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Ethiopia

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Report

FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:

This report summarizes the list of major export certificates, documentations and other regulatory requirements to export food and agricultural products to Ethiopia. The report is organized using information obtained from publicly available sources published online as well as from industry contacts. Post strongly suggests this report be read with the [FAIRS Country Report](#) for a complete insight on Ethiopia's import requirements, regulations, and standards.

Introduction

The list of major export certificates required to export food and agricultural products into Ethiopia comprise: certificate of conformity, health certificate, phytosanitary certificate, veterinary certificate, certificate of origin, certificate of free sale, and certificate of irradiation. Likewise, a registration certificate is required for food products including infant formula (milk) and food supplements. Furthermore, documents such as packing list, customs declaration, commercial invoice, and bill of lading should always accompany the export consignment. Other certification and documentation requirements depend on the type, nature of the food product and vulnerability of end users of the product.

Ethiopia's food and agricultural products import regulatory authorities have a redundant mandate and often times lack synchronization resulting in bureaucratic hurdles and delays in inspection and customs clearance of goods. [Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority \(EFDA\)](#), under the Ministry of Health, is the key regulatory agency for food products. While, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Resources (MoALR) as well as EFDA regulates import products of plant and plant materials as well as livestock and livestock genetic products. On the other hand, the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI) has also a regulatory oversight on food and agricultural products subjected to mandatory Ethiopian standards through a pre-shipment verification of conformity program. The overall purpose of Ethiopia's regulatory requirements on import products is to ensure food safety, quality, public health, plant/animal health, traceability and environmental protection.

Disclaimer

This report is prepared by the USDA/ Foreign Agricultural Service, Office of Agricultural Affairs Addis Ababa for U.S. exporters of food and agricultural commodities. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies/regulations/directives have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information was not available. Post highly recommends that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are usually best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any products are shipped.

Section I: List of All Export Certificates Required by the GOE

Products	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry (Regulatory Agency)
Food and agricultural products subjected to Compulsory Ethiopian Standards (CES)	Certificate of Conformity (COC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspected product is found to be in compliance with the requirements of the applicable Ethiopian standards or equivalent. 	Quality, food safety, public health, and environmental protection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI) Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority (EFDA)

Products	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry (Regulatory Agency)
Plant and plant products	Phyosanitary Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant materials are free from diseases and pests; and plant parts are free from soil. • Specific attestation for seeds may include certification that the seeds are heat-treated using appropriate procedures/standards and found free from seed borne/seed transmitted diseases and other pests as well free from natural soil. 	Plant Health	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Resources (MoA LR)
Oilseeds and grains, including rice	Phyosanitary Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See attestation for plant and plant products above. 	Plant Health	MoA LR
Unprocessed vegetables, fruits, and nuts	Phyosanitary Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See attestation for plant and plant products above. 	Plant Health	MoA LR

Products	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry (Regulatory Agency)
Processed foods and non-alcoholic beverages	Health Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certifying the product meets appropriate safety and quality standards. A health certificate shall at least have the following contents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Type of food and quantity ○ Invoice number ○ Certificate issued date and year ○ Name, signature and full address of authorized official from a competent body issuing a health certificate. ○ Certifying that the food is fit for human consumption or to be used as raw-materials for food-processing. 	Food Safety and quality	EFD A
	Certificate of Conformity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product is found to be in compliance with the requirements of the applicable Ethiopian standards or equivalent. 	Quality, food safety, public health, and environmental protection.	
	Certificate of Origin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Products are wholly obtained, produced, manufactured or processed in the country of origin. 	Food Safety and quality	

Products	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry (Regulatory Agency)
			y	
	Certificate of Irradiation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certifying that the amount of radiation remaining in the food is not harmful to human consumption, if the food is irradiated. • The residual level of radiation should be indicated. 	Food Safety and Public Health	
	Free Sale Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Products in the shipment comply with U.S. requirements and are sold freely in the market of the country of origin. 	Food Safety and quality	
Alcoholic Beverages	Certificate of Origin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Products are wholly obtained, produced, manufactured or processed in the country of origin. 	Quality and safety	EFD A
	Certificate of Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aging period of the product should be indicated. 		
Unprocessed food products of animal origins (meat, milk, egg, honey, etc.)	Veterinary Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attests the product is fit for human consumption and free from zoonotic diseases. 	Food safety and quality	EFD A

Products	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry (Regulatory Agency)
Animal Feed	Veterinary Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certifies safety and quality of imported feed and feed additives. 	Animal health and food safety	EFD A
Agri Biotech Crops	GMO Import Permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product complies with Ethiopia’s biosafety regulations. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EFDA
Food/feed products containing Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)	Import Permit for GMO containing products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certifying the product contains GMOs and the product has no adverse effect on human health and environment. 	Food safety, public health and environmental protection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment, Forest & Climate Change Commission
Poultry (day old chicks, turkey, ducks, geese, and ostrich)	Veterinary Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent, grandparent flocks, and DOCs are free from clinical/infection evidences of any communicable diseases in the past year. • Free from H5 and H7 subtype avian influenza, and other infectious diseases during the last six months. • DOCs or adult birds passed through supervision and quarantine inspection one month prior to exportation. Also, must be subject to tests with 	Animal Health and Traceability	MoA LR

Products	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry (Regulatory Agency)
		negative results for diseases. • Date of pre-export quarantine (if applicable, kind of vaccines administered, and dates of vaccination).		
Fertile or Hatching Eggs	Veterinary Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent, grandparent flocks for the eggs are free from clinical/infection evidences of any communicable diseases in the previous year; • Free from H5 and H7 subtype avian influenza and other infectious diseases in the past six months. • The source flocks for DOCs and adult birds were not vaccinated against avian influenza, coccidiosis, live Newcastle vaccine. • The source of flock is subject to disease surveillance program. • Proper biosecurity measures were applied to the source poultry farm and hatchery facility. 	Animal Health and Traceability	MoA LR
Silkworm	Veterinary Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certify the seed and seed cocoons conform to the characters of the notified variety and are free from perbire and muscardine diseases. 	Animal Health and Traceability	MoA LR
	Quarantine Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attesting that the silkworm seed was inspected by a veterinarian within 24 hours preceding the date of exportation. 		
Live Sheep and Goat	Veterinary Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The animal was inspected by a veterinarian within 30 days preceding the date of exportation and were subjected with a negative result to the diagnostic tests recommended by the OIE. • The animal was vaccinated and free from any communicable disease within 60 days prior to date of inspection. • The animal passed through pre-export quarantine for 21 days in the country of origin. • The animal was treated for internal and external parasites within 30 days of export. 	Animal Health and Traceability	MoA LR

Products	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry (Regulatory Agency)
	Pedigree Records Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showing the pedigree records of the animals 		
Sheep and Goat Semen	Veterinary Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attesting the semen production center is approved by vet services of the exporting country and fulfills inspection and health requirements of the competent authority. • Collection of the semen for the consignment was sixty days or less. • Flocks of origin of the donor animals were free from any quarantine restrictions from at least 90 days before the commencement of semen collection for this consignment until completion of the collected period. • Donor animals remain clinically healthy and free of disease for at least 30 days prior to export of the semen consignment. 	Animal Health and Traceability	MoA LR
Sheep and Goat Embryo	Veterinary Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The animals were inspected by a veterinarian within 30 days preceding the date of exportation. • The herd of the origin was found to be free from diseases. • Embryo collection and processing techniques adhere to the OIE Animal Health Code. 	Animal Health and Traceability	MoA LR
Live Cattle	Veterinary Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The live cattle were inspected by a veterinarian within 30 days preceding the date of exportation and free from diseases as per OIE guideline. • Free from any communicable disease within 60 days prior to date of inspection. • The animals passed through pre-export quarantine for 21 days in the country of origin. 	Animal Health and Traceability	MoA LR
Cattle	Veterinary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to attestations for sheep and goat embryo. 	Anim	MoA

Products	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry (Regulatory Agency)
Embryo and Semen	Certificate		al Health and Traceability	LR
Live Buffalo	Veterinary Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See required attestation for live cattle 	Animal Health and Traceability	MoA LR
Buffalo Semen	Veterinary Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The certification should indicate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Import permit number ○ Exporting country ○ Name of certifying institution ○ Date of pre-entry isolation ○ Date of entry into collection center/resident herd ○ Dates of sampling for any tests required ○ Type of test used and test results ○ Dates of reproductive material transfer, if any and reason for transfer. 	Animal Health and Traceability	MoA LR
Buffalo Embryo	Veterinary Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to attestations for cattle embryo 	Animal Health and Traceability	MoA LR
Live Pigs	Veterinary Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country of origin officially declared from notifiable diseases. • The source farm or area of origin is officially recognized as free of vesicular stomatitis by the OIE. 	Animal Health and Trace	MoA LR

Products	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry (Regulatory Agency)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The farm origin is officially free from Brucellosis and Aujeszky's diseases without vaccination. • At the farm of origin, no cases of diseases were officially reported six months prior to export • At the farm of origin, no clinical cases occurred of diseases such as SIRS or PRRS, TGE, PRCV or TB in the past two years. 	ability	
Pig Semen and Embryo	Veterinary Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to attestations for sheep and goat embryo. 	Animal Health and Traceability	MoA LR
Live Fish	Veterinary Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certifying that the export fish is free from diseases and parasites and was subjected to disinfection prior to shipment. 	Animal Health and Traceability	MoA LR
	Certificate of Clearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicating its history regarding its exposure to diseases and/or pathogens and its genetic makeup. 		
Fish Semen or Embryo	Veterinary Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See attestations for live fish 	Animal Health and Traceability	MoA LR
Live Equine (Horse, Donkey, and Mule)	Veterinary Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attesting that country of origin is officially declared free of notifiable diseases according to OIE guideline. • None of the diseases were detected at the farm of origin or adjacent land within 90 days prior to shipment. • No cases of contagious Vesicular Stomatitis reported in country of origin within 60 days prior 	Animal Health and Traceability	MoA LR

Products	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry (Regulatory Agency)
		<p>to export.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equines were born and bred in the exporting country and at the farm of origin for not less than six months prior to export. • Equines passed through pre-export quarantine for not less than 30 days prior to shipment in the country of origin. • The equines were subjected with negative test results for diseases. Inoculation applied between six months and 30 days prior to shipment. 		
Equine Semen or Embryo	Veterinary Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country of origin for donor stallion and jackass is declared officially free from notifiable diseases. • Production center and the health of donor stallion or jack ass fulfills the OIE guideline. 	Animal Health and Traceability	MoA LR
Live Camel	Veterinary Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The animal was inspected by a veterinarian within 30 days preceding the date of exportation and free from camel disease as per OIE. • Free from any communicable disease within 60 days prior to date of inspection. • The farm where the animal was reared is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Officially approved and supervised by a competent authority. ○ Not subject to any prohibition for notifiable disease reasons on the day of collection of the said animal. 	Animal Health and Traceability	MoA LR
Camel Semen or Embryo	Veterinary Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer attestations for sheep and goat embryo/semen. 	Animal Health and Traceability	MoA LR

Section II: Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

Certificate of Conformity (COC):

EFDA and the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI) require a Certificate of Conformity (COC) for food and agricultural products subjected to [Compulsory Ethiopian Standards \(CES\)](#). The main purpose of the COC is to ensure quality, food safety, and to expedite customs clearances at entry ports. The subjected import products under CES must be accompanied by a pre-export certificate of conformity. Agro-food products under the list of mandatory standards include: fresh and canned fruits and vegetables, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, edible oil, oilseeds, food additives, and prepackaged foods. The certificate of conformity can be issued from authorized third party inspection companies accredited to ISO/IEC 17025. International third party inspection companies that may handle pre-shipment Verification of Conformity (VoC) program for Ethiopia may include SGS, Bureau Veritas, Intertek, and Cotecna. U.S. exporters are advised to approach the respective local branch office of the third party inspection companies and submit their inquiries.

Health Certificate:

For imports of processed food and non-alcoholic beverage products, the Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority (EFDA) requires a valid health certificate issued by a competent body. The certification should attest that the imported food product complies with the appropriate quality and safety standards of the country of origin. Original and copy of health certificate should be submitted for food and beverages, excluding alcoholic drinks. In addition, the health certificate must be authenticated by Chambers of Commerce in the country of origin. According to EFDA directive for food importers, a health certificate serves only for a single consignment.

Phytosanitary Certificate:

Ethiopia's Plant Health and Regulatory Directorate at the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Resources (MoALR) requires imported plant and plant materials must be certified free from diseases and the plants and plant parts free from soil. Generally, a phytosanitary certificate is mandatory for unprocessed vegetables and fruits, grains, and oilseeds products. Incoming shipment of these products must be accompanied by the phytosanitary certificate, which shall be issued by a duly authorized Plant Quarantine Officer in the country of origin. Please refer [Ethiopia's Plant Quarantine Regulation](#) for list of plants and plant materials described under Schedule I for which a phytosanitary certificate and an import permit is required. Also, under Schedule II the regulation has separately listed plants and other articles prohibited from entry into the country.

Veterinary Certificate:

For imports of livestock, livestock by-products and livestock genetic materials, Ethiopia's Animal Health Regulatory Directorate at MoALR requires a veterinary certificate issued by a competent

authority of the exporting country. The certificate should clearly attest the products and by-products of animal origin meant for human food or animal feed or other purposes conform to recognized international standards or the importing country's animal health and food safety requirements.

Certificate of Origin:

This certificate is also a required document that must accompany each shipment confirming the country of origin of the export product. The GOE regulatory authorities accept a certificate of origin which must be fully authenticated by authorized Chambers of Commerce in the exporting country.

Certificate of Irradiation:

This certificate is required for all food products which have been irradiated during the production process. The certificate should show evidence of the residual level of radiation and attest that it is not harmful to human consumption. According to EFDA proclamation irradiation is defined as "a deliberate exposure of food to ionizing radiation." Also, EFDA requires labeling of irradiated foods must contain the phrase "irradiated" or the internationally accepted radura symbol may be placed besides the labeling.

Certificate of Free Sale:

This certificate is required for food products at the time of product registration and approval to enter the market. EFDA accepts a free sale certificate issued by the national competent authority and authenticated by the Ethiopian Embassy or consulate in the issuing state. The names of the product must be indicated and certify whether the product is freely sold in the country of origin.

Registration Certificate:

EFDA has a mandatory list of food products that must be registered and approved prior to importation for the first time. Infant formula (milk) and food supplements are strictly prohibited from entering the market without prior registration and approval. Besides these products, EFDA has a broader list of food products requiring prior registrations. These include: milk and milk products, meat and meat products, poultry products, sea foods, processed vegetables, sliced fruits, nuts and their products, therapeutic foods, cereal based complementary foods, confectioneries, fats and oils, processed fruits, packed water, soft drinks, beer, iodized salt and noodles. Also, EFDA entails a pre-notification of import for products which are not found in the list of compulsory registration.

Section III: Specific Attestations Required on Export Certificates

Please refer narrations on Section I and II above.

Section IV: Government Export Certificate's Legal Entry Requirements

GOE's import regulatory bodies require original and authenticated copies of major export certificates be accompanied with each export consignment at the port of entry into Ethiopia. The export certificates validity period differs according to the type and nature of the export product. For instances, health certificates are usually valid for three months and serve only for a single consignment. Whereas, registration certificate for imported food and ag products is valid for four years and can be renewed after that. Furthermore, export declaration provided by US suppliers or manufacturers are not acceptable. Please see table below for details.

	Title of Certificate	Is the certificate required at entry?	How long is the certificate valid?	Can the certificate be applied on multiple shipments?
gricultural products with Compulsory Ethiopian Standards	Certificate of Conformity	Yes	Three months	No
roducts	Phytosanitary Certificate	Yes	Three months	No
	Import Permit	Yes	Shipment period	
imal products and animal genetic materials.	Veterinary Certificate	Yes	Three months	No
	Import Permit	Yes	21 days	No
	Quarantine Certificate	Yes	Shipment period	No
	Pedigree Records Certificate	Yes	Shipment period	No
and non-alcoholic beverages	Health Certificate	Yes	Three months	No
	Certificate of Conformity	Yes	Shipment period	No
	Free Sale Certificate	Yes	Shipment period	No
	Origin Certificate	Yes	Shipment period	No
	Certificate of Irradiation	Yes	Shipment period	No
	Registration Certificate	Yes	Four years	Yes
	Import Permit	Yes	Shipment period	No
ages	Certificate of Age	Yes	Shipment period	No
	Origin Certificate	Yes	Shipment Period	No

Modified Organisms (GMOs) or Foods containing GMOs	Import Permit	Yes	Shipment period	No
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Section V: Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements to ensure market entry

In addition to the list of major export certificates discussed above, the following documents must accompany each export shipment:

- Customs declaration
- Bill of loading, airway bill or track bill
- Commercial Invoice
- Packing List
- Registration certificate

The required documentations for new registration of imported food products include:

- Application form for registration
- Free Sale Certificate
- Food manufacturing or products registration certificate or approval
- Authenticated copy of Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP), Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP), or ISO 22000.2005 certificates. In appropriate circumstances, internationally accepted certification or certificate of quality management system may be accepted in lieu of GMP and HACCP. 3
- Certificate of analysis of sample product for registration from accredited lab
- Documents showing quality and safety of raw materials and food additives used in manufacturing.
- Study evidences for determining shelf life of the product.
- Veterinary certificate attesting free of diseases that can be transmitted from animals to human.
- Product sample
- Technical documents such as:
 - Formulation, and manufacturing and packaging procedure
 - Data on method of analysis and specification of the finished product
 - Stability study report and shelf life assignment
 - Packaging and labeling requirements for finished product
 - Quality analysis result

Plant and Plant Products Registration

Any plant or plant product, including seeds, agricultural inputs such as chemicals, pesticides and fertilizers cannot be imported to Ethiopia unless registered and duly authorized for import by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.

New Pesticides Registration

The Pesticide Registration and Control Proclamation 647/2010 of Ethiopia stipulates pesticides be registered before use. The efficacy, safety and quality of each pesticide shall be tested under the field or laboratory conditions and approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Resources (MoALR). To make this effective, the Ministry controls and regulates the registration of agrochemicals in Ethiopia. The registration is usually required for original and new molecules with valid patent or identical products that are manufactured after the expiry of the patent of an original/proprietary registered product.

Applicants for new registration of pesticides are expected to submit application of support letter to research institute for undertaking efficacy trial and get research result to be attached in the dossier. Also applicants are expected to submit their service request, pay the amount of service fee and submit required documents such as:

- Stamped application for registration of a pesticide
- Material Safety Data Sheet
- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Research Centre
- Product Detail
- Invoice of Manufacturer
- Dossier with Efficacy Trial Result (Hard Copy) to the Ministry.

The Ministry evaluates the submitted dossier and Efficacy Trial Result Report and provides the Certificate of New Registration of Pesticides if documentations and technical requirements are fulfilled.

APPENDIX

Annex 1: Sample Veterinary Certificate for Importation of Ruminant Animals

Certificate Number: -----
Country of origin: -----
Responsible Ministry: -----
Issuing veterinary authority: -----

I. Identification of the animals

Species, # of animals, # of semen packages, # of embryo packages -----

S/N	Ear tag No.	Identification No. of the Establishment	Date of Birth	Breed	Blood Level %	Sex	LWT(Kg)
1							
2							
3							

II. Origin of the animals

Name and address of the holding of origin:

.....
.....
.....

Name and address of exporter:

.....
.....
.....

III Destination of the animals

Name and address of the assembly center in the importing country:

.....
.....
.....

Approval number of the assembly center in the importing country:

.....

Type of means of transport:

.....
.....

Name and address of the consignee:

.....
IV Health information

1. The undersigned official veterinarian, certify that the animals or germplasm described in the accompanying passports meet the following requirements:

1.1 In accordance with the standards of the International Animal Health Code of the International Office of Epizootics (OIE), the country is recognized as a country free of -----, -----, -----, -----, -----disease

1.2 In accordance with the legislation of the International Animal Health Code of the International Office of Epizootics (OIE), the country is officially free from ---

-----, -----, -----, -----, -----, -----diseases. Hence, the exported animals/ the donor of germplasm have not been vaccinated against these diseases.

1.3 The feeding of ruminants with proteins obtained from mammals is prohibited (except those proteins determined to be safe, such as milk and milk products) in accordance with ----- legislation and this prohibition is effectively implemented since

1.4 The animals come from herds of origin, which have been for the past 12 months officially free from -----, -----, -----, -----, -----, -----diseases.

2. Health status of the animals to be exported

2.1 The animals are vaccinated against -----, -----, -----diseases and the animals are still within the immunity period of time guaranteed in the specifications of the vaccine

2.2 The animals were protected from attack from -----, -----, ----- and ----- diseases during transportation to the place of shipment.

2.3 On the day of shipment the exported animals have been examined and found clinically free of infectious diseases such as -----, ----- and ----- diseases.

2.3 The animals are born and raised in the ----- and are free from GMO or LMO cases.

2.4 The animals have not been fed with meat- and bone meal and greaves derived from ruminants.

Done at: -----

On-----

Official Seal

(Signature of the competent official veterinarian)

(Name and position of the official veterinarian in block letters)