

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## Portugal

**Post:** Madrid

### Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certificate

**Report Categories:**

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification

**Approved By:**

Rachel Bickford  
Agricultural Attaché

**Prepared By:**

Marta Guerrero  
Agricultural Specialist

**Report Highlights:**

This report focuses on Portuguese specific certification requirements when they differ or are additional to EU-harmonized certification. This report should be read in conjunction with the [EU-28 FAIRS Export Certificate Report](#) prepared by the FAS Office in the U.S. Mission to the European Commission (USEU).

**Disclaimer:** This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural for Spain and Portugal 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 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 often best equipped to confirm requirements with local authorities, before any goods are shipped.

**FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.**

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## General information

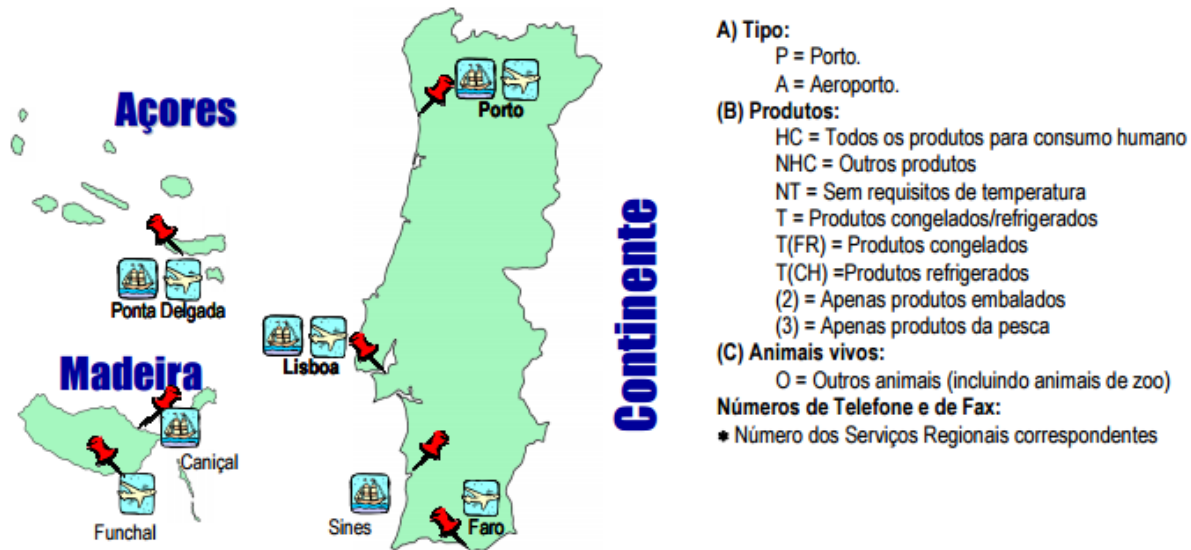
As an EU member since 1986, Portugal applies EU harmonized regulations on export certificates for plant or animal products whether or not they are intended for human consumption. However, in the absence of an EU-harmonized certificate, Portugal may **require certain specific health certificates.**

Directorate General for Food and Veterinary ([DGAV](#)), within the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development, is responsible for imports of feed, plants, live animals, animal products, and food products.

The enforcement of Food Safety laws is the responsibility of the Portuguese Food Safety and Economic Agency (ASAE) within the Ministry of Economy. Food intended for human consumption must meet the general food safety requirements of EU law.

Live animals and animal products from countries outside the EU must be imported via a port or airport with a Border Inspection Post (BIP). There are a number of Border Inspections Points (BIP) in Portugal can be consulted in **Graph 1**. Contact details are available in the [link](#).

**Graph 1. BIPs in Portugal**



Source: DGAV.

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

Please consult the latest [EU-28 FAIRS Export Certificate Report](#) for the Export Certificates required for EU harmonized products.

Non harmonized products may be subject to specific Portuguese certification requirements. It is therefore recommended to contact Portuguese authorities to learn about specific import requirements. Within the Directorate General for Food and Veterinary ([DGAV](#)), responsible for imports of feed, plants, live animals, animal products, and food products, the following departments weight in in import permits:

- Imports of live animals or products of animal origin: [secretariadoDIM@dgav.pt](mailto:secretariadoDIM@dgav.pt)
- Imports of products of vegetal origin: [dsna@dgav.pt](mailto:dsna@dgav.pt)
- Phytosanitary inspection: [secDSSV@dgav.pt](mailto:secDSSV@dgav.pt)

### Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

With the exception of specific requirements identified in this report, imports of food and agricultural products into Portugal are not subject to special certification other than that of the European Union. European Union legislation calls for many health and supervisory requirements that are meant to guarantee that imports meet the standards of production in Member States.

Portugal, as an EU Member State, follows all rules and regulations that govern food legislation, including certification, within the European Union. While certification requirements are developed at the EU level, Portugal authorities are responsible for the enforcement of the regulations. Nevertheless, it is important to note that when EU-wide legislation is incomplete, not harmonized or absent, Portugal might require certain specific health certificates as identified in the **Section I** Table.

Portugal is among the most vigilant of EU Member States with respect to enforcement of the import requirements. While purely administrative mistakes such as minor typographic mistakes can sometimes be rectified, a zero tolerance policy can be assumed for those mistakes that affect the identity and traceability of the shipment (e.g. wrong establishment number). According to General Principles for Certification, the certificate must be issued before the consignment to which it relates leaves the control of the competent authority of the country of dispatch. As a consequence, Portugal's Authorities have zero tolerance for health certificates issued after the ship date.

