

**Required Report:** Required - Public Distribution

**Date:** December 06, 2021

**Report Number:** KE2021-0016

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

**Country:** Kenya

**Post:** Nairobi

**Report Category:** FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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**Report Highlights:**

This report complements the FAIRS Annual Country Report for Kenya and provides information on certificates required by the Government of Kenya (GOK) to export food and agricultural products into the country. The Kenya Electronic Import Export System provides a single point for importers and exporters to electronically submit certificates and receive approvals from relevant trade regulatory agencies.

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## Questions about this report?

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**Office of Agricultural Affairs Nairobi**  
**USDA Foreign Agricultural Service**  
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 Nairobi, Kenya



## Executive Summary

Exports of food and agricultural products to Kenya are regulated by five key agencies which are linked to a single online export/import approval system. Those agencies are the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS), the Kenya Dairy Board (KDB), the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS), the National Biosafety Authority (NBA), and the Department of Public Health (DPH).

All certification requests are submitted through the Kenya Electronic Import Export System ([KESWS](#)). In addition to product-specific certifications, a certificate of conformity (CoC) issued by an agent of the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) is mandatory for all exports to Kenya. CoCs are currently available from Intertek, Veritas, or SGS. A CoC is issued prior to export.

## Section I. Export Certificates Required by GOK

Products	Title of certificate	Attestation required on certificate	Purpose	Requesting Authority
<b>Most food products</b>	Certificate of Conformity (CoC) available from <a href="#">Intertek</a> , <a href="#">Veritas</a> , or <a href="#">SGS</a> (formerly Société Générale de Surveillance) <a href="https://www.sgs.com/en/public-sector/product-conformity-assessment-pca/kenya-pvoc-program">https://www.sgs.com/en/public-sector/product-conformity-assessment-pca/kenya-pvoc-program</a>	Product conforms to Kenya's standards.	Conformity with GOK standards (quality, health, safety, and environment)	Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS)
<b>All plant materials</b>	Plant import permit (available from <a href="#">KEPHIS</a> ) and APHIS phytosanitary certificate ( <a href="#">APHIS PPQ Form 577</a> )	Product-specific attestations are available here: <a href="#">KEPHIS Plant Import and Quarantine Regulatory System</a>	Plant health (free from pests and diseases)	Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS)
<b>Bull semen</b>	Permit to import bull Semen	Product conforms to veterinary requirements of Kenya (example in appendix 1)	Animal health	Department of Veterinary Services (DVS)
<b>Meat, meat products and meat by-products</b>	No-objection permit to import meat and meat products	Product conforms to testing requirements of Kenya (example in appendix 1)	Animal health and food safety	DVS
<b>Milk and milk products</b>	No-objection permit to import milk and milk products	Product conforms to testing requirements of Kenya (example in appendix 1)	Animal health and food safety	DVS
<b>Egg and egg products</b>	No-objection permit to import egg and egg products	Product conforms to veterinary requirements of Kenya (example in appendix 1)	Animal health and food safety	DVS

<b>Food, feed or ingredients containing genetically modified (GM) products</b>	Import permit for products containing GM material	Product conforms to Kenya's <a href="#">Biosafety regulations</a>  <i>Note: Kenya currently bans most GM products</i>	Presence of GM material	National Biosafety Authority (NBA)
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To obtain a CoC, an imported product must satisfy Kenyan import requirements prior to export. This evaluation is conducted by pre-export verification of conformity (PVoC) agents appointed by GOK. Once a PVoC agent has issued a CoC, the importer may present the CoC to KEBS for clearance of the goods and apply for the Import Standardization Mark (ISM), a stick-on-label to be affixed to each retail container. Further details on PVoC can be obtained at [KEBS PVoC](#).

There are three routes for CoC certification. The PVoC agent reviews the request for certification (RFC) received from the exporter before determining the most appropriate certification route and the applicable standard to be used in the certification process. Additional information can be found at this [KEBS link](#).

**Route A:** This route is open to all products being exported by either traders or manufacturers and is mainly for first-time exporters. Products shipped under this route must be tested and physically inspected to demonstrate conformity to relevant standards.

**Route B:** This route is primarily used by frequent exporters of homogenous products. Products shipped under this route must be registered with an authorized PVoC agent. The product registration is valid for a period of one year. Shipments of registered products are exempted from mandatory testing and certification may be based on physical inspection only. Random testing of registered product is still conducted to ensure product conformity throughout the one-year registration period. The following products are not eligible for registration under Route B, and must go through Route A:

- Sugar.
- Cereals and pulses such as rice, wheat, beans, and corn.
- Animal and fishery products (fresh and frozen- not further processed).
- Dairy products.
- Fresh horticultural products.

