

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Caribbean Basin

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Report

FAIRS Export Certificate Report The Bahamas

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Report Highlights:

This report outlines The Bahamas' certification requirements and includes an Export Certificate Matrix as well as examples of select Export Certificates. It is recommended that U.S. suppliers have their Bahamian buyer verify compliance with all certification requirements prior to shipping products to The Bahamas. U.S. Exporters may also refer to The Bahamas FAIRS Country report for more information.

NOTE: This report was prepared by the Caribbean Basin Agricultural Trade Office (CBATO) of the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)/U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in Miami, Florida 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.

Table of Contents

- [Section I. List of All Export Certificates Required By Government \(Matrix\)](#)..... 3
- [Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate\(s\)](#) 3
- [Section III. Specific Attestations Required on Export Certificate\(s\)](#) 4
- [Section IV. Government Export Certificate’s Legal Entry Requirements](#) 4
- [Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements to Ensure Market Entry](#) 4
- [Appendix I - Sample Export Certificates](#) 5
- [Appendix II. Government Regulatory Agency Contacts](#) 7
- [Appendix III. Other Import Specialist Technical Contacts:](#) 7

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

Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
Meat Products / Poultry	Meat/Poultry Inspection Certificate (Certificate of Wholesomeness)	None. Standard FSIS 9060-5 is acceptable.	Food Safety/Food Quality & Animal Health Protection	Ministry of Agriculture (Bahamas Ag. Health and Food Safety Authority / Department of Agriculture)
Plants and Unprocessed Plant Products (i.e. Fresh fruits and vegetables)	Phytosanitary Certificate	Exact attestation may vary depending on product and State/region of origin.	Food Safety & Plant Protection	Ministry of Agriculture (Bahamas Ag. Health and Food Safety Authority / Department of Agriculture)

Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

- Meat/Poultry Inspection Certificate (Certificate of Wholesomeness): The Ministry of Health, as well as the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries require that this certificate be issued by a U.S. Federal Agency for food quality purposes.

Note: USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) issues Certificates of Wholesomeness guaranteeing that the meat/poultry products have been inspected by a FSIS Veterinarian; both ante mortem and postmortem, and are wholesome and fit for consumption. For fresh/frozen meat and meat products, poultry, and poultry products an FSIS Form 9060-5, Meat and Poultry Certificate of Wholesomeness should be used.

- Phytosanitary Certificate: This certificate is required by the Ministry of Health for the purpose of food safety, as well by the Ministry of Agriculture, Land & Fisheries/Plant Quarantine Unit for domestic plant protection purposes.

Note: USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is the principal U.S. Federal Agency responsible for conducting inspections and issuing Phytosanitary Certificates.

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

- Meat/Poultry Inspection Certificate: None. The standard FSIS Form 9060-5 (Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness) is acceptable.
- Phytosanitary Certificate: This certificate should certify that the shipment of plant products has been inspected and is free of harmful pests and plant diseases, and complies with The Bahama's phytosanitary regulations.

While The Bahamas Government has not specified a specific declaration required on the Phytosanitary Certificate, the following sample attestation can be used as a guideline:

The products have been inspected and/or tested according to appropriate official procedures and are considered to be free from pests and diseases and conform to the current phytosanitary requirements of The Bahamas.

Section IV. Government Export Certificate's Legal Entry Requirements

- Meat/Poultry Inspection Certificate (Certificate of Wholesomeness): The Bahamas Government requires that this certificate be issued by a U.S. Federal Agency. The Government will not accept U.S. State issued Meat/Poultry Inspection Certificates. Customs Officials will accept the Certificate of Meat/Poultry for the indicated shipment only, and an original certificate must accompany the products at the time of entry in order to obtain an import permit.
- Phytosanitary Certificate: The Bahamas Government requires that this certificate be issued by a U.S. Federal Agency. The Bahamas Government will not accept a U.S. State issued Phytosanitary Certificate or a Manufacturer/Supplier's Export Declaration as proof of compliance. Customs Officials will accept the certificate for the indicated shipment only, and the original certificate must accompany the plant products at the time of entry.


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

U.S. suppliers should work closely with their Bahamian importers to ensure that they are in full compliance with the latest certification requirements and other specified conditions of entry.

