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Turkey

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification

FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:

Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and U.S. Department of Agriculture signed a protocol to allow import of live bull to Turkey from the United States. Turkey is currently updating the list of commodities that require phytosanitary certificate.

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

Disclaimer

This report is prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/ Foreign Agricultural Service in Ankara,

Turkey, 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.

Notes

1) The content of the following report is nearly identical to USDA FAS GAIN report "TU8044- FAIRS Export Certificate Report" published on November 24, 2008. One notable addition is the signing of a protocol to permit the importation of live breeding bulls from the United States to Turkey. The sample veterinary certificate can be reviewed from GAIN report "Turkey Allows Importation of Live Bulls from the United States-2009."

All mentioned reports may be found at the website: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/AttacheRep/default.asp>

2) MARA is updating the list of products that require phytosanitary certificates. The list is expected to be published shortly. Our office will prepare a report on this issue. Please follow above link for the upcoming report.

SECTION I. EXPORT CERTIFICATES MATRIX

Product	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
Cotton	Phytosanitary Certificate	"Product is free from quarantine pests" and "The cotton is free from plant material"	Health Certificate	Ministry of Agriculture
Grains (wheat, barley, corn rice)	Phytosanitary Certificate	"Product is free from quarantine pests"	Health Certificate	Ministry of Agriculture
Oilseeds (soy, sunflower, cotton)	Phytosanitary Certificate	"Product is free from the quarantine pests"	Health Certificate	Ministry of Agriculture
Oils (soy, sunflower, cotton)	Health Certificate	"The product is found to be in conformity with the state sanitary-epidemiological rules"	Health Certificate	Ministry of Agriculture
Alcoholic beverages	Certificate of Free Sale	"The product is freely sold in the United States and fit for human consumption"	Health Certificate	Ministry of Agriculture
Alcoholic Beverages	Certificate of Origin	N/A	Authenticity	Ministry of Customs
Pet food	Health Certificate	"Certified pet food does not contain any ruminant origin material." A statement about the salmonella and enterobacteria testing results should be on the certificate. Certificate should also state that the product was not manufactured in	Health Certificate	Ministry of Agriculture

		the States of Texas, Washington or Alabama.		
Canned foods	Certificate of Free Sale	"Freely sold in the United States and fit for human consumption"	Health Certificate	Ministry of Agriculture
Seafood	Health Certificate	"Does not come from toxic species or species containing biotoxins."	Health Certificate	Ministry of Agriculture
Aquaculture hatchery products	Health Certificate	"Does not come from toxic species or species containing biotoxins."	Health Certificate	Ministry of Agriculture
Vegetable juices	Certificate of Free Sale	"The product contains no harmful ingredients and is fit for human consumption."	Health Certificate	Ministry of Agriculture
Non-Alcoholic Beverages	Health Certificate	"The product is fit for human consumption."	Health Certificate	Ministry of Agriculture
Sports Drinks	Health Certificate	"Free from any microbiological risk"	Health Certificate	Ministry of Agriculture
Energy Drinks	Health Certificate	"The product is free from harmful substances and fit for human consumption."	Health Certificate	Ministry of Agriculture
Food supplements	Health Certificate	The name of the producer and the product need to be listed.	Health Certificate	Ministry of Health
Dairy products	Veterinary Certificate	"The U.S. is free of foot and mouth disease."	Health Certificate	Ministry of Agriculture
Dairy and Animal products	Certificates of Analyses	Physical, chemical, microbiological and heavy metal specifications.	Health Certificate	Ministry of Agriculture
Tallow	Health Certificate	"The U.S. is free from foot and mouth disease, rinderpest and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia."	Health Certificate	Ministry of Agriculture
Semen	Health Certificate	"The U.S. is free from rinderpest and foot and mouth diseases."	Health Certificate	Ministry of Agriculture
Livestock*	Veterinary Certificate	"The animal is free from diseases i.e., BSE, FMD, rinderpest, heartwater and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia".	Health Certificate	Ministry of Agriculture
Nuts and Confectionary seeds	Phytosanitary Certificate	"Product is free from the quarantine pests"	Health Certificate	Ministry of Agriculture
Wood products	Phytosanitary Certificate	N/A	Health Certificates	Ministry of Agriculture

*Note: Please see more details on the livestock import requirements in FAS Attaché reports "Turkey Agrees to Protocol on Import of U.S. Live Female Cattle- 2007" and "Turkey Allows Importation of Live Bulls from the United States-2009", and check with your local APHIS office for the most up-to-date information on livestock import documentation. <http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/AttacheRep/default.asp>

Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

Names of the certificates required:

The Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) requires the following documents:

Phytosanitary Certificates are required for unprocessed agricultural products such as cotton, oilseeds, and grains.

Phytosanitary Certificates are also required for nuts and confectionary seeds and for wood products.

Phytosanitary-Health Certificates are required for vegetable oils indicating that the product meets international sanitary requirements. Health certificates for crude oils need to indicate that the goods are fit for human consumption after further refining.