For additional information on EU-Harmonized Certification Requirements, please consult the [EU-28 FAIRS Export Certificate Report](#). This report supplies information on the U.S. competent authority that is authorized to issue the food and agricultural import certificates required by the EU. This report can also be accessed through the [FAS website](#). An overview of legally required certificates in the EU and references to the U.S. authority issuing these certificates is available at in the [USEU website](#).

For more information on food standards and regulations, please consult the [Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standard Report for the EU-28](#).

### **Special Import Permits**

- **Samples without Commercial value to Portugal**

For the importation of samples without commercial value, prior authorization by DGAV is required. Import requests should be addressed to: [secretariadoDIM@dgav.pt](mailto:secretariadoDIM@dgav.pt). Information required includes, the Common Entry Document ([CED](#)) and the pertaining Health Certificate. For sanitary reasons, food products imported into the EU, even if they are not intended for commercial sale, must meet certain requirements on food hygiene and animal health.

Further details about requirements to import samples and to send parcels with food items to Portugal can be found at the following [link](#) (Information only available in Portuguese).

- **Imports of biological material**

The import of biological material has to be approved by the DGAV. Requests must be submitted, prior to the product arrival to the BIP, to [secretariadoDIM@dgav.pt](mailto:secretariadoDIM@dgav.pt).

Detailed information of the process and requirements can be found in the [link](#) (Information only available in Portuguese).

The recipient of the import of biological material for research must be registered. Registration status can be consulted in the [link](#). Registration request must be submitted to:

Directorate General for Food and Veterinary Issues (DGAV)

Directorate for Food Safety

Phone: +351 214 464 000.

Email: [seguranca.alimentar@dgav.pt](mailto:seguranca.alimentar@dgav.pt)

- **Imports of planting seeds to Portugal**

To import planting seeds to Portugal a request has to be submitted by the local importer to Portugal's responsible authorities ([dirgeral@dgav.pt](mailto:dirgeral@dgav.pt)). DGAV will provide the importer with the form that need to be filled in. Once DGAV issues a positive opinion the import of the planting seeds can be carried out.

**Responsible Authorities for Health and Veterinary Certificates:**

Directorate General for Food and Veterinary ([DGAV](#)) is responsible for imports of feed, plants, live animals, animal products, and food products.

**Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development**  
Ministerio de Agricultura, Florestas e Desenvolvimento Rural  
Direção-Geral de Alimentação e Veterinária  
Campo Grande, 50  
1700-093 Lisboa  
Tel. +351-21 3239500  
Fax: +351-21 3463518  
Email: [dirgeral@dgav.pt](mailto:dirgeral@dgav.pt)

Imports of live animals or products of animal origin: [secretariadoDIM@dgav.pt](mailto:secretariadoDIM@dgav.pt)

Imports of products of vegetal origin: [dsna@dgav.pt](mailto:dsna@dgav.pt)

Phytosanitary inspection: [secDSSV@dgav.pt](mailto:secDSSV@dgav.pt)

[Website](#)

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

See Section II. For additional information, please consult the [EU-28 FAIRS Export Certificate Report](#).

### **Section IV. Government Certificate's Legal Entry Requirements**

See Section II. For additional information, please consult the [EU-28 FAIRS Export Certificate Report](#).

### **Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements**

See Section II. For additional information, please consult the latest [EU-28 FAIRS Export Certificate Report](#).

### **Appendix I. Electronic Copy or Outline of Each Export Certificate**

See Section I. For additional information, please consult the latest [EU-28 FAIRS Export Certificate Report](#).

## **Appendix II. Other Key Contacts**

USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service Office for Spain and Portugal, located in Madrid, can also assist U.S. exporters in obtaining specific national legislation on all food product directives. You may contact us at the following address:

### **Foreign Agricultural Service**

Office of Agricultural Affairs  
United States Embassy Madrid  
C/ Serrano, 75 – Box 20  
28006 Madrid  
Spain

Tel.: +34-91-587-2555

Fax: +34-91-587-2556

Email: [AgLisbon@fas.usda.gov](mailto:AgLisbon@fas.usda.gov)

[Website link](#)

### **Directorate General for Customs and Special Taxation on Consumption (DGAIEC)**

Direcção Geral da Alfandega e Dos Impostos Especiais sobre o Consumo

Rua da Alfandega, No. 5 r/c

1149-006 Lisboa

Tel. 351-218813700

Fax: 351-218813990

Email: [dgaiec@dgaiec.min-financas.pt](mailto:dgaiec@dgaiec.min-financas.pt)

[www.dgaiec.min-financas.pt](http://www.dgaiec.min-financas.pt)

### **Directorate General for Customs and Special Taxation on Consumption (DGAIEC)**

Direcção Geral da Alfandega e Dos Impostos Especiais sobre o Consumo

Direcção de Serviços do Licenciamentos (**Import Certificates**)

R. Terreiro do Trigo

Edif. Alfândega

1149-060 Lisboa

Tel. 351-218814262

Fax 351-218814261

Email: [dsl@dgaiec.min-financas.pt](mailto:dsl@dgaiec.min-financas.pt)

[www.dgaiec.min-financas.pt](http://www.dgaiec.min-financas.pt)

**European Union – Delegation of the European Union to the United States**

2300 M Street

NW, Washington, DC 20037

Tel.: (202) 862-9500

Fax: (202) 429-1766

**United States Mission to the European Union**

Office of Agricultural Affairs

27 Boulevard du Regent

1000 Brussels

Belgium

Tel.: +32-2-508 2760

Fax: +32-2-511 0918

Website: <http://www.usda-eu.org/>

E-mail: [AgUSEUBrussels@fas.usda.gov](mailto:AgUSEUBrussels@fas.usda.gov)