

Required Report: Required - Public Distribution

Date: December 13, 2021

Report Number: HR2021-0007

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

Country: Croatia

Post: Zagreb

Report Category: FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:

This report provides information on the export certificates required by the Government of Croatia. This is an annual report that was updated in October 2021.

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Disclaimer

This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the U.S. Foreign Agricultural Service in Zagreb, Croatia, for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, the 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

All sections of the previous FAIRS Export Certificate Report have been updated to reflect EU certification requirements at the time this report was written. For the most recent update, also check the referenced website of the agencies issuing the certificates.

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

Croatia as a member of the European Union follows EU directives and regulations. It is therefore recommended that this report be read in conjunction with the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) Export Certificate Report produced by the U.S. Mission to the European Union in Brussels, Belgium:

[EU-27 FAIRS Export Certificate Report](#)

or search:

[GAIN Reports](#)

The document requirements for exporting animals, plants, and food to the EU are extensive. The [EU-27 FAIRS Export Certificate Report](#) gives an overview of the required EU health certificates for products imported into or transiting through 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 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

Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
Products of animal origin	Health Certificates	Attestation is dependent on the product. Detailed attestation can be found in the model certificates available at <u>EUR-Lex</u> under the relevant regulations (e.g. dairy products, pork, beef, etc.) – accepted until March 15, 2022. Models of the new certificates for food of animal origin were published in Commission <u>Implementing</u>	Food Safety	Ministries of Agriculture and Health through State Inspectorate's Veterinary and Sanitary Inspections.

Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
		<u>Regulation (EU) No 2020/235</u> , as amended by Commission <u>Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1471</u> .		
Composite products	Health Certificate	<u>Regulation (EU) 2019/625</u> defines composite products.	Food Safety	Ministries of Agriculture and Health through State Inspectorate's Veterinary and Sanitary Inspections.
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, and they are subject to change, thus the shipper needs to check for the most recent change before export.	Plant Health	Ministry of Agriculture through State Inspectorate's Phytosanitary Inspection.
Various plant products	Other than Phytosanitary Certificate. For details see the <u>EU-27 FAIRS Export Certificate Report</u>	e.g. aflatoxin levels in almonds: Use of the Pre-Export Checklist Program Certificate (the PEC Certificate) is not mandatory but	Food Safety and Quality	Ministries of Agriculture and Health through State Inspectorate's Phytosanitary and Sanitary Inspections.

Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
		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.		

Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

Import requirements for animals and animal products are harmonized across the EU. The EU must recognize a country as eligible to export a particular animal or animal product. The EU has lists of approved establishments based on submissions from U.S. government agencies. Only those products processed at approved establishments may enter the EU. The U.S. agencies involved in developing official establishment lists are the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Approved establishments may be subject to EU inspection. All EU-approved establishment lists are available at [Third Country Establishments](#) and the links for the U.S. agencies can be found in Section V. under the Competent Authorities. The EU imposes several general requirements for all veterinary certificates. The U.S. regulatory agencies which issue health certificates (FSIS, APHIS, and Agricultural Market Service - AMS) have all included pertinent requirements in their export libraries. Lastly, animal or public health certificates based on the model certificates published by the European Union and signed by U.S. officials must accompany all shipments.

The EU import requirements for plants and plant products also have been harmonized and are published in a single directive. Unlike veterinary products, there is only one model certificate for all plant products per international regulations following the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (see: [IPPC Publications](#) and [IPPC Export Certification](#)). Phytosanitary certificates are issued by APHIS inspectors, who attest to specific requirements of EU legislation by making additional declarations in the relevant boxes.

[Regulation \(EU\) 2019/625](#) defines composite products as foodstuffs intended for human consumption that contain processed products of animal origin and ingredients of plant origin. Composite products include a wide variety of products, including cheesecakes, high protein food supplements, pizza, and lasagnas. U.S. exports of “composite products” continue to be restricted due to burdensome certification requirements. While the U.S. is eligible to ship hormone-free meat, dairy products, egg products, and fishery products separately, it is often not possible to ship the composite products that

combine these eligible ingredients.

Exporters should be aware that in parallel with the aforementioned changes to the composite product certificate that was triggered by an update of the EU's Animal Health Law, the EU also made changes to the categories of composite products that require U.S. Government-issued health certificates. The new system is no longer based on the percentage of ingredients of animal product in the final product, and goes into effect on January 15, 2022. It establishes three categories of composite products: (1) non-shelf stable composite products, (2) shelf stable composite products that contain meat products and (3) shelf stable composite products that do not contain meat products. All processed products of animal origin have to be sourced from EU-approved establishments. The EU continues to require composite product certificates for all non-shelf stable products and for shelf stable composite products with a meat ingredient.

For shelf stable products not containing meat, no certificates signed by the U.S. Government are required. For these products, the representative of the importer must declare that the goods meet the relevant EU requirements, using the "Private Attestation" model form.

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

The EU imposes several general requirements for all veterinary certificates. Of these, [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2020/2235](#), has repeatedly caused rejections of shipments at EU borders. In accordance with [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2020/2235](#), certificates must be issued before the consignments to which they relate leave the control of the competent authority. The U.S. regulatory agencies that issue health certificates (FSIS, APHIS, AMS, and NOAA) have all included this requirement in their export libraries.