**Route C:** This route is allowed only for manufacturers with a quality management system integrated into their production process. It involves auditing production processes and licensing products manufactured by authorized PVoC agents in alignment with ISO Guide 28: 2004. If approved, the manufacturer will receive a license for the relevant products, valid for a period of one year. Licensed products are subject to random physical inspection by authorized PVoC agents prior to issuance of CoC and subsequent shipping. PVoC agents will carry out limited testing during the license valid period.

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

See table in Section 1 above

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

See table in Section I above and Appendix I.

## Section IV. Government Certificates and Legal Entry Requirements

The table below provides legal-entry information on certificates listed in Section I. Kenya does not require a Certificate of Free Sale. Kenya regulatory authorities generally do not accept certificates issued by U.S. States.

<b>Title of the certificate</b>	<b>Is the certificate required at entry?</b>	<b>How long is the certificate valid?</b>	<b>Can the certificate be applied on multiple shipments?</b>	<b>Does Kenya accept a supplier's or manufacturer's export declaration as proof of compliance?</b>
<b>Certificate of conformity (CoC)</b>	Yes, for all products subject to PVoC	Three months	No	No
<b>Phytosanitary certificate</b>	Yes	No specific time limit, covers shipment period	No	No
<b>Plant import permit</b>	Yes	No specific time limit, covers shipment period	No	No
<b>Permit to import bull semen</b>	Yes	No specific time limit, covers shipment period	No	No
<b>No objection permit to import meat and meat products</b>	Yes	Three months	No	No
<b>No objection permit to import milk and milk products</b>	Yes	Three months	No	No
<b>No objection permit to import egg and egg products</b>	Yes	Three months	No	No
<b>Import</b>	Yes	No specific time limit,	No	No

permit for GM containing products		covers shipment period		
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## Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements

In addition to the certificates listed above, the GOK requires the following:

- An original airway bill or bill of lading.
- An order form or pro-forma invoice (including product weight, specification, packaging and value).
- A packing list.
- Insurance documents.

## Appendix I. Electronic Copy or Outline of Export Certificates

Electronic copies and links for most Kenya certificates are not available. Below are examples of text from Kenya certifications including attestations required. Contact information of relevant ministries is also provided.

### A. PERMIT TO IMPORT BULL SEMEN

#### MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES STATE DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK

Telegrams: "VETLAB", Kabete Telephone: 020 – 2067641 and 020-2700705 Fax: 020-2026212 E-mail: <a href="mailto:cvfokabete@yahoo.com">cvfokabete@yahoo.com</a> , <a href="mailto:director@dvs-kabete.go.ke">director@dvs-kabete.go.ke</a>		DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY SERVICES, VETERINARY RESEARCH LABORATORIES, PRIVATE BAG, 00625 KANGEMI
When replying, please quote:  All correspondences should be addressed to: The Director of Veterinary Services Parcel by rail: Nairobi Station		

### Veterinary requirements

#### 1. Certification

The consignment must be accompanied by a permit and certificate signed by a veterinary surgeon of the government of the exporting country to the effect that:

- i. The district or area from which the semen is derived is free from any disease of cattle notifiable by law to the ministry responsible for veterinary administration.
- ii. The bull from which the semen was collected was healthy and free from diseases which are transmitted via semen.
- iii. The semen was collected at an approved artificial insemination (A.I.) center, which is under the sanitary supervision and control of a veterinary surgeon.
- iv. The center is under overall supervision of a veterinary administration that is responsible for routine visits to check the health and welfare of the bulls and the procedures and records at the Center at least once every six months.
- v. Adequate and approved measures have been taken against introduction of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy in accordance with Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the O.I.E.

## **2. Bull requirements**

- i. Bulls must continuously reside at the A.I. Center for the period of semen collection and in that time must not be used for natural mating.
- ii. Bulls must be subjected to a virus identification test for blue tongue disease according to the terrestrial manual on blood samples collected at commencement and conclusion of, and at least every 7 days (for a virus isolation test) or at least every 28 days (for a PCR test) during semen collection for this semen consignment with negative results.
- iii. Bulls must be tested and have no campylobacter infections on both immunofluorescent and culture examination of semen and preputial washings before entry into an approved A.I. Station.
- iv. Bulls must be tested serologically, with negative results to *Leptospira* serotype prevalent in cattle in the exporting country. Alternatively bulls may be injected twice with an approved drug for the treatment of leptospirosis according to the manufacturers' directions within three months prior to collection of this semen batch.
- v. Bulls must be tested for tuberculosis with negative results within twelve months prior to semen collection if the exporting country is not free from Bovine Tuberculosis.
- vi. Bulls must be examined for IPV/IBR virus with negative results.