Appendix I - Sample Export Certificates

FSIS Form 9060-5 Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0583-0153. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 25 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instruction, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness		A knowingly false entry or false alteration of any entry on this certificate may result in a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than 5 years or both (18 U.S.C.1001). Additional penalties exist under the Federal Meat Inspection Act [21 U.S.C. 611(b) (1), (2); and (5), 21 U.S.C. 461] for an unauthorized or false alteration or misuse of this certificate.						
1. COUNTRY OF DESTINATION		2. ISO CODE	5. CERTIFICATE NUMBER MPM-		6. CERTIFICATE TYPE <input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL <input type="checkbox"/> REPLACEMENT			
3. CONSIGNOR/EXPORTER <i>(Applicant's name and address)</i>			PRODUCT EXPORTED FROM:					
4. CONSIGNEE/IMPORTER <i>(Name and address)</i>			7. EXPORT EST. NO. <i>(Name and address)</i>					
			8. TOTAL NET WEIGHT		9. TOTAL NO. OF PACKAGES			
10. DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCT <i>(Name of product)</i>		11. NET WEIGHT OF LOT ¹	12. SPECIES	13. NUMBER OF PACKAGES IN LOT ¹	14. TYPE OF PACKAGES IN LOT ¹	15. SHIPPING/ IDENTIFICATION MARKS ¹		
¹ As stated by applicant or contractor								
17. REMARKS								
<input type="checkbox"/> 18. I CERTIFY that the meat, meat food product or meat byproduct specified hereon is from animals that received both antemortem and postmortem inspection and were found sound and healthy and that it has been inspected and passed as provided by law and regulations of the Department and is sound and wholesome.								
<input type="checkbox"/> 19. I CERTIFY that the poultry, poultry products or poultry food products specified above came from birds that were officially given an antemortem and postmortem inspection and passed in accordance with applicable laws and regulations of the United States Department of Agriculture and are wholesome and fit for human consumption.								
NOT VALID UNLESS SIGNED BY A CERTIFYING OFFICIAL OF MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION PROGRAM								
By order of the Secretary of Agriculture					20. CERTIFYING OFFICIAL'S NAME AND TITLE BRYAN SEIDEL c=US, o=U.S. Government, ou=Department of Agriculture, cn=BRYAN SEIDEL, 0.9.2342.19200300.100.1.1=12001 002108044		21. DATE SIGNED (MM/DD/YYYY)	

This certificate is receivable in all courts of the United States as prima facie evidence of the truth of the statements therein contained.
 This certificate does not excuse failure to comply with any of the regulatory laws enforced by the United States Department of Agriculture.

APHIS PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE – PPQ Form 577

FORM APPROVED
OMB NO. 0579-0052

No phytosanitary certificate can be issued until an application is completed (7 CFR 353)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE TO: THE PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATION(S) OF SAMPLE		FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY	
		PLACE OF ISSUE SAMPLE	
		NO. FPC XXXXXXX	
		DATE INSPECTED	
CERTIFICATION			
This is to certify that the plants, plant product or other regulated articles described herein have been inspected and/or tested according to appropriate official procedures and are considered to be free from the quarantine pests, specified by the importing contracting party and to conform with the current phytosanitary requirements of the importing contracting party including those for regulated non-quarantine pests.			
DISINFESTATION AND/OR DISINFECTION TREATMENT			
1. DATE	2. TREATMENT		
3. CHEMICAL (active ingredient)	4. DURATION AND TEMPERATURE		
5. CONCENTRATION	6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION		
DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSIGNMENT			
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF EXPORTER SAMPLE		8. DECLARED NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE CONSIGNEE SAMPLE	
9. NAME OF PRODUCE AND QUANTITY DECLARED SAMPLE		10. BOTANICAL NAME OF PLANTS SAMPLE	
11. NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION OF PACKAGES SAMPLE		12. DISTINGUISHING MARKS SAMPLE	
13. PLACE OF ORIGIN SAMPLE		14. DECLARED MEANS OF CONVEYANCE SAMPLE	
		15. DECLARED POINT OF ENTRY	
WARNING: Any alteration, forgery, or unauthorized use of this phytosanitary certificate is subject to civil penalties of up to \$250,000 (7 U.S.C. Section 7734(b)) or punishable by a fine of not more than \$10,000, or imprisonment of not more than 5 years, or both (18 U.S.C. Section 1001).			
ADDITIONAL DECLARATION			
SAMPLE			
SAMPLE		Page 1 of 1	
16. DATE ISSUED	17. NAME OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER (Type or Print)	18. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER	
No liability shall attach to the United States Department of Agriculture or to any officer or representative of the Department with respect to this certificate.			

Appendix II. Government Regulatory Agency Contacts

Department of Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources
Darville's Business Complex
Gladstone & Munnings Rd.
P. O. Box N 3028
Nassau, N.P., The Bahamas
Tel: (242) 325-7413, (242) 397-7450
Fax: (242) 325-3960
Email: departmentofagriculture@bahamas.gov.bs

Appendix III. Other Import Specialist Technical Contacts:

Caribbean Basin Agricultural Trade Office (CBATO)
Foreign Agricultural Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
909 SE 1st Avenue, Suite 720
Miami, FL 33131
Tel: (305) 536-5300
Fax: (305) 536-7577
E-mail: atocaribbeanbasin@fas.usda.gov
Website: <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/posts/cbato/>