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**Report Name:** Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards  
Export Certificate Report

**Country:** Guatemala

**Post:** Guatemala City

**Report Category:** FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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**Report Highlights:**

This report contains the list of all the mandatory export certificates required by the Government of Guatemala for U.S. agricultural exports. This report has no changes from its 2020 prior version.

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

This report was prepared by the Foreign Agricultural Service at the U.S. Embassy in Guatemala, 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 reach 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**

The Government of Guatemala requires different export certificates to issue import permits for U.S. agricultural exports and for clearing customs. Guatemala requires a CAFTA-DR certification for products to be granted preferential tariffs. Plant and Animal Health Export Certificates issued by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) are required based on specific previously agreed protocols and must include specific attestations. The Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) of USDA will issue export certificates for poultry, meat, and other products, including pasteurized eggs and egg products. The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) of USDA will issue export certificates for dairy, table eggs and further processed egg products. The Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) of the Grain Inspection and Packers Association (GIPSA) will issue grading certificates for grains and products. The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the Department of Commerce will issue export certificates for seafood and aquaculture products. State authorities will issue Certificates of Free Sale for registration and commercialization of processed food products. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will also issue export certificates that are accepted in Guatemala as Certificates of Free Sale.

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

The Vice Ministry of Plant and Animal Health and Regulations (VISAR) of the Ministry of Agriculture (MAGA) is the official entity that reviews all export certificates and issues import permits for food products, fresh or processed. In addition, if processed, a registration procedure must be followed for importing samples to acquire a permanent registration number with the Ministry of Health (please refer to [GAIN Guatemala 2021 FAIRS narrative report](#)). For non-animal-origin processed food, the Ministry of Health is responsible for issuing the import permit. Below is a matrix of the Export Certificates required by the Government of Guatemala:

Product	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Government Authority
All	<a href="#">Certification of Origin</a>	Name and Contact Information of Certifying Person or Company HS Classification Code Criteria for origin Date of the certification if unique or time range (one year) for the certification	CAFTA-DR preferential tariff imports	Customs Authority (SAT)
Meat and meat products	<a href="#">FSIS 9060-5 Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness</a>	Product complies with raising and processing requirements of country	Animal health, food safety, and certificate of free sale	Ministry of Agriculture (nonprocessed and processed) and Ministry of Health (processed or packed)

Pasteurized table eggs	<a href="#">FSIS 9060-5EP</a>	Product complies with requirements of countries	Food Safety	Ministry of Agriculture
Animal products	<a href="#">APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) Certificate</a>	No risk material used in manufacturing	Animal health	Ministry of Agriculture
Dairy	<a href="#">AMS Grading and Sanitary Certification</a>	Product complies with Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs)	Animal health and food safety	Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Health
Table Eggs and Egg Products	<a href="#">AMS Grading and Sanitary Certification</a>	Product complies with requirements of country	Animal health and food safety	Ministry of Agriculture
Pet Food	<a href="#">Certificate of Free Sales</a>	Product complies with Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs)	Animal health	Ministry of Agriculture
Live animals	<a href="#">APHIS VS Certificate</a>	Disease-free status for the originating zones	Animal health	Ministry of Agriculture
Plants and plant materials	<a href="#">Phytosanitary Certificate</a>	Disease-free of specific quarantine pests	Plant health	Ministry of Agriculture
Fresh, refrigerated, or frozen plant or plant products	<a href="#">Phytosanitary Certificate</a>	Disease-free of specific quarantine pests	Plant health Food safety	Ministry of Agriculture

Grains and flours	<a href="#">Phytosanitary Certificate</a>	Disease-free of specific quarantine pests	Plant health	Ministry of Agriculture
	<a href="#">GIPSA Certificate of Inspection and Wholesomeness</a>	Products are fit for human consumption	Food safety	Ministry of Agriculture
	Certificate of Free Sale ( <a href="#">FDA</a> or <a href="#">State</a> )	Products are fit for human consumption	Food safety	Ministry of Health
Processed food (non-animal origin)	Certificate of Free Sale ( <a href="#">FDA</a> or <a href="#">State</a> )	Products are fit for human consumption	Food safety	Ministry of Health
Fresh, refrigerated, or frozen seafood and aquaculture food and products	<a href="#">NOAA Certificate</a>	Products are fit for human consumption (U.S. origin)	Animal health and food safety	Ministry of Agriculture
Processed seafood and aquaculture products and fresh, refrigerated, or frozen (if packed for final retail)	<a href="#">Certificate of Free Sale</a>	Products are fit for human consumption	Food safety	Ministry of Health

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

Sanitary and/or Phytosanitary Certificate: These are export certificates issued by USDA/APHIS, certifying that the products are free of pests and diseases of concern to Guatemala. The sanitary certificate guarantees that animals or their products were raised according to previously arranged

protocols to certify they are free of specific diseases. Veterinary Services (VS) from APHIS issues [health export certificates](#). In addition, meat and meat products must be accompanied by the FSIS-9060-5 Export Certificate. The [FSIS export certificate](#) will provide language previously agreed with Guatemala.

The phytosanitary certificate confirms that the shipment of plants or plant products was inspected and is not carrying pests that are quarantined in Guatemala. Guatemala has [specific phytosanitary requirements per product](#).

Official Grains Export Inspection Certificate: Guatemala accepts the [Grains Export Inspection Certificate](#) issued by FGIS/GIPSA/USDA to comply with food safety measures in place for grains and related products. No additional laboratory or analysis report is required, except for fortified flours.

Certificate of Free Sale or FDA Export Certificate: This [certificate](#) is issued either by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or by an [official entity at the state level](#), and must indicate that the product is suitable for human consumption, if applicable. This certificate indicates that the exporting company is complying with the country's regulations regarding wholesomeness, food quality, and food safety standards, in general. For commercial purposes, the Certificate of Free Sale is only required every 5 years, after accompanying the sample for registration purposes. Commercial shipments are granted import permits based on the registration number assigned.

FDA is issuing two types of [export certificates](#) for food: a) Certificate to a Foreign Government and b) Certificate of Exportability. The Certificate to a Foreign Government certifies that the products were manufactured in a processing facility under the FDA inspection and are marketed in and legally exported from the United States. The Certificate of Exportability is issued for products manufactured outside of the United States, not intended for foreign markets rather than the U.S. domestic market. Additionally, the FDA issues a Certificate of Free Sale for dietary supplements, medical foods, and foods for special dietary use.

USDA AMS Grading Certificate: This certificate is issued by [USDA Agricultural Marketing Service](#). Though it is a grading certificate, Guatemala accepts it for both registration purposes at the Ministry of Health and import permit purposes at the Ministry of Agriculture. This certificate is issued for dairy, table eggs, and egg products (except for pasteurized eggs, which are supported by an FSIS Certificate).

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

Each export certificate may have a series of specific attestations that are required, according to the “risk analysis” of the importing country. Attestations on the sanitary and phytosanitary certificates are established by the Ministry of Agriculture. Each Ministry is responsible for authorizing the entry of a food product if it complies with its requirements. Compliance with one of the two ministries does not imply an import authorization. All paperwork and certificates must be originals to clear Customs.



For high-risk products like meat, the Ministry of Agriculture has notified USDA of the country's requirements. Those requirements and attestations can be found on the [FSIS Export Library](#).

For lower risk products such as table eggs, please visit [AMS](#) website.

For [phytosanitary-specific attestations](#), please ask your Guatemalan importer to access MAGA's specific requirements.

## Section IV. Government Certificate Legal Entry Requirements

To receive an import permit in Guatemala, the following original import documents are required for any animal or vegetable products for food consumption:

- **Certificate of Origin:** issued by the U.S. producer or exporter, or the Guatemalan importer, for tariff determination only. Under CAFTA-DR this [certificate](#) is presented to the Customs Authority for preferential tariff treatment. CAFTA-DR preferential tariffs may be denied if the required information is not clearly presented. A common issue is with the Harmonized Tariff System or HS code. Whenever possible, provide the HS code assigned by the United States Customs and Border Protection. If any discrepancies arise, the certificate may be corrected several times during the importation process.
- **Sanitary and/or Phytosanitary Certificate:** the sanitary certificate is equivalent to the animal health certificate and the phytosanitary certificate is equivalent to the plant health certificate. These plant or animal health certificates are issued by the official federal authority, sealed, and signed by inspectors of the official list. APHIS will provide [plant](#) and [animal health](#) certificates while FSIS will issue meat export certificates (both for animal health and food safety purposes). If the product is for re-export, the country-of-origin certificate (sanitary or phytosanitary) should also be included, and the U.S. re-export certificate (sanitary or phytosanitary) must clearly indicate the country of origin of the animal product or plant material.
- For fisheries and seafood, a [NOAA export certificate](#) is required.
- **Commercial Invoice:** Exporter, recipient, date, invoice number, product description, unit price, net and total weight, type of exchange, CIF, and FOB value must be included.
- **Bill of Lading:** The Guatemalan Customs Authority (SAT) requires a transshipment letter from the port authority where the transshipment took place if it is the case. If your product is transshipped through any port during the exportation process, you will have to pay for a transshipment letter, which is issued to the cargo company, but must be presented by your importer in Guatemala to clear customs.
- **Certificate of Free Sale:** Issued at the federal level ([FDA](#)) as an Export Certificate and must indicate that the food product is suitable for human consumption, if applicable. The certificate of free sale is requested for processed food only, which needs to be registered at the Ministry of Health for commercialization purposes. The FSIS certificate 9060-5 is the document accepted

by the Government of Guatemala for meat products. The AMS Grading Certificate is accepted for dairy and table eggs.

- The Official Export Inspection Certificate from [FGIS](#) is valid for food safety purposes of grains and other products under FGIS/GIPSA mandate.
- Copies of these documents must be sent to your Guatemalan representative to advance the import license process, when possible.

The law requires inspections at the point of entry and at the wholesale and retail levels for the wholesomeness of the product. Primary processed foods must be registered. Food additives do not require registration.

The Central American Economic Integration Committee (COMIECO) [Resolution 175-2006](#) eliminates the need for a phytosanitary certificate as a requirement for imports and exports of vegetable materials/products that are considered processed, such as:

- vegetable fats and oils and their byproducts (crude or refined)
- prepared or preserved vegetables, fruits, or nuts
- dried vegetables, fruits, or nuts, coffee, tea, and extracts
- cereals and vegetable products
- raw materials used primarily in dyeing or tanning
- prepared foods
- miscellaneous edible preparations
- beverages, spirits, and vinegar

\*Note: Food ingredients classified as seeds under the HS code need to come with a phytosanitary certificate, indicating that the ingredient seeds are free of weeds; otherwise, the seed ingredients, though processed, will not be allowed to enter the country.

Whether a product is eligible to enter will depend upon a risk assessment of the exporting country considering the presence or absence of certain diseases in Guatemala. All fresh or processed animal products are considered high risk. Plants under this high-risk category include fresh or dehydrated medicinal plants; ethnic, fresh, and dried fruits; grains and flours; ethnic and fresh vegetables; fruit and vegetable pulp either frozen or specially treated. For fresh vegetable products in the high-risk category (please refer to Guatemala 2021 FAIRS report), a phytosanitary certificate needs to be included in addition of the certificate of free sale.

Guatemala's import requirements for the sanitary and/or phytosanitary certificates are very strict. Export certificate requirements are based on sanitary concerns in accordance with the exporting country's sanitary or phytosanitary (SPS) status. In March 2006, because of CAFTA-DR, Guatemala recognized the U.S. food safety inspection system as equivalent. Therefore, for U.S. meats and meat products, the FSIS Certificate of Wholesomeness (9060-5) is considered valid for sanitary, microbiological, and free sale purposes.

All original documents listed above need to accompany the product at the time of entry. The import license cost varies from US\$1.25 to US\$31, depending on the risk category, and is valid for 30 days. If the product has not left the U.S. port, for any reason, within 30 days, a revalidation can be obtained for an extra 30 days.

[Import forms](#) are readily available online and need to be filed by the importer. Strict measures are set, and the exporter must fulfill all the requirements to avoid problems at port. The paperwork will first receive the approval of the food safety department within the Ministry of Agriculture and, if approved, will continue the process at the phytosanitary or sanitary departments. If rejected, the submitted application will have a technical explanation of the problem and the shipment can be inspected and an evaluation diagnosis may be requested to reconsider the import of the product.

## **Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements**

[APHIS](#) websites will provide very detailed information on the attestations on its export certifications.

[FSIS](#) will also provide detailed information on the required attestations to issue the FSIS 9060-5 form, which, in the case of Guatemala, fulfills the need of both a sanitary and food safety certification, for both raw and processed meat and products; Ministry of Health in Guatemala will also consider the 9060-5 form as valid enough for registration purposes of processed labeled meat products.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments