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Russian Federation

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification

FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:

This report highlights export certification requirements for Russia. Please note that certification requirements have and will continue to undergo changes as Russia reforms its regulations to meet Customs Union, Eurasian Economic Union and WTO commitments. Exporters are advised to verify export certification requirements with their importer before shipment.

Introduction

In general, Russia does not accept generic veterinary certificates issued by the competent U.S. authorities, which certify products are in compliance with U.S. standards. Rather, Russia requires veterinary certificates to provide several specific attestations in addition to a “catch-all meets Custom Union requirements” (previously “meets Russian requirements”). The [Russia-Kazakhstan-Belarus Custom Union](#) requirements present challenges to exporters, as they cover a wide range of goods of animal and plant origin, are extremely prescriptive, and, in certain instances, are neither based on risk assessments nor international standards.

In order to export to Russia, as is this the case with several other countries, considerable documentation is required from both governments and must be provided in Russian. Cargo can be detained for certification errors so particular attention should be paid to ensuring the accuracy of the information contained therein. Exporters who have the most success in Russia, particularly those new to the market, often choose to work with experienced brokers or importers. While this report does not provide detailed information on export health certificates issued by U.S. government agencies, up-to-date information is available from the relevant agencies on their websites (links are provided later in this report).

Transition Period

Russia remains in a transition period as it both reforms its regulations to meet Customs Union (CU) and WTO commitments. Additionally, as of January 1, 2015, the three current CU members – Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan – will launch the next stage of their regional integration, the Eurasian Economic Union. For details please see GAIN report [RS1478 Eurasian Integration Continues with the Eurasian Economic Union](#).

The final and transitional provisions of the Customs Union’s “Uniform Requirements for Products under Veterinary Control” allowed for the importation of products accompanied by a pre-existing U.S.-Russia bilateral veterinary certificate, initialed before July 1, 2010, and which differed from the “Uniform Requirements,” to remain in use until January 1, 2013. However, because the United States requested to renegotiate these certificates with the Member States of the Customs Union, their validity was extended beyond January 1, 2013, pursuant to the provisions of Customs Union Decrees, until negotiations on new certificates are concluded.

Section I. List of All Export Certificates Required By the Russian Federation Government:

The following export certificates are currently issued and/or remain valid in order to facilitate U.S. exports to Russia. Exporters should consult with their importers to determine which certificates are needed for goods they intend to ship.

Health Certificates – Sanitary (Veterinary)

USDA/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Veterinary Services/Animal

- Veterinary certificate for [breeding cattle](#) exported from the United States to the Russian Federation (*approved March 31, 2008*)
- Veterinary certificate for [breeding sheep and goats](#) exported from the United States to the Russian Federation (*approved December 8, 2009*)
- Veterinary certificate for [breeding pigs](#) exported from the United States to the Russian Federation (*approved March 31, 2008*)
- Veterinary certificate for [slaughter pigs](#) exported from the United States to the Russian Federation (*approved March 31, 2008*)
- Veterinary certificate for [fattening pigs](#) exported from the United States to the Russian Federation (*approved March 31, 2008*)
- Veterinary certificate for [breeding, usage and sport horses](#) exported from the United States to the Russian Federation (*approved March 31, 2008*)
- Veterinary certificate for [temporary admission of horses](#) from the United States to the Russian Federation for participation in international competitions for a period of no more than 90 days (*approved March 31, 2008*)
- Veterinary certificate for [mink](#) exported from the United States to the Russian Federation (*approved March 16, 2007*)
- Veterinary certificate for [bovine semen](#) exported to the Russian Federation (*approved March 3, 2006*)
- Veterinary certificate for [bovine embryos](#) from the United States to the Russian Federation (*approved March 31, 2008*)
- Veterinary certificate for [day-old chicks, turkey poults, ducklings, goslings, ostrich chicks and hatching eggs of these species](#) exported from the United States of America to the Customs Union (*approved March 5, 2013*)

For more information, visit

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/animal_russian_federation.shtml and <http://www.fsvps.ru/fsvps/importExport/vetlist.html>.

USDA/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Veterinary Services/Animal Products

