

Required Report: Required - Public Distribution

Date: February 15, 2022

Report Number: FR2021-0012

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

Country: France

Post: Paris

Report Category: FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:

France as a member of the European Community has implemented EU regulations for the import of animal and plant products. The US export certification requirements for most products destined for the EU have been harmonized, but a few products not yet harmonized are subject to French national regulations.

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

France as part of the European Community has implemented EU regulations for the import of products of animal and plant origin and therefore export certification requirements for most products destined for the EU market have been harmonized. For information on the export certifications for the EU market, please see the 2021 [Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards \(FAIRS\) Certificate Annual Report E42021-0073](#) which can be found on their website: <http://www.usda-eu.org/reports/> or on the GAIN search engine: <https://gain.fas.usda.gov/#/search>

[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

A few products not yet harmonized are subject to French national regulations. Check [with France 2021 FAIRS report](#) for more details. The competent French authority needs to be consulted on a case-by-case basis to address requirements for non-harmonized products. Imported products must meet existing Member State requirements and products must be accompanied by the proper certification at 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 France, food safety is the primary responsibility of Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

Contact for Import requirements can be addressed (in French) to

Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation, Direction Générale de l'Alimentation
Service d'inspection vétérinaire et phytosanitaire aux frontières (SIVEP)
Sous Direction des Affaires Sanitaires Européennes et Internationales (SDASEI)
251 rue de Vaugirard 75352 Paris cedex 15 France
Tel : +33(0)1 49 55 81 74 Fax : +33 (0)1 49 55 83 14
Email : sivep.sdasei.dgal@agriculture.gouv.fr

The database for import regulations is available (in French) on :

<https://teleprocedures.franceagrimer.fr/impadon/>

Export certificates must be in the official language of France, therefore in French.

Usually the importer (or possibly an exporter or a freight forwarder) applies to the authority with all relevant details. There is no set form for this kind of application. EU food legislation is translated into the 24 official languages in use in the EU-28 (including French) and is published in the Official Journal. The Eurlex website <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm> provides free access to European Union laws. EU plant and plant product import regulations have been harmonized and are published in a single directive. Unlike veterinary products, there is only one model certificate for all plant products in accordance with international regulations laid out by the International Plant Protection Convention of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. www.ippc.int/

This report should be read in conjunction with the 2021 [Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards \(FAIRS\) EU GAIN Report E42021-0072](#) prepared by the FAS Office in the U.S. Mission to the European Commission (USEU). For additional information on US export certifications for the EU market, please see the USEU Brussels website: <http://www.usda-eu.org/reports/>

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Attachments:

No Attachments