## **3. Other requirements**

Bulls must be progeny tested with positive results. A copy of pedigree and progeny test values must be attached to a veterinary health certificate.

- i. Bulls must have no genetic defects or carry the CVM gene.
- ii. The semen exporter must include two doses of semen for a motility check using a stereomicroscope at x 40 magnification.

## **4. Semen packaging and transportation**

- i. Each semen straw must be identified with the name and identification number of the donor bull and the date of collection.

- ii. Semen must be packed hygienically and under adequate liquid nitrogen in containers which were cleaned and disinfected under a veterinary surgeon's supervision.
- iii. Semen must be consigned by air and through the fastest route possible to The Director of Veterinary Services, Private Bag Kabete, Code: 00625, Kangemi, Nairobi, Kenya. Details of arrival of the consignment must be communicated to the Director of Veterinary Services in good time.
- iv. On arrival the consignment will be detained by the Director of Veterinary Services until documents and semen are inspected by the chief veterinarian in the Artificial Insemination Division. If the Director of Veterinary Services is not satisfied with the fulfillment of the requirements, the semen may be reexported or destroyed at the expense of the importer.


No semen shall be distributed or sold except under the authority of a license issued by the Director of Veterinary Services and in accordance with such conditions as may be attached thereto.

Any person, who imports, distributes, or sells bull semen without having first obtained a license to do so or who imports, distributes, or sells bull semen in breach of any condition attached to his/her license is guilty of an offense.

An original copy of this permit must accompany the consignment to Kenya and be presented to an officer of this department at the airport.

## **B. NO OBJECTION PERMIT TO IMPORT MEAT, MEAT PRODUCTS AND MEAT BY-PRODUCTS**

### **MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES STATE DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK**

Telegrams: "VETLAB", Kabete Telephone: 020 – 2067641 and 020-2700705 Fax: 020-2026212 E-mail: <a href="mailto:cyfokabete@yahoo.com">cyfokabete@yahoo.com</a> , <a href="mailto:director@dvs-kabete.go.ke">director@dvs-kabete.go.ke</a>		DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY SERVICES, VETERINARY RESEARCH LABORATORIES, PRIVATE BAG, 00625 KANGEMI
When replying, please quote  All correspondences should be addressed to: The Director of Veterinary Services Parcel by rail: Nairobi Station		

### **Requirements for meat, meat products and meat by-products (issued under meat control regulations of 1997)**

1. The slaughterhouse where meat animals were slaughtered must be approved and designated as an export slaughterhouse by the highest veterinary authorities of the country of origin. It must



also have a control/establishment number and be under constant supervision by the same authorities.


2. The processing plants where the meat and meat products are packed, labelled, and loaded, and which are outside the export slaughterhouses must be designated as export plants by the highest veterinary authorities of the country of origin, must have a control establishment number, and must be under constant supervision by the competent authority.
3. The slaughtering, dressing, handling, packing, and loading of the meat must be done under the most proper hygiene conditions in accordance with the basic sanitary rules and regulations of the Recommended International Code of Hygienic practices of fresh meat CAC/RCP 11-1976, Rev.1 (1993) in Codex Alimentarius Vol. (1994).
4. Meat and meat products must not contain foreign substances or chemical residues in concentrations injurious to human health.
5. The animals from which meat was derived must come from regions or farms known to be free for at least six months from all infectious and contagious diseases particularly foot and mouth disease, anthrax, rabies, brucellosis, scrapie, swine fever, and atrophic rhinitis.
6. The animals from which the meat was derived must be subject to thorough ante mortem and postmortem inspection by an official veterinarian and found to be free from symptoms of all contagious and infectious diseases and lesions, particularly symptoms associated with diseases referred to in paragraph 5. Animals must be deemed sound, wholesome and fit for human consumption.
7. Meat inspection procedures and hygiene practices must be in accordance with the “code of practice for the ante mortem judgment of slaughter animals and meat” as described in FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission ALINORM 85/32.
8. The animals from which the meat, meat products, and meat by-products were derived must originate from the country of origin.
9. The meat/meat products shall be transported directly from the country of origin to Kenya without any trans-shipment.
10. The meat/meat products shall be transported from the country of origin to the importers’ cold stores by means that conform to the meat control rules and regulations of Kenya.
11. Every consignment must be accompanied by a veterinary health certificate indicating the identification number of the associated export slaughterhouse or processing plant.
12. Permits are valid for one consignment only and must be presented to the veterinary officer at the port of entry into Kenya.