Models of the new certificates for foods of animal origin were published in [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2020/2235](#), as amended by [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/1471](#). The transitional provisions of Regulation 2020/2235 allow for the continued use of the old certificates until March 15, 2022, provided that the certificates are signed before Jan 15, 2022. At the time of writing, U.S. Government agencies have not yet switched to any of the new certificates. This is also the case for the composite product certificates issued by the Agricultural Marketing Service and Food Safety and Inspection Service.

Certificates for plants and plant products are issued by APHIS inspectors, who attest to the specific requirements of EU and Croatian legislation with the necessary declarations in the space provided on the phytosanitary certificate. These declarations are specific for different plant species and they are subject to change, thus the shipper needs to check for the most recent change before export.

Section IV. Government Certificate's Legal Entry Requirements

The original version of the certificate must accompany consignments at the point of entry into the EU. Each shipment should be accompanied by an original certificate; that is, certificates cannot apply to multiple shipments. Certificates must normally be drawn up in the language of the country of dispatch (English for the United States) and the Member State (MS) in which the border inspection takes place

and the final destination. Member States may agree to accept certificates in another official EU language other than their own.

For the Croatian market and border crossings, certificates must be in the official language of the Republic of Croatia, which is Croatian, as well as the MS where the border inspection occurs, if the product is not exported directly to the Republic of Croatia.

All certificates can be found in Croatian on the EU Official Journal website ([EUR-Lex](#)) under the relevant regulation.

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

There are no additional Croatian certificates (other than EU certificates) for food products derived from plants and animals.

U.S. Competent Authorities

The following is a list of U.S. agencies that issue certificates along with a link to the relevant pages on their websites:

- AMS: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

AMS certification and verification programs support American exporters by ensuring that products meet specific export requirements for countries around the world, including in the European Union (dairy, eggs, honey, etc.).

European Union Dairy Health Certification Program

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/content/european-union-health-certification-program>

Certification for Eggs and Egg Products

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/services/imports-exports/eggs-egg-products>

Certification for Honey

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/imports-exports/honey>

Certification for Seeds for Sprouting

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/content/usda-announces-seed-sprouting-export-certification-program>

European Union Dairy Health Certification Program

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/imports-exports/dairy-exports/eu-dairy-exports>

- APHIS: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA

APHIS provides certification relating to animal and plant health diseases and pests.

International Animal Export Regulations:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/regs/animals/>

International Animal Products Export Regulations:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/export/iregs-for-animal-product-exports/ct_iregs_animal_product_exports_home

Plant Export Services:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planhealth/SA_Export

- FDA: Food and Drug Administration

FDA provides export certificates for food and food additives. FDA issues all EU export certificates for gelatin and collagen for human consumption and will only issue certificates to exporters that have been included in the EU approved list of collagen and gelatin establishments. <https://www.fda.gov/food/exporting-food-products-united-states/food-export-certificates>

- FSIS: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA

FSIS provides certification for products of animal origin (meat, poultry, and eggs).

<https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs/exporting-products/export-library-requirements-by-country/European-Union>

- NOAA: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The NOAA Seafood Inspection Program is the competent authority within the U.S. Government for issuance of certain certificates required for the export of fish and fish products to the European Union (EU). However, establishments wishing to export fish and fishery products to the EU still need to apply to FDA for inclusion on the EU export certificate list. Establishments may apply for inclusion on these lists via the Export Listing Module (ELM). Please visit [Online Applications for Export Lists](#) for a link to this electronic system and step-by-step instructions.

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/content/export-certification>

Croatian Competent Authorities

- **Croatian State Inspectorate (all inspection services, e.g. veterinary, sanitary, phytosanitary)**

Šubićeva 29,
10 000 Zagreb
Croatia
Tel: +385 1 23 75 100
e-mail: pisarnica.dirh@dirh.hr
<https://inspektorat.gov.hr/>

- **Government of the Republic of Croatia, Ministry of Agriculture**

Grada Vukovara 78
10000 Zagreb
Tel. +385 1 6106 111
Fax. +385 1 6109 201

Email: pisarnica01-MP@mps.hr
<https://poljoprivreda.gov.hr/>

- Government of the Republic of Croatia, Ministry of Agriculture

Planinska ulica 2a,
10000 Zagreb
Veterinary and Food Safety Directorate
Tel. +385 1 6106 111
Fax. +385 1 6109 201
Email: uprava.veterinarstva@mps.hr

- Government of the Republic of Croatia, Ministry of Health

Ksaver 200a
10 000 Zagreb
Tel. +385 1 4607 555
Fax. +385 1 4677 076
<https://zdravstvo.gov.hr/>

- Croatian EFSA Focal Point

Croatian Agency for Agriculture and Food
I. Gundulića 36b,
31000 Osijek
Croatia
Tel: +385 31 227 600
Fax: +385 31 214 901
e-mail: csh@hapih.hr
<https://www.hapih.hr/about-us/>

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

There are no additional Croatian certificates (Other than EU certificates) for food products derived from plants and animals for the time being.

Attachments:

No Attachments