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Report Highlights:

This report details the Philippine government's certification requirements for food and agricultural products exported from the United States. Notably, the list of U.S. government-issued export certificates remains unchanged from last year.

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Disclaimer

This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service in Manila, Philippines, for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care has been 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 PRODUCTS IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

Executive Summary

The Philippine Department of Agriculture requires that export certificates accompany food and agricultural products from the United States, including meat, poultry, dairy, fruits, vegetables, and animal feeds. These certificates are crucial under Philippine regulations to ensure plant and animal health and protect consumer safety. While imported processed and prepackaged food products may not require export certificates, they must still undergo the Philippine Department of Health's product registration procedures. The release of imported food and agricultural products from ports to their intended destinations remains subject to the assessment and decision of Philippine authorities, even with full compliance with existing documentary requirements.

Section I. Export Certificates Required by Philippine Government

The Philippine Department of Agriculture (DA) regulates imported food and agricultural products in the primary production and post-harvest stages of supply chain. The DA's regulatory agencies include the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS), Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR). These agencies require export certificates such as those issued by the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) shown in Table 1.

Starting May 19, 2025, digitally signed export certificates of meat and poultry products shipped to the Philippines will be generated and retained in the FSIS Public Health Information System (PHIS). The digitally signed FSIS Form 9060-5 series will replace all letterhead certificates for meat and poultry exported to the Philippines. This form can be printed, using a watermarked paper, to accompany the shipment. Note that casings and egg products will not be covered under the PHIS-generated certificate.

All imported food and agricultural products are required to comply with the Philippines' sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) regulations. Authorities at the port of entry (known as the first border) conduct document and physical inspection to review the completeness of submitted documents, verify compliance with food safety and SPS requirements, and assess the risk of unwanted, harmful, or regulated pests, diseases or organisms, among others. First border authorities also decide whether the imported products can be cleared for release to destination (e.g., accredited cold storage warehouse) or put on hold for proper disposition (e.g., confiscated and destroyed, returned to country of origin, shipped to a third country). For products under the jurisdiction of Philippine DA, authorities conduct a second border inspection at accredited cold storage warehouses before the imported products can be released to the local market. See also [GAIN Report](#) for an overview of the Philippine DA's two-stage inspection procedure for agricultural imports.

In January 2025, the Philippines issued [Joint Administrative Order \(JAO\) 001-2025](#), which outlines the implementing guidelines for pre-border technical verification (PTV) and cross-border electronic invoicing (CEI) of imported goods, including agricultural products. However, its enforcement remains pending, subject to the release of specific rules (known as Customs Administrative Order). The salient features of the JAO is discussed in this [GAIN Report](#).

Table 1. Export Certificated Required by Philippine Government

Product	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
Poultry and Poultry Products	FSIS 9060-5: Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness	See Section II.A	Animal health and food safety	BAI, NMIS
Red Meat and Meat Products	FSIS 9060-5: Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness	See Section II.B	Animal health and food safety	BAI, NMIS
Live Animals	Veterinary Services (VS) Form 17-37: Certificate of Inspection of Export Animals U.S. Origin Health Certificate - Cattle/Cattle Semen - Sheep and Goat - Horse - Swine/Swine Semen - Live Birds/Day-old Chicks/Hatching Eggs	See Section II.C	Animal health	BAI
Animal Feeds and Feed Ingredients	Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) 578: Export Certificate	See Section II.D	Safety	BAI
Animal Products not for Human Consumption	VS 16-4: Export Certificate for Animal Products	See Section II.E	Safety	BAI
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	PPQ 577: Phytosanitary Certificate	See Section II.F	Free from quarantine pests and conform with current phytosanitary requirements	BPI
Fish and Seafood Products	International Health or Sanitary Certificate	See Section II.G	Food safety	BFAR

Section II. Specific Attestations Required on Export Certificate

A. Poultry Products

All U.S. poultry products must be accompanied by an FSIS Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness (FSIS 9060-5). Attestations or other requirements, as documented in the [FSIS Export Library for the Philippines](#), will be captured in the FSIS 9060-5 “Remarks” and/or FSIS 9060-B.