The process can only be started by an application from the importer. Issue of a no-objection permit is on a case-by-case basis. When more conditions such as risk analysis are considered, the same shall be required.

### **C. NO OBJECTION PERMIT TO IMPORT MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS**



**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES  
STATE DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK**

Telegrams: "VETLAB", Kabete Telephone: 020 – 2067641 and 020-2700705 Fax: 020-2026212 E-mail: <a href="mailto:cvfokabete@yahoo.com">cvfokabete@yahoo.com</a> , <a href="mailto:director@dvsKabete.go.ke">director@dvsKabete.go.ke</a>		DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY SERVICES, VETERINARY RESEARCH LABORATORIES, PRIVATE BAG, 00625 KANGEMI
When replying, please quote:  All correspondences should be addressed to: The Director of Veterinary Services Parcel by rail: Nairobi Station		

### Requirements for milk and milk products


1. The area within a 10 kilometer (6.2 mile) radius of the farm of origin must be free from any disease to which cattle are susceptible and which are notifiable to the veterinary authorities of the country of origin for the previous three months.
2. There must be no outbreak of foot and mouth disease, lumpy skin or contagious bovine pleuropneumonia within 50 kilometers (31 miles) of the farm of origin in the previous three months.
3. There must be no foot and mouth disease of types SAT1, SAT3 or ASIA 1 or rinderpest or vesicular stomatitis recorded in the country of origin within the previous four years.
4. Milk or milk products must originate from animals that have passed the following tests within 30 days prior to export:
  - i. Single comparative intra-dermal tuberculin test for tuberculosis applied and interpreted according to the standards of WHO/OIE/FAO
  - ii. Serum agglutination test for brucellosis interpreted with regard to any previous vaccination according to the standards of WHO/OIE/FAO,
  - iii. Complement fixation test for Johnes disease (Paratuberculosis).
5. Milk or milk products must not constitute any danger of introducing infectious or contagious diseases such as vibriosis, leptospirosis, trichomoniasis, brucellosis, Johnes disease and bovine leucosis. For brucellosis, herds must be free for 2 years and for Bovine Leucosis and Johnes disease herds must be free for 5 years.
6. Milk products must be prepared from raw milk derived from animals not showing clinical signs of a disease that can be transmitted through milk/milk products and raw milk must be produced, handled and kept hygienically.

7. Milk products must be found to be of good quality prior to processing through qualitative testing such as resazurin tests, adulteration tests, and organoleptic tests, among others.
8. Milk products must be manufactured in establishments approved for the purposes of processing milk or milk products for export by a competent health or veterinary authority. These establishments must be under constant supervision by the same authority.
9. Milk products must be subjected to an initial treatment having an effect at least equivalent to that achieved by pasteurization at a temperature of at least 72 degree Celsius (161.6 degrees Fahrenheit) for at least 15 seconds so as to produce a negative reaction to the phosphatase test. These treatment must be followed by:
  - i. a second heat treatment involving high temperature pasteurization, UHT or sterilization, so as to produce a negative reaction to the peroxidase test.  
or
  - ii. in case of milk powder or a dry milk-based product, a second heat treatment having an effect at least equivalent to that achieved by the first treatment to produce a negative reaction to a phosphatase test, followed by a drying process.  
or
  - iii. an acidification process such that the ph value is lowered and kept at below 6 for at least one hour.
10. The products must not contain any harmful additives and must be unconditionally safe and fit for human consumption.
11. The products must not contain foreign substances including toxins (microbial or otherwise) or chemical residues in concentrations injurious to health.
12. The products must not be exposed to radioactive contamination and must not have a radioactivity level exceeding 21 bq per kg (2.205 lbs) calculated on CS 137.
13. The products must be processed, handled, packed, stored, and transported hygienically and all necessary precautions must be taken to prevent contamination prior to dispatch.
14. The products must be subject to necessary quality controls including laboratory tests and must be found to be of good quality and free from pathogenic organisms including coliforms, listeria etc.
15. The products must be manufactured from milk derived from animals reared within the country of origin.
16. The products must not be of inferior quality than otherwise specified under Kenyan standards. Milk and milk products must be consigned directly to Kenya without trans-shipment.
17. The original copy of the import permit with a certificate indicating compliance together with other required certificates shall be presented to all relevant authorities (port, health, customs, and veterinary officials) at the point of entry.
18. At the direction of the health/veterinary officials at entry point, samples of imported milk/milk products may be taken and subjected to various tests as may be deemed necessary at the expense of the importer.