- Veterinary certificate for [hides, horn and hoof, furs, sheep pelt, lambskin, wool and goat fluff, bristle, horse hair, down and feather of chicken, duck, goose and other poultry, and technical gelatin](#) exported from the United States to the Russian Federation (*approved June 30, 2009*)
- Veterinary certificate for [fresh-dry raw material for fur production exported from the United States to the Russian Federation](#) (*approved October 24, 2005*)
- Veterinary certificate for [non-edible \(technical\) animal protein-free rendered fats](#) exported to the Russian Federation (*approved November 23, 2004*)
- Veterinary certificate for import of [fodder and fodder supplements of animal origin](#) (*approved July 15, 2004; modified in December 2013 to allow the use of dairy proteins*)
- Veterinary certificate for [dog and cat feeds](#) exported from the United States to the Russian Federation (*approved June 2, 2010*)
- Veterinary certificate for [feed and feed additives for non-productive animals, not containing components of animal origin](#) exported from the United States to the Russian Federation (*approved July 8, 2010*)
[**Note: Although this certificate remains on Rosselkhoznadzor's website, for more details please see GAIN report [RS1261 Russia No Longer Requires Veterinary Certificates for Key Imported Feeds of Plant Origin Including Soybean Meal, Grains for Feeds and DDGs.](#)**]
- Veterinary certificate for [feed for aquarium and decorative fishes](#) exported from the United States to the Russian Federation (*approved July 6, 2010*)
- Veterinary certificate for [livestock raw materials, that are not derived from ruminants, and meant for pet food manufacturing](#), exported to the Russian Federation (*approved February 16, 2006*)
- Veterinary certificate for [heat-treated milk products received from cattle, sheep, and goats](#), exported from the U.S. to the territories of the Customs Union (*approved March 28, 2014*)

For more information, visit

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/products/product_russia.shtml and

<http://www.fsvps.ru/fsvps/importExport/vetlist.html>.

USDA/Food Safety Inspection Service

- FSIS Form 9450-3 (04/21/2010) Veterinary certificate for [frozen pork meat and pork by-products](#) exported from the U.S. to the Russian Federation (*approved March 2, 2010*)
- FSIS Form 9450-4 (03/03/2011) Veterinary certificate for export of [poultry meat](#) to the Russian Federation (*approved March 10, 2006*)
 - Letterhead Certificate for [Pathogen Reduction Treatment Used for Poultry and Poultry Products](#) Exported to the Russian Federation (*approved September 2, 2010*)
- FSIS Form 9450-5 (05/25/2010) Veterinary certificate for [beef and beef by-products](#) exported from the U.S. to the Russian Federation (*approved November 2, 2006*)
- FSIS Form 9450-6 (7/95) Veterinary certificate for [pork intestine raw material](#), exported into the Russia Federation (*approved June 23, 1995*)
 - FSIS Form 9060-7 (8/13/2008) Animal Casings Export Certificate for Countries Requiring Ante-mortem, Post-mortem, and Fit-for-Human-Food Statements
- FSIS Form 9450-7 (7/95) Veterinary certificate for [prepared meat products](#) exported into the Russian Federation (*approved June 23, 1995*)
- FSIS Form 9450-11 (03/04/1999) Veterinary certificate for [horse meat](#) exported into the Russian Federation (*approved April 20, 1999*)

For more information, visit <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs/exporting-products/export-library-requirements-by-country/Russia> and <http://www.fsvps.ru/fsvps/importExport/vetlist.html>.

U.S. Department of Commerce/National Marine Fisheries Service

- Veterinary certificate for [fish and sea products of their processing subjected to thermal treatment](#), exported to the Russian Federation (*approved in 2005*)

For more information, visit

http://www.seafood.nmfs.noaa.gov/export/export_requirements/fishfisheryproductsfishMeal.html and <http://www.fsvps.ru/fsvps/importExport/vetlist.html>.

Health Certificates – Phytosanitary

USDA/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Plant Protection and Quarantine

In June 2013 USDA-APHIS changed seals/logos on the forms of its phytosanitary certificates and notified the national phytosanitary authorities through the WTO of these changes. The new forms are available online at: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/importexport>.

On December 4, 2013, Russia was additionally notified of these changes and on the validity of both versions of the forms (pre-existing and new) until the supply of the pre-existing forms is exhausted. Rosselkhoznadzor has updated its web-site and has samples of the following forms:

- PPQ Form 577 (old) [Phytosanitary Certificate](#)
- PPQ Form 577 (June 2013) Phytosanitary Certificate
- PPQ Form 579 (June 2013) [Phytosanitary Certificate for Reexport](#)
- PPQ Form 578 (June 2013) Phytosanitary Certificate for [Processed Plant Products](#)

For more information, see <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/importexport> or <http://www.fsvps.ru/fsvps/importExport/usa/import.html>.

USDA/Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Although USDA discontinued its LibertyLink Rice Proficiency Program, Russia still requires that the phytosanitary certificate for rice shall be accompanied with a letter including test results from one of the private laboratories that were approved by the now discontinued LibertyLink Proficiency Program. For details please see www.gipsa.usda.gov.

Other Certificates

Private

- Certificate of Origin
- Certificate of Quality (and Safety)

U.S. Department of the Interior/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Export Certificate
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Reexport Certificate

For more information, visit <http://www.fws.gov/le/businesses.html>

A Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora ([CITES](#)) certificate is required for exporting paddlefish and sturgeon caviar and meat to the CU. To ensure the species' continued survival, all species of sturgeon and paddlefish are listed in the CITES [Appendices](#).

