

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Required Report - public distribution

Date: 12/21/2011

GAIN Report Number: MX1529

Mexico

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification

FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:

This report identifies current export certificates issued by the competent United States government agencies, to comply with Mexican import standards and regulations or to attest that the corresponding products are subject to U.S. regulations. This report is intended as a supplement to the Food and Agricultural Importation Regulations Report (FAIRS), report number MX0344, and as an update to the FAIRS Export Certificate Report submitted on January 10, 2010.

Section I.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report was prepared by the Agricultural Trade Office of the Foreign Agricultural Service in Monterrey, Mexico. This report provides U.S. exporters with updated information on current certificates, issued by government agencies of the United States, required by Mexican authorities in order to export food and agricultural products into Mexico. 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 MEXICAN BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

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: Lobster, King Crab, Crayfish, 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 Processed products:	Certificate of Free Sale *Harmonized Tariff Schedule defines type of document required For example canned beans with meat containing meat require USDA certificate 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 *Harmonized Tariff Schedule defines the required documentation	Health certificate	COFEPRIS- Federal Commission for Protection Against Sanitary Risks of the Secretariat of Health (SSA).

Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

NAFTA Certificate of Origin

This is a trilaterally agreed upon form used by Canada, the United States and Mexico 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, this document 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 Mexican Import Requirement Sheet or Hoja de Requisitos for any given product.

Note: The reader should be aware that FSIS has recently modified Letterhead Certificates for certain products in order to comply with SENASICA's Import and Export General Directorate for new dispositions. These Letterhead Certificates have been posted on USDA's FSIS [Export Library](#) and the Spanish requirements are posted on SENASICA's website under the [Modulo de Consulta de Requisitos Zoonosanitarios para la Importacion](#) (MCRZI). For additional information refer to GAIN Report [MX1092](#) published on 12/6/2011 by the Office of Agricultural Affairs in Mexico City. For more information on FSIS export certificates visit the following link:

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 visit:

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_faqs.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. At present SAGARPA regulates the import of crustaceans such as lobsters, crabs, crayfish and shrimps. Other seafood products, including processed products, have to comply with import regulations established by COFEPRIS. Importers should consult the Harmonized Tariff Schedule to verify specific regulations. For additional information on the NOAA Seafood Inspection Program and NOAA certificates visit the following links: http://www.seafood.nmfs.noaa.gov/Export_Certification.html

http://www.seafood.nmfs.noaa.gov/EU_Certificates.html

For detailed requirements and COFEPRIS import regulations see: <http://www.cofepris.gob.mx>

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. This document certifies that 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, visit 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. To learn more about product specifications and corresponding Mexican import regulations, exporters should consult the specific Harmonized Tariff System. For more information regarding COFEPRIS import regulations and import permits visit:

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

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

Note: The reader should take into consideration 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 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 MX9325 (see below).

Author Defined:**For More Information**

FAS/Mexico Web Site: We are available at www.mexico-usda.com or visit the FAS headquarters' home page at www.fas.usda.gov for a complete selection of FAS worldwide agricultural reporting.

Other Relevant Reports Submitted by FAS/Mexico:

Report Number	Subject	Date Submitted
MX1509	Update- Principal Border Entry Points for U.S. Agricultural Exports	3/19/11
MX 1511	UPDATE - Simplified Labeling Procedures in Mexico's Border Areas	3/31/11
MX1512	Exporting to Mexico-Managing Border Entry Issues	4/15/11
MX0344	FAIRS Country Report	12/21/11

Useful Mexican Web Sites: Mexico's equivalent to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (SAGARPA) can be found at www.sagarpa.gob.mx, equivalent to the U.S. Department of Commerce (SE) can be found at www.economia.gob.mx and equivalent to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (SALUD) can be found at www.salud.gob.mx. The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) which regulates imports of forestry products including seeds and wood products can be found at: www.semarnat.gob.mx. Mexico's Agency for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA), which also inspects imported wood products, can be found at www.profepa.gob.mx. Mexico's Customs Agency (ADUANAS), can be found at: www.aduanas.gob.mx. These web sites are mentioned for the readers' convenience but USDA does NOT in any way endorse, guarantee the accuracy of, or necessarily concur with, the information contained on the mentioned sites.