to avoid subsequent contamination.	Animal Health	MAPA
<u>USED KITCHEN OIL INTENDED TO BIODIESEL PRODUCTION</u>	Declaration	Declare that the used cooking oil is intended to be imported for biofuel production, that the consignment has not been mixed with other products and that it will be transported directly to the plant of destination in sealed containers and will be kept completely independent from other uses.	Use, authenticity, and chain of custody	MAPA
<u>FISHING BAIT⁵</u>	Declaration	Declare that the product is imported exclusively to be used as fishing bait and transported directly to the establishment of destination in closed containers to prevent any leakage of product.	Use and chain of custody	MAPA
<u>POLLEN FOR FEEDING OF BEES AND BUMBLE BEES</u>	Health Certificate	Certify that product comes from an area where the listed diseases are officially notifiable and the area is not subject to any restrictions, the prohibition periods are observed, the product has been under minus 12 Celsius degrees at least 24 hours and treated by the methods described.	Animal Health	MAPA
<u>INSECT EGGS OR BRINE SHRIMP CYST NON-VIABLE, INTENDED FOR THE FEEDING TO INSECTS⁶</u>	Declaration	The product is imported exclusively to be used for feeding to insects and will be transported directly to the establishment of destination in closed containers to prevent any leakage of product.	Traceability and chain of custody	MAPA
<u>BIOLOGICAL CONTROL ORGANISMS (BCO)⁷</u>	Declaration	Declare that the imported product is intended to be used according to <u>Royal Decree 951/2014</u> and transported directly to the establishment of destination in closed containers to prevent any leakage of product.	Plant Health	MAPA

Source: MAPA (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food)

The above listed Veterinary Certificates, requested by the MAPA (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food), require the signature of an Official Veterinarian.

⁵ Information on fishing bait requirements is available in the [link](#) (Spanish language only).

⁶ Information on insect eggs or non-viable brine shrimp cyst import requirements is available in the [link](#) (Spanish language only).

⁷ Information on BCO import requirements is available in the [link](#).

Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s):

Except for specific requirements identified in this report, imports of food and agricultural products into Spain are not subject to special certification other than that of the European Union. EU legislation calls for many health and supervisory requirements that are meant to guarantee that imports meet the standards of production in Member States.

Spain, as an EU Member State, follows all rules and regulations that govern food legislation, including certification, within the European Union. While certification requirements are developed at the EU level, Spanish authorities are responsible for the enforcement of the regulations. When EU-wide legislation is incomplete, not harmonized, or absent, Spain might require certain specific health certificates as identified in the **Section I** Table.

With respect to enforcement of import requirements, Spain is among the most vigilant of EU Member States. Frequently, purely administrative mistakes such as minor typographic mistakes can frequently be fixed with a new certificate. However, exporters must assume a zero-tolerance policy for mistakes that affect the identity and traceability of the shipment (e.g., wrong establishment number). In accordance with [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2020/2235](#), the certificate must be issued before the corresponding consignment leaves the control of the competent authority of the country of dispatch. Spain's Authorities do not tolerate health certificates issued after the ship date. This report has information on the U.S. competent authority that is authorized to issue the food and agricultural import certificates required by the EU. This report can also be accessed through the [FAS website](#). An [overview of legally required certificates](#) in the EU and references to the [U.S. authority issuing these certificates](#) is available in the links. For more information, please consult the [FAIRS Country Report for the EU](#).

Special Import Permits

Samples without commercial value to Spain

For sanitary reasons, food products imported into the EU, even if they are not intended for commercial sale, must meet certain requirements on food hygiene and animal health.

[Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2019/2122](#) provides details on the exemptions of official controls at the border for animal origin goods that can enter the EU outside of regular commercial channels. The protocol to introduce samples with no commercial value is available in the [link](#) (Spanish language only). A summary of the requirements depending on the type of sample can be consulted in the table below:

Type of Sample	Official Control	3 rd Country Authorized	Authorized Establishment	Zoosanitary Requirement	Hygiene Requirement	Certificate	
Products of animal origin							
Non-intended for consumption or market	Biological Samples – SANDACH	NO	NO	NO	NO	-	NO
	Biological Samples no-SANDACH	NO	NO	NO	NO	-	YES
	Commercial Samples	YES	YES	NO	YES	-	YES
	Samples or Exhibition Materials	YES	YES	NO	NO	-	Commercial Document
Intended for consumption or market	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	
Products of non-animal origin							
Non-intended for consumption or market	NO	NO	NO	-	NO	NO	
Intended for consumption or market	YES	NO	NO	-	YES	NO	

Imports of biological material

The import of biological material must be approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA). For imports where the potential risk would affect animal health, only an import permit is required. More detailed information can be found in the [link](#) as well as a link to initiate the [process online](#) (information only available in Spanish language) and the relevant [form](#) to request the import permit to the competent authority (Sub Directorate General for Sanitary Agreements and Border Control). The request must be made prior to the arrival of the goods to the Border Inspection Post (BIP). Otherwise, they may be retained until the end of the process. The importing researcher must complete the import of biological material for research form and present it to the competent authority.

In those cases where the biological material could potentially pose a threat to human health, the importer/exporters may request authorization at the following email address importacionanimal@mapa.es. More detailed information can be found in the [link](#) (information only available in Spanish). Importing biological material must be approved by MAPA.

Imports of reproductive material

Information regarding import requirements for genetic material (semen, eggs, embryos) is available in the [link](#) (information only available in Spanish language).

Imports of products intended for animal feed

In addition to fulfilling EU requirements, to import products of plant or animal origin intended for animal feed, the importer must be registered in the MAPA's [database](#). More detailed information regarding import requirement for products intended for animal feed can be found in the [link](#) (information only available in Spanish).

Imports of planting seeds to Spain

To import planting seeds to Spain, a request must be submitted by the local importer to Spain's Plant Varieties Authorities. The request can be submitted electronically on the Ministry's website or by sending an authorization form to bnz-importasemillas@mapa.es. [Forms](#) are available on the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food website (information only available in Spanish).

Annex I Form is intended for imports of horticultural plant seeds or seeds for trials.

Annex II Form is intended for imports of agricultural plants seeds.

Contact Information for Spain's Plant Varieties Authorities:

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Oficina Española de Variedades Vegetales

C/ Almagro 33, 7a

28010 Madrid

Tel.: +34-91-347-6659

Fax: +34-91-347-6703

[Website](#)

Email: oevv@mapa.es; bnz-importasemillas@mapa.es

Imports of non-harmonized live animals

To import non-harmonized live animals (including zoo animals, circus animals, animals for exhibitions or shows, or exotic live animals to be sold as pets), interested parties should submit a request using the official [form](#) (Spanish language only). The request should be addressed to the Sub-Directorate General for Sanitary Agreements and Border Control and sent via email to importacionanimal@mapa.es.

The Spanish competent authorities study the requests individually and assess potential risks. Certificates exist (see **Section I** above) for the most traded animals. In the absence of a specific certificate, if the import of the animals is deemed appropriate, authorities issue an import license. Please note that authorities could also require additional documentation such as an international animal health certificate. More information is available in this [link](#).

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

U.S. competent authorities providing detailed export certificate information are listed below:

- AMS: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA
[Export Verification](#)

- APHIS: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA
[Exporting plants, animals, or animal products from the United States](#)
- FSIS: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA
[Export Requirements for the European Union](#)
- FDA: Food and Drug Administration
[Exporting Food Products from the United States](#)
- FGIS: Federal Grain Inspection Service; Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA
[Official Certificates | Agricultural Marketing Service](#)
- NOAA: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
[Export Certification to the European Union | NOAA Fisheries](#)

For additional information, please consult the [EU FAIRS Export Certificate report](#).

Section III. Government Certificate’s Legal Entry Requirements

See **Section I**. For additional information, please consult the [EU FAIRS Export Certificate report](#).

Section IV. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements to Ensure Market Entry

See **Section I**.

The Government of Spain does not require attestation of radioactivity for imports.

According to [Royal Decree 348/2001](#) (Spanish language only) imports of irradiated foods can only originate in approved facilities. However, Spain does not require certification related to the non-application of irradiation treatment as a condition for entry of food.

For additional information, please consult the [EU FAIRS Export Certificate report](#).

Appendix I. Direct Hyperlink, Electronic Copy, Scanned Copy, or Outline of Each Export Certificate

See **Section I**. For additional information, please consult the [EU FAIRS Export Certificate report](#).

Appendix II. Instructions for Exporters of FDA Regulated Products Certified by Other Agencies

For detailed information on FDA regulated products certified by other U.S. agencies, please consult the latest [EU FAIRS Country Report](#).

Attachments:

No Attachments