Poultry feet: The Processing Section of the Export Library indicates requirements that must be met in exporting poultry feet that do not bear the mark of inspection. When the processing requirements are met, the following statements should be entered in the “Remarks” section:

This certifies that the poultry feet specified above come from birds that were subject to official ante-mortem inspection and handled in a sanitary manner while in FSIS inspected establishments, with verification by FSIS of plant processing requirements as defined by the Philippines to be fit for human consumption.

The processing requirements and the above documentation procedure are implemented by agreement and neither the procedure nor the above statement is applicable to other countries unless specified in the FSIS Export Library.

Poultry for further processing and re-export to Japan: The following statements should be entered in the “Remarks” section:

Notifiable avian influenza (NAI) and Newcastle disease as defined in the current “Animal Health Requirements for the poultry meat etc. to be exported to Japan from the U.S.” are designated as notifiable diseases in the United States.

There have been no outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in the United States for at least 90 days before shipment of the exported poultry meat; OR when the United States has an outbreak of HPAI:

*a) **When the state-level HPAI zoning is applied**, there have been no outbreaks of HPAI in the state where birds for export meat were produced, or that through which the birds were transported, for at least 90 days before shipment of the exported poultry meat; OR when the state where the exported poultry meat is produced has an outbreak of HPAI, there have been no outbreaks of HPAI in the State for at least 90 days before the estimated earliest date of exposure for the detection of HPAI in the State.*

*b) **When the county-level zoning is applied**, there have been no outbreaks of HPAI in the county where birds for export meat were produced, or that through which the birds were transported, for at least 90 days before shipment of the exported poultry meat; OR when the county where the exported poultry meat is produced has an outbreak of HPAI, there have been no outbreaks of HPAI in the county for*

at least 90 days before the estimated earliest date of exposure for the detection of HPAI in the county.

In the county where birds for export meat were produced, Newcastle disease (as defined in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code [OIE Code]), fowl cholera and other serious infectious fowl diseases (other than NAI), as recognized by the government of the United States, have not occurred for at least 90 days before shipment of the exported poultry meat.

The live poultry used for the production of the exported poultry meat did not originate from, nor pass through, any LPAI-banned area before being carried into poultry processing plants. An LPAI-banned area is any zone within 10 km of any premises in the State where an infection of NAI virus that is not HPAI, as defined in the OIE Code, has been confirmed and restricted from export by Japanese Animal Health Authorities.

The United States has a surveillance program for early detection of NAI that complies with the OIE Code. Vaccination against NAI is prohibited in the United States, except for the vaccination of rare birds in zoos under official supervision of the animal health authority of the United States.

To the best of FSIS' knowledge, products are stored in clean and sanitary wrapping and containers are handled in a way to prevent being exposed to any pathogens or any animal infectious diseases prior to shipment.

The poultry and/or poultry products described herein were processed under sanitary conditions in accordance with laws and regulations of the United States. The laws and regulations of the United States have been deemed to be equivalent to the inspection laws of Japan.

Poultry for re-export to Japan should also include in the "Remarks" section the name, address, and establishment number of the slaughter and processing plant, as well as slaughter and processing dates. Both slaughter and processing plant information must be entered, unless slaughter and processing (including cutting) occurred at the same establishment. Prior to the May 19, 2025 transition of the Philippines to digitally signed export certificates under PHIS, U.S. exporters can obtain a separate FSIS letterhead containing the above attestations (i.e., [FSIS Letterhead Certificate for the Export of Poultry Meat and Poultry Meat Products to the Philippines Intended for Re-Export to Japan](#)). See related information in [FSIS Export Library for the Philippines](#) and announcement on [Philippines PHIS Export Onboarding](#).

B. Red Meat and Red Meat Products

All U.S. meat and meat products must be accompanied by an FSIS Meat & Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness (FSIS 9060-5). No specific attestation is required in the certificate. Refer to [FSIS Export Library for the Philippines](#) for more information.

C. Live Animals

All live animals from the United States must be accompanied by an APHIS Certificate of Inspection of Export Animals (VS Form 17-37) and the corresponding U.S. Origin Health Certificate. The complete requirements for the export of live animals to the Philippines, including specific certification statements per animal, are provided in APHIS' website: [Live Animal Export Country Requirements](#).

