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Mexico

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification

FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:

The report identifies export certificates issued by U.S. government issuing authorities to comply with Mexican import standards and regulations or to attest that the product is subject to U.S. government regulation. This report is intended as a supplement to the Food and Agricultural Importation Regulation Report (FAIRS) submitted 8/17/09, and as an update to the FAIRS Export Certificate Report submitted 11/30/09. This report was prepared by the Agricultural Trade Office of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Monterrey, Mexico 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.

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

Product	Title of Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
All products	NAFTA Certificate of Origin	Origin of product	Customs
Meat and Poultry Products	FSIS Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness	Health certificate	Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA)
Dairy Products	APHIS Health Certificate	Health Certificate	Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA)
Hatching Eggs	APHIS Certificate For Poultry or Hatching Eggs for Export	Health Certificate	Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA)
Live Animals	International Health Certificate	Health Certificate	Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA)
Fish and Processed Fish Products	Export Health Certificate and Certificate of Origin (NOAA / National Marine Fisheries Service)	Health Certificate	Federal Commission for the Protection Against Sanitary Risk (COFEPRIS) / Secretariat of Health
Crustaceans: King Crab, Shrimp (Frozen Raw)	Export Health Certificate and Certificate of Origin (NOAA / National Marine Fisheries Service)	Health Certificate	Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA)
Wood products and processed wood products	Phytosanitary Certificate- Plant Protection and Quarantine	Health certificate	Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT)
Plant and plant products – fruits and vegetables	Phytosanitary Certificate- Plant Protection and Quarantine	Health certificate	Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA)
Animal Feed and Pet Food (containing animal inputs)	Certificate of Free Sale APHIS Health Certificate **Note: Feed with no animal content does not require APHIS certificate	Health Certificate	Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA)
Grocery Food Items, Frozen Foods	Certificate of Free Sale *HTS defines type of document required For example canned beans with meat containing meat require USDA certificate	Health certificate	COFEPRIS- Federal Commission for Protection Against Sanitary Risks of the Secretariat of Health (SSA).
Processed products:	Certificate of Health or Sanitation and/or Certificate of Free Sale. Note: For some products a quality control certificate issued by the manufacturer is accepted *HTS defines the required documentation		

Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

NAFTA Certificate of Origin

This is a trilaterally agreed upon form used by Canada, Mexico, and the United States to certify that goods qualify for the preferential tariff treatment accorded by NAFTA. The Certificate of Origin must be completed by the exporter. This document certifies that the listed products originated in the territory of the exporting company and comply with the origin requirements specified for those goods in the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). A sample is available on the U.S. government export portal: http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/aes/exporttraining/videos/nafta_cert_of_origin.pdf

FSIS Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness

The Meat and Poultry Export Certificate is issued by the Field Operation Staff of the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), USDA. This document certifies that the meat products included in the shipment are from animals that received both ante mortem and postmortem inspection and were found sound and healthy. In the case of poultry and poultry products, it certifies that the birds were officially inspected and are wholesome and fit for human consumption. This document is issued to the exporter and also includes the general data of the consignee. Other data included in the form are district office, country of destination, folio number, plant number and city, type of facility, total marked net weight, total containers, and products as labeled with their individual market weight, number of packages and plant number. The slaughter date, packing

date and lot number are included in the remarks section of the certificate. The name of the species on the product description line is also required (for example, hot dogs, beef, pork, or turkey). There are various sanitary statements required in the remarks section, as well. These are listed in the Hoja de Requisitos for any given product. For more information visit the following links:

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Frame/FrameRedirect.asp?main=http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OFO/export/lmexico.htm>

http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/Index_of_Import_Requirements_by_Country/index.asp

APHIS Health Certificate for Animal Products

International health certificates for the export of animal products are issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

These certificates are completed by an accredited veterinarian. Complete and signed international health certificates for the export of animal products from the United States must be endorsed by a USDA/APHIS Veterinary Services area office in order to be valid. For more information on Mexican regulations for animal products visit:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/animal_import/animal_imports_states.shtml

Certificate for Poultry or Hatching Eggs for Export

For the importation of hatching eggs, Mexico requires a health certificate attesting to the health and origin, including sampling and testing procedures specified in the voluntary National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP). This certificate is issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

For details see the following website:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/animal_faq.shtml

International Health Certificate for Live Animals

Mexican import regulations for live animals stipulate that a health certificate must be presented to Mexican Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA) officials at port of entry. The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) issues international health certificates for the export of animals from the United States. These are completed by an accredited veterinarian who certifies herd and animal health status, conducts tests, and records test results for the individual animals being exported. Complete and signed international health certificates for the export of animals from the United States must be endorsed by a Veterinary Services area office in order to be valid. For more information on U.S.-Mexico live animal protocols and Mexico's import regulations, please see the following links:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/animal_faq.shtml

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/animal_mexico.shtml

<http://www.senasica.sagarpa.gob.mx>

Export Health Certificate and Certificate of Origin (NOAA)

Mexico's import regulations for seafood products require that exporters present an export certificate attesting to health and origin of the product. This certificate is issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce/NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). NOAA's Seafood Inspection Program offers export certification to facilitate trade of seafood products that meet the requirements of the importing country. NOAA certifies that the products presented for inspection are from the United States, comply with U.S. regulations, and are wholesome. Currently, SAGARPA regulates the import of crustaceans (crab and shrimp). Other seafood products, including processed products, have to comply with import regulations established by COFEPRIS. Importers should consult the HTC to verify specific regulations. For detailed requirements and COFEPRIS import regulations see: <http://www.cofepris.gob.mx>