Note that the process can only be started by an application from the importer. Issue of a no-objection permit with these requirements is on a case-by-case basis. When more conditions such as risk analysis are considered, the same shall be required.

### C. NO OBJECTION PERMIT TO IMPORT EGG AND EGG PRODUCTS

#### MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES STATE DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK

<p>Telegrams: "VETLAB", Kabete Telephone: 020 – 2067641 and 020-2700705 Fax: 020-2026212 E-mail: <a href="mailto:cvfokabete@yahoo.com">cvfokabete@yahoo.com</a>, <a href="mailto:director@dvsKabete.go.ke">director@dvsKabete.go.ke</a></p>		<p>DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY SERVICES, VETERINARY RESEARCH LABORATORIES, PRIVATE BAG, 00625 KANGEMI</p>
<p>When replying, please quote:</p> <p>All correspondences should be addressed to: The Director of Veterinary Services Parcel by rail: Nairobi Station</p>		

#### Requirements for egg and egg products

1. Processing plants must be approved and designated for export by the highest veterinary authorities of the country of origin. They must also have a control or establishment number and be under constant supervision by the same authorities.
2. Processing, handling, packing, and loading of egg powder must be done under proper hygiene conditions in accordance with basic sanitary rules and regulations.
3. Egg powder must not contain foreign substances or chemical residues in concentrations injurious to human health.
4. Poultry from which the egg powder was derived must be drawn from regions or farms known to be free for at least 6 months from all the infectious and contagious diseases, particularly highly pathogenic avian influenza, fowl plague, and newcastle disease.
5. The farm where the eggs originate must be tested and found to be free from *Salmonella enteritidis*. There must be no cases of vologenic newcastle disease, infectious bronchitis, infectious laryngotracheitis, avian encephalomyelitis, salmonellosis (including *S.pullorum*), infectious bursal disease or chronic respiratory disease due to *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* or *M.synoviae* on the farm for at least 3 months prior to export.
6. The eggs from which egg powder was derived must be subjected to thorough inspection by official veterinarians and be unconditionally passed as sound, wholesome and fit for human consumption.
7. That poultry from which the eggs and egg powder was derived must originate from the country of origin.

8. The egg powder shall be transported directly from the processing plant of the country of origin to Kenya. There shall be no trans-shipment.
9. The egg powder shall be transported from the country of origin to the importer's stores by means that do not predispose the product to contamination.
10. Every consignment must be accompanied by a veterinary health certificate. This certificate must indicate the identification number of the associated processing plant and be signed or endorsed by the veterinarian duly authorized by the government veterinary authority of the exporting country.
11. Permits are issued valid for one consignment only and must be presented to the veterinary officer at the port of entry into Kenya.

Note that the process can only be started by an application from the importer. Issue of a no-objection permit with these requirements is on a case-by-case basis.

#### **D. IMPORT PERMIT FOR GM-CONTAINING PRODUCTS**

**NATIONAL BIO-SAFETY AUTHORITY**  
**Application Form for Import, Export and**  
**Transit of Genetically Modified Organisms**

1. Name, address ( <i>including physical address</i> ) and contact details of the importer/exporter  <u>Applicant:</u>	Type of application ( <i>Tick as appropriate</i> )  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Import</li> <li>• Export</li> <li>• Transit</li> </ul>
2. Contact details of the competent authority as applicable.	2.1 Importing /Destination country
	2.2 Exporting country
3. Name, address and contact details of the supplier.	4. Country of origin
	5. Expected date of import/export/ transit
6. Common name, scientific name, commercial name or unique identifier code of the genetically modified organism.	7. Port: 7.1 Entry into Kenya  7.2 Exit from Kenya
8. Evidence of approval of the genetically modified organism from	9. Consent for import from the destination country (in case of export or transit).

the exporting country (Attach)	
10. The intended use of the genetically modified organism in Kenya and what it was used for in the exporting country	11. The quantity of the genetically modified organism to be imported into Kenya
12. A summary of the risk assessment report	
13. Methods and plans for safe handling, storage, transport, and use, including packaging, labelling, documentation, disposal and contingency procedures.	
14. Describe the emergency response plan in Kenya in the event of an accident with the genetically modified organisms	

Declaration by applicant

I hereby declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief the particulars given in this application are true and correct.

Declared by

\_\_\_\_\_  
Declarant

Date, Nairobi

Note: Kenya maintains an import ban on most genetically modified (GM) agricultural and products.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments