

Required Report: Required - Public Distribution

Date: January 04,2021

Report Number: BU2020-0042

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

Country: Bulgaria

Post: Sofia

Report Category: FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:

Report Highlights: As a European Union (EU) Member State, Bulgaria applies EU regulatory requirements for all animal- and plant-origin food and agricultural imports. Bulgarian regulatory authorities may be consulted, on a case-by-case basis, regarding import requirements for some categories of non-harmonized products. .

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The EU requires veterinary and/or general health certificates with each meat and meat product shipment, to be signed and dated prior to export. The competent U.S. certifying agent will delete any statement appearing on the EU model certificate that is not applicable.

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The EU imposes general requirements for all veterinary health certificates. Directive 2002/99/EC, Annex IV.6, stipulates that certificates must be issued before consignments leave the control of the competent authority. Non-compliance will lead to rejection of shipment at the EU border entry point.

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Bilingual Bulgarian/English health certificates are available for some commodities/species on the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service’s (APHIS) website (bovine semen model 1 and model 3 and equine semen model 1 and model 4). If a bilingual certificate for a specific species or commodity is not listed, please refer to the English version here. It is the responsibility of the exporter to obtain a bilingual certificate if it is not listed below. Supplementary information regarding the export certificates is available on FAS USEU’s website.

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Import requirements for plants and plant products are harmonized at the EU level. The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) provides model certificates recognized by the EU. Unlike veterinary products, IPPC provides only one model export certificate and one re-export certificate for all plant products. For the United States, APHIS issues the required phytosanitary certificate with the requisite attestations to specific EU requirements.....

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Only a few products/by-products or exotic animals are not harmonized under EU legislation. In such cases, the National Bulgarian Food Safety Agency (BFSA) is the competent authority for providing the specific import conditions on non-harmonized products. Interested U.S. exporters should request additional guidance from the U.S. Embassy’s OAA.

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Prior to shipment, U.S. exporters should confirm with their Bulgarian importers that the consignment will be allowed to enter with the documentation accompanying the consignment. If there is any doubt regarding or lack of clarity, or if EU requirements are not listed, the Bulgarian importer contact the pertinent border inspection points (BIP) with a description of the proposed import including any animal-origin contents, and the intended use

in Bulgaria. The approved BIPs for non-animal origin food and feed imports, as per Regulation (EU) 884/2014, can be found here. The Bulgarian officials will respond to the importer in writing. 6

Bulgaria is a member of the EU and conforms to all EU regulations and directives. Therefore, this report should be read in conjunction with the EU FAIRS Certificate Report which can be also accessed through the FAS website. 6

Section III. Specific Attestations Required on Export Certificate(s) 6

BFSFA requires the seal number of the container to be printed on the veterinary certificate. If no seal number is present on the certificate, border inspectors will make efforts to do identity checks based on other supporting documents. However, a physical inspection may be necessary to verify the identity of the shipment. For some veterinary certificates, additional statements (declaration of BSE/TSE) need to be included..... 6

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All EU (and Bulgarian) certificates for animal origin products will be updated in 2021 when the new EU Animal Health Law will be enforced (Regulation (EU) 2016/429). The new certificates will likely be available after April 21, 2021..... 6

Since 2017, the EU has allowed electronic certification in the EU’s Integrated management System for Official Control. However, U.S. regulatory agencies do not issue electronic certificates in this system and continue to use paper certificates. Please, see FAS USEU’s FAIRS Certificate Report for specific requirements regarding paper certificates..... 7

Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements 7

Health certificates are mandatory for animal product imports, as are phytosanitary certificates for most plant product imports. In some cases, there are additional certificates (e.g. organic products). Some voluntary certificates (e.g. almonds) expedite the import process. Please, see more details here. 7

Appendix I. Electronic Copy or Outline of Each Export Certificate 7

See FAS USEU’s website here, as well as USEU’s FAIRS Certificate Report. 7

The following links on USDA/FSIS/AMS/APHIS websites contain most important samples of import certificates (in English or in English/Bulgarian) required for various products..... 7

- Live animals and animal genetics; 7
- APHIS certificates for animal products; 7
- Meat products and treated stomachs, bladders and intestines and the same products for transit; see also here; 7
- Poultry meat and eggs and egg products; see also APHIS certification for eggs here;..... 7
- Composite products for transit and storage;..... 7
- Dairy Products; 7
- Certificates for Seafood; 7
- Certificates issued by FDA for gelatin and collages for human consumption (also see FAS USEU’s FAIRS Certificate Report); and..... 7

- APHIS plant health certificates..... 7
- For additional information concerning market entry, other import requirements, and a current importer list, U.S. exporters of agricultural products and commodities should contact:..... 7
- Office of Agricultural Affairs**..... 7
- 16 Koziak Street..... 7
- Sofia 1407, Bulgaria 7
- Tel: (+3592) 939 5720 7
- E-mail: agsofia@fas.usda.gov 7
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The following report should be read in conjunction with [Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards \(FAIRS\) Certificate Report](#) prepared by the U.S. Mission to the EU’s (USEU) Office of Agricultural Affairs in Brussels.

DISCLAIMER: This report was prepared by U.S. Embassy Sofia’s Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA) for U.S. exporters of domestically produced 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:

Bulgaria follows EU regulations and model certificates. Bulgarian food safety inspectors at border points of entry are generally helpful and can be consulted in advance when U.S. exporters and Bulgarian importers have questions regarding appropriate certificates for specific products. Border inspectors consult with the European Commission (EC) with questions. They also regularly contact FAS Sofia if there are issues with U.S.-origin shipments. Following regulatory updates in 2020, new implementing regulations and related documents are expected in 2021. U.S. exporters are encouraged to consult with Post prior to shipping consignments to Bulgaria.

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

Bulgaria applies EU certification requirements for imported food and agricultural products. Since December 14, 2019, the has EU updated certain certificate requirements for products of animal-origin and seeds for sprouting. Moreover, certain plant products which previously did not require a phytosanitary certificate, now require a certificate. See FAS USEU’s [FAIRS Certificate Report](#) for more specific information. FAQs related to EU import requirements are available [here](#). Post

recommends that U.S. exporters consult with FAS Sofia for any questions related to import requirements, import certificates, or issues about Bulgaria-specific import regulations.

A. Export Certificates/Requirements for Animal Products

In general, the EU requires health certificates for all imported animal-origin products. There are three main requirements: (1) EU recognition of a country as eligible to export a particular product; (2) recognition of approved production establishments, which may be subject to EU audits (see the EU-approved list [here](#)); and (3) animal or public health certificates based on the EC's published model. Imports requirements for animal products exported to the EU (and Bulgaria) are detailed in [Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2019/625](#) and can be found on the [FSIS website](#) along with specific export certificates by product.

The EU requires veterinary and/or general health certificates with each meat and meat product shipment, to be signed and dated prior to export. The competent U.S. certifying agent will delete any statement appearing on the EU model certificate that is not applicable.

B. Export Certificates/Requirements for Live Animals

The EU imposes general requirements for all veterinary health certificates. [Directive 2002/99/EC](#), Annex IV.6, stipulates that certificates must be issued before consignments leave the control of the competent authority. Non-compliance will lead to rejection of shipment at the EU border entry point.

Bilingual Bulgarian/English health certificates are available for some commodities/species on the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) website (bovine semen [model 1](#) and [model 3](#) and equine semen [model 1](#) and [model 4](#)). If a bilingual certificate for a specific species or commodity is not listed, please refer to the English version [here](#). It is the responsibility of the exporter to obtain a bilingual certificate if it is not listed below. Supplementary information regarding the export certificates is available on FAS USEU's [website](#).

C. Export Certificates/Requirements for Plant and Plant Products

Import requirements for plants and plant products are harmonized at the EU level. The [International Plant Protection Convention](#) (IPPC) provides model certificates recognized by the EU. Unlike veterinary products, IPPC provides only one model export certificate and one re-export certificate for all plant products. For the United States, APHIS issues the required phytosanitary certificate with the requisite attestations to specific EU requirements.

D. Composite Products – Products Subject/Not Subject to Veterinary Checks and Certification

[Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2019/2007](#) provides a list of animals and animal products subject to veterinary checks. This regulation does not apply to composite products which are covered by [Commission Decision 2007/275/EC](#) until April 21, 2021. Following that date, entry requirements will be no longer based on the percentage of animal-origin ingredients, but on animal health or public risks associated with the composite product. Currently, composite products with over 50 percent of animal-origin ingredients require a certificate. After April 21, 2021, [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2019/625](#) will apply with three categories of entry requirements depending on the composite products: (1) non shelf stable composite products; (2) shelf stable composite products which contain meat; and (3)

shelf stable composite products that do not contain meat. See FAS USEU's [FAIRS Certificate Report](#) for more details.

E. Products Outside of Regular Commercial Channels

Products outside of regular commercial channels are often for research activities, samples for trade shows, and/or for personal consumption. [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2019/2122](#) is applied. See FAS USEU's [FAIRS Certificate Report](#) for more information.

F. Export Certificates/Requirements for Non-harmonized Products

Only a few products/by-products or exotic animals are not harmonized under EU legislation. In such cases, the National [Bulgarian Food Safety Agency](#) (BFSA) is the competent authority for providing the specific import conditions on non-harmonized products. Interested U.S. exporters should request additional guidance from the U.S. Embassy's OAA.

Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

Imported products must meet existing member state requirements, and products must be accompanied by the proper certification at the 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. In accordance with EU legislation, certain products may have quality certificates that allow for reduced import duties. Other voluntary EU certificates allow for less stringent import control regimes.

Prior to shipment, U.S. exporters should confirm with their Bulgarian importers that the consignment will be allowed to enter with the documentation accompanying the consignment. If there is any doubt regarding or lack of clarity, or if EU requirements are not listed, the Bulgarian importer contact the pertinent border inspection points (BIP) with a description of the proposed import including any animal-origin contents, and the intended use in Bulgaria. The approved BIPs for non-animal origin food and feed imports, as per [Regulation \(EU\) 884/2014](#), can be found [here](#). The Bulgarian officials will respond to the importer in writing.

Bulgaria is a member of the EU and conforms to all EU regulations and directives. Therefore, this report should be read in conjunction with the [EU FAIRS Certificate Report](#) which can be also accessed through the [FAS website](#).

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

BFSA requires the seal number of the container to be printed on the veterinary certificate. If no seal number is present on the certificate, border inspectors will make efforts to do identity checks based on other supporting documents. However, a physical inspection may be necessary to verify the identity of the shipment. For some veterinary certificates, additional statements (declaration of BSE/TSE) need to be included.

Section IV. Government Certificate's Legal Entry Requirements

All EU (and Bulgarian) certificates for animal origin products will be updated in 2021 when the new EU Animal Health Law will be enforced ([Regulation \(EU\) 2016/429](#)). The new certificates will likely be available after April 21, 2021.

Since 2017, the EU has allowed electronic certification in the EU's Integrated management System for Official Control. However, U.S. regulatory agencies do not issue electronic certificates in this system and continue to use paper certificates. Please, see FAS USEU's [FAIRS Certificate Report](#) for specific requirements regarding paper certificates.

Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements

Health certificates are mandatory for animal product imports, as are phytosanitary certificates for most plant product imports. In some cases, there are additional certificates (e.g. organic products). Some voluntary certificates (e.g. almonds) expedite the import process. Please, see more details [here](#).

Appendix I. Electronic Copy or Outline of Each Export Certificate

See FAS USEU's website [here](#), as well as USEU's [FAIRS Certificate Report](#).

The following links on USDA/FSIS/AMS/APHIS websites contain most important samples of import certificates (in English or in English/Bulgarian) required for various products.

- [Live animals and animal genetics](#);
- [APHIS certificates for animal products](#);
- [Meat products and treated stomachs, bladders and intestines](#) and the same products for [transit](#); see also [here](#);
- [Poultry meat](#) and [eggs and egg products](#); see also APHIS certification for eggs [here](#);
- [Composite products for transit and storage](#);
- [Dairy Products](#);
- [Certificates for Seafood](#);
- [Certificates issued by FDA for gelatin and collages for human consumption](#) (also see FAS USEU's [FAIRS Certificate Report](#)); and
- [APHIS plant health certificates](#)

For additional information concerning market entry, other import requirements, and a current importer list, U.S. exporters of agricultural products and commodities should contact:

Office of Agricultural Affairs

16 Koziak Street
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Appendix II. Bulgarian Competent Authorities

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Attachments:

No Attachments