Certificates of Free Sale are required for processed food imports such as canned food, vegetable juices, energy drinks, alcoholic beverages and food supplements. The Ministry of Agriculture requires the following statement to appear on the certificate: “the product is sold and traded freely in the United States”. This can be problematic, as FDA will not usually issue a certificate with this wording. In some instances, this problem can be overcome by getting a certificate of free sale from a government agency at the state or local level.

Health Certificates are required for non-alcoholic beverages and sports drinks, pet food and tallow imports. Health Certificates are required for seafood imports and are prepared by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Health Certificates are also required for feed additives and semen import.

Certificates of Origin are also required for alcoholic beverages, ensuring authenticity.

Certificates of Analysis are reports on test results that are required for dairy products and for animal products showing compliance of the product with physical, chemical, microbiological and heavy metal specifications.

Veterinary Certificates are required for dairy products. Veterinary Certificates are also required for livestock imports.

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

Reference to copies of certificates in section II:

For phytosanitary and health certificates, the standard APHIS wording is sufficient. The signature and official seal/stamp of the certifying body is also required. In addition:

-Phytosanitary certificates for cotton should contain the words “product is free from the quarantine pests” and “The cotton is free from plant material”

-Phytosanitary certificates for grains and oilseeds should contain the words, “product is free from quarantine pests”

-Health certificates for oils should contain the words, “product is found to be in conformity with government sanitary-epidemiological rules”

-Certificates of Free Sale for alcoholic beverages should contain the words, “product is freely sold in the United States and fit for human consumption.”

-Health certificates for pet food should contain the words, “certified Pet Food does not contain any ruminant origin material”

-Certificates of Free Sale for canned food should contain the words “freely sold in the United States and fit for human consumption.”

-Health certificates for seafood should contain the words, “product does not come from toxic species or species containing biotoxins”

-Health certificates for vegetable juices should contain the words, “product contains no harmful constituents and is fit for human consumption.”

-Health certificates for non-alcoholic beverages should contain the words, “product is fit for human consumption”

-Health certificates for sports drinks should contain the words, “free from any microbiological risks”

-Health certificates for energy drinks should contain the words, “product is free from harmful substances and fit for human consumption.”

-Veterinary certificates for dairy products should contain the words, “The US is free from foot and mouth disease.”

-Health certificates for tallow should contain the words, “The U.S. is free from foot and mouth disease, rinderpest and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia. The product is of U.S. origin and manufactured from pure beef tallow from clinically healthy animals and can be used in the country of origin in the soap making industry. The maximum content of insoluble impurities of tallow does not exceed 0.15% of its weight.”

-Health certificates for semen should indicate that the U.S. is free from rinderpest and foot and mouth diseases.

- Health Certificates for feed additives should indicate that the product is free from dioxins.

-Veterinary certificates for livestock imports should indicate that the animal is free from diseases i.e., BSE, FMD, rinderpest, heartwater and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia.

-Phytosanitary certificates for nuts and confectionary seeds should indicate that the product is free from quarantine pests. They should also contain the botanical names of the products and production lot numbers.

-Phytosanitary certificates for wood products should indicate that the product is free from pests.

-Phytosanitary certificates for soybeans should carry information about phosphine gas fumigation and its concentration and duration of application.

Section IV. Government Certificate’s Legal Entry Requirements

For most certificates, the original certificates must accompany the product at the time of entry.

The validity of the import certificates vary according to the product:

-For unprocessed agricultural items and wood products, phytosanitary certificates are good for one shipment and limited to the period of shipment.

-For processed food items, in general, health certificates are good for one year. However, for items listed on HSTP 02 and 16 covering animal products (goose liver, poultry products, sausages and pork products) and for dairy products listed on HSTP 04 (cheese, butter), health certificates are valid for only four months and for one shipment.

-For canned food, health certificates are good for one year and for multiple shipments if the health certificates are not specific to one production lot.

-For live seafood, health certificates are valid for one single shipment.

In most cases, MARA accepts export certificates that are issued by federal and also individual state authorities. MARA requires documents to be provided by official government agencies, and therefore does not accept documents provided by private companies or associations except for documents regarding compliance to certain standards that have been confirmed by government officials at the producer’s plant or region.

As part of Turkey's negotiations to become a member of the European Union, MARA is attempting to simplify import regulations and requirements and harmonize them with E.U. import regulations.

Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements

-Since February 2008, all cotton and cotton product exporters annually must register their company with the Foreign Trade Undersecretariat or get certified by the Turkish Diplomatic missions in their countries.

-The Veterinary Certificate required for dairy product imports needs to indicate the exporter's name and address, product quantity, identification of shipment i.e., production lot numbers and importer's name and address.

-The Health Certificate for sports drinks and pet foods are specific to a given shipment and need to contain information about the quantity.

-For seafood imports, a photocopy or a faxed copy of the original health certificate needs to be provided to receive the import permit. The original copy should be provided with the shipment documents.

-The health certificates for aquaculture products for hatching need to be certified by the local Turkish Consulate.

-Meat imports are not allowed in Turkey.

-Imported soft wood logs need to be debarked and hard wood logs need to be fumigated.