For more information on exporting paddlefish and sturgeon caviar and meat, please visit the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's sturgeon and paddlefish Permits page](#).

Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

Health Certificates

Export certificates are required and verified for consistency with Russian-Kazakh-Belarusian Customs Union regulations at the external border of the Customs Union to protect public and animal health (veterinary certificates) as well as the environment (phytosanitary certificates). Health certificates are also used to determine product origin.

The Russian Ministry of Agriculture's Federal Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance Service, (Rosselkhoz nadzor) is responsible for veterinary and phytosanitary control in Russia as well as on Russia's external border of the Customs Union. The Russian Federal Service for the Protection of Consumer Rights and Human Well-Being (Rosпотребнадзор) is responsible for setting standards and sanitary-epidemiological control in Russia. In practice, Rosselkhoz nadzor enforces sanitary-epidemiological control over products at the border when those products are also under sanitary-veterinary control. Based on CU regulations, for product transiting Kazakhstan or Belarus and destined for Russia, sanitary and phytosanitary control, including the verification of valid certificates to enter Russia, is performed at their respective external borders of the Customs Union.

Veterinary Certificates

According to the [Uniform procedure for veterinary control at the customs border of the Customs Union](#), products contained in the [Uniform list of products under veterinary control](#) require a veterinary certificate (except veterinary drugs and feed additives of chemical and microbiological synthesis, which need only be accompanied by documents issued by the manufacturer confirming their quality and safety). Veterinary certificates should be consistent with the [Uniform requirements for products under veterinary control](#).

Veterinary certificates are also used to enforce the [Uniform sanitary-epidemiological and hygienic requirements](#) for products contained in the [Uniform list of products under sanitary-epidemiological control at the customs border and in the customs territory of the Customs Union](#).

Phytosanitary Certificates

According to the [Procedure for phytosanitary control at the customs border of the Customs Union](#), products defined as "high phytosanitary risk" in the [List of products under phytosanitary control](#) require a phytosanitary certificate. According to Russian requirements, phytosanitary certificates for products defined as "high phytosanitary risk" shall include statement on absence of *Striga spp.* which is considered by the Russian Ministry of Agriculture as an extreme risk for Russia and plant products infested with this weed are subject to disinfection or shall be destroyed. The Amendments to the Procedure for phytosanitary control at the customs border of the Customs Union (Decision of the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission No. 50 of August 16, 2013) made it possible to replace phytosanitary certificates in some cases under condition that the authorized agencies of exporting countries guarantee safety and wholesomeness of regulated products from the moment of its out-loading to the moment of the entry to the Customs Territory of the Customs Union (FAS/Moscow GAIN Report [RS1389 Amended CU Regulations Allow Replacement Phytosanitary Certificates](#)).

Other Certificates

Certificates of Quality (and Safety)

The manufacturer's certificate of quality (and safety) is used to determine whether the product conforms to product specifications of the contract and quality requirements of the Customs Union and Russia. It is not a substitute for the applicable U.S. government-issued health certificates. It is, rather, a document used by the importer to obtain a certificate or declaration of conformity, which attests to compliance with the sanitary-epidemiological requirements.

Certificates of Origin

Russian Customs officials use certificates of origin as proof to determine import tariffs and eligibility for import tariff preferences (e.g. for least developed countries) or exemptions from restrictive measures (e.g. trade remedies).

CITES Certificates

CITES control is guided by [Appendices I, II, and III](#).

- The export of Appendix-I and –II specimens requires an export permit. Such a permit may be granted when the export will not be detrimental to the species' survival and specimens were legally acquired.
- For Appendix-III species originating from the country that listed it, an export permit is required. An export permit may be granted when the Management Authority (i.e. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) determines that the specimens were not obtained in contravention of that country's laws for the protection of animals and plants.
- A re-export certificate is required for the export of CITES-listed specimens that were previously imported, including items subsequently converted to manufactured goods. A certificate may be issued when evidence of legal import has been provided. If you were the original importer of the wildlife or plant, you need to provide a copy of the canceled CITES permit that accompanied the shipment into the United States and, for animal specimens, the cleared Declaration for Importation (Form 3-177) for that shipment. If you were not the importer, you must provide copies of the importer's documents, as well as documents that show you purchased the wildlife or plant from the original importer, or a record of sequential transactions.
- If a species meets the criteria for bred-in-captivity or artificially propagated as outlined in CITES resolutions, the exporting country may issue an exemption certificate (bred-in-captivity facts sheet is available). For Appendix-I specimens, no CITES import permit is required.
- For Appendix-III specimens that originated from a country other than the listing country, a certificate of origin is needed to export the specimen. A certificate can be issued if the specimen was legally obtained within the exporting country.

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

All certificates must be in Russian.

For products under veterinary control, please consult the importer's import (veterinary) permit for specific conditions.

For products under sanitary-epidemiological control, the Customs Union typically requires the corresponding veterinary certificates to contain the following two attestations:

- “Microbiological, chemical and toxicological, and radiological indicators of [commodity] comply with the veterinary and sanitary requirements of the Customs Union.”
- “Package and packaging material are used only once and comply with the requirements of the Customs Union.”

For phytosanitary certificates, please consult APHIS'

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/plant_exports/export_certificates_forms.shtml.

Section IV. Government Certificate Legal Entry Requirements

Customs Union regulations require export certificates to accompany their cargo.

Customs Union regulations also require that health certificates be issued before the product is exported. As a result, Rosselkhoznadzor refuses to accept replacement and in-lieu-of certificates issued after the date of export. In November 2014 the relevant CU regulations were amended to allow the correction of technical errors and amendments to the name and address of the consignor/consignee, type of transport, country (countries) of transit, and the entry point, as well as the use of replacement certificates. However, it remains to be seen if and how the new regulations will be implemented. Thus, exporters wishing to obtain either a replacement or in-lieu-of certificate for purposes of correcting errors or redirecting cargo to Russia should work with their importer and do so at their own risk.

The Amendments to the Procedure for phytosanitary control at the customs border of the Customs Union (Decision of the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission No. 50 of August 16, 2013) made it possible to replace phytosanitary certificates in some cases under the condition that the authorized agencies of exporting countries guarantee the safety and wholesomeness of regulated products from the moment of the products' out-loading to the moment it enters the Customs Territory of the Customs Union (FAS/Moscow GAIN Report [RS1389 Amended CU Regulations Allow Replacement Phytosanitary Certificates](#)).

Rosselkhoznadzor enforces a zero-tolerance for certificate errors and such instances commonly arise from inaccurate information provided to the federal authority issuing the certificate (e.g., wrong container numbers, mistyped establishment numbers). Errors commonly result in significant demurrage costs and can lead to a shipment being denied entry.

Suppliers' and manufacturers' export declarations are not accepted as an export health certificate.

Derogations of export certification requirements are approved on a case-by-case basis. Exporters seeking derogations should work with their importer.

Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements

Certificates

All other certificates required by the Russian government are the responsibility of the importer.

Accredited Supplier Lists

In general, products subject to veterinary control are required to come from approved supplier lists. Rosselkhoznadzor often issues conditions to source from approved establishments in the import (veterinary) permit. As a result, non-exempt commodities without a list of approved establishments (e.g., dairy) are routinely blocked from entry. Contrary to Russia's WTO commitment to trim back the listing requirement to exclude select processed products of animal origin, Rosselkhoznadzor continues to *de facto* enforce the listing requirement on all such products.

At the time of this report's publication, Rosselkhoznadzor maintains lists for the following U.S. commodities:

- [Live Animals: Day-Old Chicks](#)
- [Live Animals: Hatching Eggs](#)
- [Feed and Feed Additives](#)
- [Feed and Feed Additives: Feed for Non-Productive Animals, Bird, Fish](#)
- [Feed and Feed Additives: Feed Additives](#)
- [Feed and Feed Additives: Fishmeal](#)
- [Meat and Meat Products](#) (NOTE: *This list includes coldstores approved for all types of meats produced by approved establishments*)
- [Meat and Meat Products: Beef](#)
- [Meat and Meat Products: Poultry](#)
- [Meat and Meat Products: Pork](#)
- [Meat and Meat Products: Sub-products and Fat of Beef](#)
- [Meat and Meat Products: Sub-products and Fat of Poultry](#)
- [Meat and Meat Products: Sub-products and Fat of Pork](#)
- [Non-Edible Products: Raw Intestines \(Casings\)](#)
- [Food Products: Finished Mutton Products](#)
- [Food Products: Finished Beef Products](#)
- [Food Products: Finished Horse Meat Products](#)
- [Food Products: Finished Poultry Products](#)
- [Food Products: Finished Pork Products](#)
- [Food Products: Prepared Meat Products](#)
- [Products Not Requiring a Permit: Feed and Feed Additives](#) (*This list includes all establishments, which ship feeds in retail packaging, for which import permits are not required. The list was created by Rosselkhoznadzor primarily for the convenience of the CU customs officials at the border.*)
- [Fish and Seafood](#)

The final and transitional provisions of the Unified Procedure for veterinary control at the customs border of the Customs Union exempts the following products from the listing requirement on an undefined, “temporary” basis:

- Animals and genetic material;
- Bee products;
- Raw materials of animal origin (skin, hair, raw fur skins, feathers, etc.);
- Animal feed of vegetable origin;
- Food additives of animal origin;
- Composite (containing animal origin components) products; and,
- Gelatin, etc.