For information on NOAA certificates visit: http://www.seafood.nmfs.noaa.gov/EU_Certificates.html

Phytosanitary Certificate-Plant Protection and Quarantine-PPQ

Mexico requires a phytosanitary certificate attesting to the health of plants and unprocessed plant products. This certificate

is available through the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The phytosanitary certificate is issued by the Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) office to the exporter. It certifies that the plants or plant products have been inspected and/or tested according to appropriate procedures, are considered to be free from quarantine pests, and conform to the current phytosanitary requirements of the importing country. For more information, see the following links:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/plant_exports/export_certificates_forms.shtml

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/index.shtml

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/plant_exports/faqs.shtml

Certificate of Free Sale / Certificate of Health or Sanitation for Processed Products

Mexico's Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risk (COFEPRIS) import regulations stipulate that the importer (or Mexican custom broker) must present a certificate of health or sanitation in order to obtain an import permit or a previous import notification from COFEPRIS. This document is issued by several state and federal government agencies and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) certified laboratories. It assures the authorities of the importing country that the products comply with U.S. requirements and are sold freely in the market of the country of origin. Health certificates must be issued by a U.S. Federal or State government health office. Exporters should consult the specific HTS for product specifications. For more information regarding COFEPRIS import regulations and import permits visit:

<http://www.cofepris.gob.mx>

Note: The reader should be aware that FSIS and APHIS are transitioning to electronic export certification and thus formats and identification marks may vary from what is currently in use.

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

Specific attestations required for the export of meat, poultry and egg products to Mexico from the United States can be found at the following USDA/FSIS website:

http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/Mexico_Requirements/index.asp

Information regarding the export of hatching eggs can be found at:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/animal_faq.shtml

Additional information on how to obtain APHIS export certificates for plants and plant products can be obtained in the APHIS Export Program Manual at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/domestic/xpm.shtml

Section IV. Government Certificate's Legal Entry Requirements

Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness

The document is not valid unless signed by an inspector of the USDA/FSIS Meat and Poultry Inspection Program, listing the name and the date. An original of the document is required and can be valid for multiple lots if the shipments enter at the same time at the port of entry.

Phytosanitary Certificate-Plant Protection and Quarantine-PPQ

An original of this document is required by Mexican Customs and can be valid for multiple lots if the shipments enter at the same time at the port of entry.

APHIS Health Certificate for Animal Products

In order to be valid, this document must be signed by a USDA/APHIS Veterinary Services official. An original of the document has to accompany each shipment presented for inspection.

Certificate for Poultry or Hatching Eggs for Export

The original certificate must be presented upon arrival to the inspection point at port of entry.

International Health Certificate for Live Animals

An original of this document is required and must be completed and signed by a USDA/APHIS Veterinary DVM. This certificate is valid for multiple lots if the shipments arrive at the same time for inspection at the corresponding livestock export pen on the U.S. side of the border.

Certificate of Free Sale

On July 25, 2007, Mexico's Secretariat of Agriculture posted revised requirements in the Federal Animal Health Law for certificates of free sale for certain animal feeds, including pet food. Currently, exporters are required to present an original certificate of free sale upon entry of the product. For some products, SAGARPA will accept an original affidavit letter from the manufacturer indicating that the product is freely sold in the United States. For other products, Mexico requires a certificate issued by state health offices. Supplier or manufacturer export declarations are not accepted as proof of compliance.

Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements

For more information on food standards and regulations, please consult the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Report for Mexico (see below).

Appendix I. Electronic Copy or Outline of Each Export Certificate

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

See back
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**NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT
CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN**

19 CFR 181.11, 181.22

Please print or type

1. EXPORTER NAME AND ADDRESS	2. BLANKET PERIOD			
	FROM			
TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:	TO			
3. PRODUCER NAME AND ADDRESS	4. IMPORTER NAME AND ADDRESS			
TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:	TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:			

5. DESCRIPTION OF GOOD(S)	6. HS TARIFF CLASSIFICATION NUMBER	7. PREFERENCE CRITERION	8. PRODUCER	9. NET (

- I CERTIFY THAT:
- THE INFORMATION ON THIS DOCUMENT IS TRUE AND ACCURATE AND I ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROVING SUCH REPRESENTATIONS. I UNDERSTAND THAT I AM LIABLE FOR ANY FALSE STATEMENTS OR MATERIAL OMISSIONS MADE ON CONNECTION WITH THIS DOCUMENT;
 - I AGREE TO MAINTAIN AND PRESENT UPON REQUEST, DOCUMENTATION NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THIS CERTIFICATE, AND WRITING, ALL PERSONS TO WHOM THE CERTIFICATE WAS GIVEN OF ANY CHANGES THAT COULD AFFECT THE ACCURACY OF THIS CERTIFICATE;
 - THE GOODS ORIGINATED IN THE TERRITORY OF ONE OR MORE OF THE PARTIES, AND COMPLY WITH THE ORIGIN REQUIREMENT FOR THOSE GOODS IN THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT AND UNLESS SPECIFICALLY EXEMPTED IN ARTICLE 401, THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER PRODUCTION OR ANY OTHER OPERATION OUTSIDE THE TERRITORIES OF THE PARTIES
 - THIS CERTIFICATE CONSISTS OF PAGES, INCLUDING ALL ATTACHMENTS.

11.	11a. AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE	11b. COMPANY		
	11c. NAME (<i>Print or Type</i>)	11d. TITLE		
	11e. DATE (<i>MM/DD/YYYY</i>)	11f. TELEPHONE NUMBER	(Voice)	(Facsimile)