D. Animal Feed and Feed Ingredients

All animal feed made mainly from grains and grain products must be accompanied by an APHIS Processed Plant Product Certificate (PPQ 578) or a certificate issued by an accredited third-party surveyor (see also [APHIS Export Program Manual](#)). A Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) Export Certificate may expedite the process although there is no specific certification language required. More information can be obtained from APHIS' website: [Plant and Plant Product Exports](#).

Commodities exported to the Philippines, as noted in this [updated list](#), are required to be accompanied by a "Declaration of Genetically Modified Organism Content" at the port of entry. This declaration may be signed by one of the following: the responsible officer from the originating country, an accredited laboratory, the shipper, or the importer.

E. Animal Products not for Human Consumption

All animal products from the United States must be accompanied by APHIS Animal Products Export Certificate (Form VS 16-4).

Pet Food: The following ruminant and rendered ingredients are acceptable for inclusion in finished pet food products being exported to the Philippines:

1. Ruminant materials, including bovine meat and byproducts
2. Mammalian meat and bone meal (MBM)
3. Poultry meal, including poultry meat and bone meal
4. Feather meal

While the certification requirements for pet food are not known, it is Post's understanding that the government of the Philippines is not asking for any certification statements relative to bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

Ruminant or Mixed Species MBM: In the "Product" Section of the VS Form 16-4, the commodity, as well as the species of origin, should be identified. If the product is derived from several species, it should be referred to as "mixed species meat and bone meal."

The following certification statements must be included in the "Additional Declaration" Section of the VS 16-4; and must not be modified except as noted (see the notarized affidavit line, which should include the actual name of the manufacturer/exporter):

This is to certify that rinderpest, foot-and-mouth disease, classical swine fever, swine vesicular

disease, African swine fever, and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia do not exist in the United States of America.

This office has on file a notarized affidavit from [manufacturer/exporter] verifying the accuracy of the statements below:

- 1. The product was manufactured in a facility or facilities authorized by the official competent authority of the United States to produce rendered meals for animal feed.*
- 2. The rendered protein was manufactured in accordance with U.S. law and regulations, including removal of brains and spinal cords from cattle over 30 months of age; and the product may be freely sold in the United States.*
- 3. The rendered product has been sufficiently heat processed to ensure destruction of microbiological pathogens harmful to animal health.*
- 4. The raw materials used to produce the rendered protein are of ruminant or mixed species origin.*
- 5. The product was handled after treatment in a manner designed to prevent contamination.*
- 6. The products have been subjected to routine testing for Salmonella in accordance with the Animal Protein Producers Industry (APPI) protocol in an APPI approved laboratory.*

OR

- 6. The products have been subjected to routine testing for Salmonella in a laboratory acceptable to the USDA, APHIS.*

Only the applicable statement #6 should be used. The first statement #6 should be used if the manufacturer is a member of the APPI and is performing microbiological testing of product in accordance with APPI requirements. Note that the endorsing VS Area Office may require supporting documentation of APPI membership and participation. The second statement #6 statement should be used if the manufacturer is not an APPI member. The exporter must also provide the latest laboratory test results on the product being exported showing that the product has tested negative for Salmonella.

Inedible Beef Tallow: In the “Product” Section of the VS Form 16-4, note that the tallow is “inedible”. APHIS only certifies tallow not produced under FSIS supervision. Additionally, the following must be stated in the Form:

This is to certify that rinderpest, foot-and-mouth disease, classical swine fever, swine vesicular disease, African swine fever, and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia do not exist in the United States of America. Certified materials have been tested and found to have a level of insoluble impurities of 0.15 percent or less.

This certification must not be provided on the basis of an affidavit. Other certification requirements have not been determined.

For more details, refer to APHIS’ website [International Regulations \(IRegs\) for Animal Product Exports](#).

F. Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

All fresh fruits and vegetables from the United States must be accompanied by an APHIS Phytosanitary Certificate (PPQ 577). Only Federal Phytosanitary Certificates issued by a duly authorized Plant Quarantine Officer from the country of origin will be accepted by Philippine authorities. The Philippine authorities also require that the following information should be included in the phytosanitary certificate:

1. The shipment must be absolutely free from soil.
2. The shipment must be free from Mediterranean Fruitfly (*Ceratis Capitata*), Mexican Fruitfly (*Anastrpha Ludens*), West Indian Fruitfly (*Anastrepha Obliqua*), Sapochilla Fruitfly (*Anastrepha Serpentina*), Oriental Fruitfly (*Bactrocera Dorsalis*) and Coddling Moth (*Cydia Pomella*).

All replacement phytosanitary certificates will require the following additional declaration:

This certificate replaces and cancels [Phytosanitary certificate number], issued on [date], due to [reason for issuing new PPQ Form 577 or 579].

For more details, see APHIS' website: [Plant and Plant Product Export Certificates](#).

G. Fish and Seafood Products

All fish and fishery/aquatic products imported into the Philippines intended for distribution and further processing must be accompanied by an International Health Certificate issued by the authorized/competent regulatory agency from the country of origin and must be presented as part of the documentation requirements upon arrival. No specific certification language is required.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Seafood Inspection Program offers export certification services to facilitate exports of seafood products that meet the importing country's requirements and other specific buyer criteria. See [NOAA Fisheries Export Certification](#) for additional details.

Section III. Government Certificate Legal Entry Requirements

All unprocessed agricultural products entering the Philippines must be accompanied by a sanitary or phytosanitary certificate issued by the U.S. competent authority. They can also be required for processed agricultural products depending on the Philippine DA's desire to regulate the product. The Philippine Food and Drug and Administration (FDA) does not require such export certificate for processed and prepackaged food products. However, it requires all processed and prepackaged products be first registered (see Section IV below).

Additional required documents to facilitate importation include:

1. Commercial invoice/pro-forma invoice;
2. Bill of lading (for sea freight) or air waybill (for air freight);
3. Certificate of origin (if requested);
4. Packing list;

5. Applicable special certificates/import clearance/permit depending on the nature of goods being shipped and/or requested by the importer/bank/letter of credit clause, e.g. FDA license; and
6. Commercial invoice of returned Philippine goods and/or supplemental declaration on valuation.

For more information on import regulations, please refer to the FAIRS Country Report.

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

Meat and Poultry: The Philippines applies a systems-based accreditation to U.S. meat and poultry exports. In 2020, poultry exports have been restricted access to only historical U.S. poultry suppliers.

Processed and Prepackaged Products: All processed and prepackaged food products intended for retail sale in the Philippines must first be registered with the Philippine FDA. Registration of imported products may only be undertaken by a Philippine entity, although some documentation and, for certain types of products, samples need to be provided by the exporter. To facilitate registration, the exporter must provide the importer any one of the documents below:

1. Manufacturer's Certificate of Registration with Good Manufacturing Practices compliance or its equivalent.
2. ISO 22000 Certification or HACCP Certificate.
3. Phytosanitary Certificate/Health Certificate/Certificate of Free Sale issued by the government regulatory agency or health authority of the country of origin stating that the product applied for registration are freely sold in the country of origin and/or fit for human consumption.

The Philippines does not require an attestation on radiation levels.

For more information on import regulations, please refer to the FAIRS Country Report.

Annex I. Links to Export Certificates

Title of Certificate	Link
FSIS 9060-5: Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness	FSIS Form Sample FSIS Form Instructions
VS Form 17-37: Certificate of Inspection of Export Animals	APHIS VS Form
U.S. Origin Health Certificate	Health Certificate: Cattle Health Certificate: Bovine Embryos Health Certificate: Bovine Semen Health Certificate: Horse Health Certificate: Poultry Health Certificate: Sheep and Goat Semen Health Certificate: Swine Health Certificate: Swine Semen
PPQ 578: Export Certificate	APHIS PPQ Form APHIS Export Program Manual
VS 16-4: Export Certificate for Animal Products	APHIS VS Form
PPQ 577: Phytosanitary Certificate	APHIS PPQ Form APHIS Export Program Manual
International Health or Sanitary Certificate	NOAA Export Certification

Attachments:

No Attachments