

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

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Global Agricultural Information Network

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Korea - Republic of

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification

FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:

The Ministry of Food & Drug Safety (MFDS) implemented the Special Act on Safety Management of Imported Food (hereinafter referred to as the Special Act) on February 4, 2016. According to the Special Act, MFDS no longer accepts a photo copy of health/sanitary certificates for livestock products. Effective August 4, 2016, an original or duplicative copy of health/sanitary certificates shall be submitted to MFDS for import inspection. Effective July 8, 2016, Korea lifted the import ban on U.S. poultry and poultry products imposed due to the outbreak of HPAI. Fresh and frozen poultry and poultry products slaughtered and processed on or after June 1, 2016 and shipped on or after July 8, 2016 are eligible for export to Korea. Also, the specific time/temperature for U.S. egg products on certificates is no longer required.

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

This report provides an overview of export certificates for various agricultural products required by the Korean government for import inspection. Prior to export, U.S. exporters are strongly encouraged to consult with the appropriate U.S. authority concerning the eligibility of their product and the specific requirements imposed by the Korean government.

List of Export Certificates Required by Korea

Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry ^{1/2}
Beef and beef products	FSIS Form 9060-5 and 9305-7 (issued by USDA/FSIS)	Multiple statements on 9305-7. See Appendix.	Health certificate	QIA/MAFRA and MFDS
Pork	FSIS Form 9060-5 and 9305-5 (issued by USDA/FSIS)	Multiple statements on 9305-5. See Appendix.	Health certificate	QIA/MAFRA and MFDS
Poultry ³	FSIS Form 9060-5 and 9305-2A for fresh and frozen products / 9305-2B for heat treated products (issued by USDA/FSIS)	Multiple statements on 9305-2A and 9305-2B. See Appendix.	Health certificate	QIA/MAFRA and MFDS
Egg products	FSIS Form 9060-5EP issued by USDA/FSIS for liquid, frozen, and dried eggs and a certificate issued by USDA/AMS for food products containing eggs	No specific time/temperature statement is necessary for U.S. origin products as the import ban imposed on United States due to the HPAI outbreak was lifted. However, attestation to pasteurization treatment by providing a statement that egg products were pasteurized or pasteurized at XX degrees for XX minutes in the “Remarks” section is required.	Health certificate	QIA/MAFRA and MFDS
Dairy ⁴	Export Certificate	“Products have been	Export	QIA/

products	(issued by exporting government) or manufacturer self-declaration	pasteurized for 15 seconds at 72C or longer” or “Products have been UHT/HTST/LTLT treated” “Products have been treated for at least 15 seconds at 57-68C and then matured (limited to cheese)” or “Products have been fermented using lactic acid bacteria”	certificate or manufacturer statement	MAFRA and MFDS
Pork casing	FSIS Form 9060-7 and 9305-5 (issued by USDA/FSIS)	Only pork casings from animals slaughtered and processed in the United States are eligible for export to Korea.	Health certificate	QIA/ MAFRA and MFDS
Protein-free tallow	FSIS Form 9060-5 (issued by USDA/FSIS)	“Certified materials have been tested, and found to have a level of insoluble impurities of 0.15% or less.”	Health certificate	QIA/ MAFRA and MFDS
Live animal	Health Certificate (issued by USDA/APHIS)	Attestation required on certificate varies depending on species. See Appendix.	Health certificate	QIA/ MAFRA
Fresh vegetable, grains, fruits, nuts	PPQ Form 577 (issued by USDA/APHIS)	Attestation required on certificate varies depending on products. See Appendix.	Phytosanitary certificate	QIA/ MAFRA
Frozen vegetables and fruits	Form FV-146CS (issued by USDA/AMS) or PPQ Form 578	“Products have been frozen at -17.8C or below.”	Certificate of Quality & Condition or Export	QIA/ MAFRA

	(issued by USDA/APHIS)		Certificate	
U.S. organic products ⁵	1) For U.S. processed organic products that are covered by the US-Korea equivalency arrangement	(A) A NAQS Import Certificate of organic processed food from USDA/AMS/NOP accredited certifying agents*** (B) A copy of an organic certificate issued by a USDA/AMS/NOP accredited certifying agents	Certificate to confirm the terms of the US-Korea equivalency arrangements have been met	NAQS/MAFRA
	2) For non-processed organic products including livestock products	1) A copy of the organic certificate issued by Korea's accredited certifying agents**** 2) A transaction certificate issued by certifying agents in the exporting country	Certification to Korean organic standards	NAQS/MAFRA
Non-GMO bulk shipment	Full IP Documentation (issued by private entities) or Non-GMO Certificate (issued by exporting government)	Attestation to identity preserved (IP) handling of bulk grains	Certificate to prove IP handling of bulk grains from seed to final export	MFDS
Non-GMO processed products ⁶	Full IP Documentation issued by private entities; Non-GMO Certificate issued by exporting government; or Notarized Self Declaration issued by	Attestation to identity preserved (IP) handling of raw materials from seed purchasing to manufacturing	Certificate or statement to provide IP handling of raw materials used in processed products	MFDS

	manufacturer – See Appendix for example			
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Note

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- *MAFRA: Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- *QIA: Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency
- *MFDS: Ministry of Food & Drug Safety
- *NAQS: National Agricultural Products Quality Management Service
- *USDA: U.S. Department of Agriculture
- *AMS: Agricultural Marketing Service
- *NOP: National Organic Program
- *FSIS: Food Safety Inspection Service
- *GIPSA: Grain, Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Administration
- *APHIS: Animal Plant Health Inspection Service
- *PPQ: Plant Protection & Quarantine
- *VS: Veterinary Service

2

Effective August 4, 2016, MFDS requires an original or duplicative copy of health and sanitary certificate for livestock products in accordance with the Special Act. Before the implementation of the Special Act, importers submitted the original certificate to QIA for quarantine inspection and a photo copy of the certificate to MFDS for import sanitary inspection. However, MFDS no longer accepts a photo copy of certificates.

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Effective July 8, 2016, Korea lifted the import ban on U.S. poultry and poultry products that had been imposed on January 16, 2016 due to the outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza. Fresh and frozen poultry and poultry products slaughtered and processed on or after June 1, 2016 and shipped on or after July 8, 2016 are eligible for export to Korea. FSIS provides updates on eligible products with certification requirements on its export library. Also, the specific time/temperature requirements for egg products on certificates have been removed as the import ban for poultry products from the United States was lifted. Please refer to the following link for details: [FSIS Export Library](#)

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Of dairy products, MFDS has processing standards for milk used in making cheese that are in addition to the above stated requirements for dairy products. Milk used in making cheese should be pasteurized for 30 minutes at 63C – 65C, 15 seconds at 72C – 75C or receive equivalent heat treatment. This heat treatment statement shall be described in the manufacturer statement, for example, as part of the manufacturing process chart. However, this processing standard may not apply to raw milk or dairy products used for making cheese if they are matured for 60 days or longer at the minimum 2°C. In this case, exporters need to provide MFDS with a document proving it is in compliance with this maturing condition.

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Beginning July 1, 2014, the agreement reached by the United States and Korea on an equivalency arrangement for processed organic products took effect. Processed organic products covered by this arrangement may be exported to Korea if they are accompanied by a NAQS Import Certificate of Organic Processed Foods issued by NOP accredited certifying agents along with a copy of NOP organic certificate. A list of USDA/AMS/NOP accredited organic certifying agents is available from the following link: [USDA Accredited Certifying Agents](#)

5-2

This organic equivalency arrangement does not cover non-processed organic products including livestock products,

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MFDS may change documentation requirements for non-GMO processed products according to the draft revision of Guideline for GM Labeling Requirements. This guideline was proposed to reflect changes made in the Food Sanitation Act revision in Feb 2016, which expanded mandatory biotech labeling to all detectable products. MFDS published the draft revision of Guideline on June 10, 2016 and this will be finalized shortly. In Guideline, MFDS will clarify what documents will be acceptable for processed products made of minor ingredients of conventional raw materials that have biotech counterparts to get exempt from mandatory biotech labeling. Post will provide any updates on this matter as they become available.

Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

The purpose of individual certificates is included in the table in Section I.

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

Certain livestock products, grains and fruits require specific, pre-printed attestations in the corresponding certificates. Links to these certificates are included in the Appendix.

Given their complexity, the documentation requirements to ship beef to Korea should be thoroughly reviewed by potential exporters. Korea requires that beef imports come from plants approved under the Export Verification (EV) Program set up by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). Beef must be slaughtered and/or processed at plants identified in the [Official Listing of Bovine Eligible Suppliers](#) (aka, USDA Bovine EV Programs).

Beef that was slaughtered and processed under an approved EV program can be exported after being stored in a warehouse approved by USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service. A list of all of the establishments can be found in [the FSIS Meat, Poultry and Egg Products Inspection Directory](#).

In addition, Korean beef importers and U.S. exporters have reached a commercial understanding that, as a transitional measure, only U.S. beef from cattle less than 30-months of age will be shipped to Korea. AMS has set up a voluntary Quality System Assessment (QSA) Program to verify that beef from participating plants will be from cattle less than 30 months of age. Participation in this program is not required for issuance of the FSIS 9060-5. However, for establishments that do participate in the AMS QSA program, the following statement may appear in Remarks on the FSIS 9060-5: "The beef or

beef products were produced at a verified establishment under the USDA Less than 30 Month Age Verification USDA Quality System Assessment (QSA) Program for Korea." At this time, shipments of beef without the QSA program statement will not be accepted for port-of-entry inspection, and any such shipment will be returned to the owner/agent by Korean quarantine officials. A list of [QSA approved establishments](#) and their approval dates is maintained by AMS.

As for poultry meat and poultry meat products, AMS has set up a voluntary Poultry Export Verification (EV) Program for Korea to verify that poultry meat and poultry meat products were sourced from birds, other than commercially raised chickens, ducks and geese, which were hatched and raised in the United States. Certification that commercially raised chickens, ducks, and geese are hatched and raised in the United States can be made based upon assurances provided by the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS); therefore, commercially raised chickens, ducks, and geese are exempt from participating in the Poultry EV Program. Exporting establishments that slaughter and process birds, other than commercially raised chickens, ducks and geese, must participate in the Poultry EV Program in order to export poultry meat and poultry meat products to Korea.

AMS also has set up a voluntary Poultry Export Verification (EV) Program for Korea to verify that poultry meat and poultry meat products eligible for export to Korea are not commingled with imported poultry meat and poultry meat products. Exporting establishments that receive and process imported poultry meat or poultry meat products must participate in the Poultry EV Program to be eligible to export poultry to Korea.

Information about the Poultry EV Program and a list of Poultry EV approved establishments and their approval dates can be found at the [AMS website](#). Each establishment that participates in the Poultry EV Program for Korea is required to maintain a unique product identification system, which can be accessed by authorized FSIS inspection personnel from the FSIS' Intranet site.

Section IV. Government Certificate's Legal Entry Requirements

With a couple of exceptions, the original certificate is required for all products listed above at the time of entry according to Section I. The original certificate for IP grain and shipments of non-processed organic products is only required for the first shipment. Subsequent shipments can be accompanied by copies of the original.

In cases where a government issued certificate is required, any government entity (including city/municipal, state, federal) can issue certificates unless specified otherwise. Health certificates must be issued by federal quarantine authorities.

Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements

Phytosanitary certificate: The "issuance date" of phytosanitary certificates shall be prior to the "on-board date" listed on the Bill of Lading. The "inspection date" on a certificate must be prior to the departure date. To prevent unnecessary delay at the port of entry, the certificate "issuance date" should be prior to the departure date of shipments.

Health certificate: The “issuance date” of health certificates issued for meat products originated from the United States, Canada, New Zealand and Australia may be after the “on-board date” listed on the Bill of Lading. In that case, however, the final inspection shall be conducted prior to loading and the final inspection date is required to be specified on the health certificate. Also, the health certificate must arrive in Korea by the time when meat products covered by the health certificate in question arrive in Korea.

Appendix I. Electronic Copy or Outline of Each Export Certificate

1. FSIS certificates

Please refer to the website below for details on Korea’s export requirements.

[Korea's Export Requirements](#)

2. APHIS Certificate

A. Plant Certificate

Please refer to the website below for details about plant certificate requirements.

[APHIS Plant Health](#)

PPQ Form 577 can be viewed at the website below:

[APHIS PPQ Form 577](#)

B. Animal Certificates

Please refer to the website below for details about animal product requirements.

[APHIS Animal Product Certificate Requirements](#)

Korean requirements for live animal exports can be found at:

[APHIS Animal Health](#)

C. Dairy Certificate

Please refer to the website below for details about certificate requirements for dairy products.

Dairy products:

[APHIS Dairy](#)

Dairy products containing eggs:

[APHIS Dairy Containing Eggs](#)

D. Processed egg products regulated and certified by FSIS

Please refer to the website below for details about certificate requirements for liquid, frozen, or dried eggs regulated and certified by FSIS.

[Processed Egg Products Certified by FSIS](#)

E. Further processed egg products regulated by FDA and certified by AMS

Please refer to the website below for details about certificate requirements for FDA regulated further processed egg and egg products, which are certified by AMS.

[Processed Egg Certified by AMS](#)

F. Processed organic products

Please refer to the website below for details about the US-Korea equivalency arrangement for processed organic products.

[Equivalency with Korea](#)

3. Sample of Notarized Self Declaration for Non-GMO Processed Food Products

[DATE]	
To: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Customer [Address], Korea	<input type="checkbox"/> Exporter [Address], USA
To Whom It May Concern:	
I hereby certify that the following product(s) [product name(s)] is (are) made by [company name] at its manufacturing facility in [city, state] using [name of ingredient] sourced from non-GM varieties with identity preserved (IP) systems. The crop(s) for [name of ingredient] were grown and managed with appropriate agricultural practices to maintain the integrity of the non-GM varieties from seed purchasing to manufacturing. The [name of ingredient(s)] supplier certifies that these ingredients are sourced from IP, non-GM varieties. Our manufacturing operation segregates this [name of	

ingredient(s)] to maintain its integrity.

This certificate covers the period between [date] and [date]. [List name of products as per attached invoice(s) [number(s)] and other identifying information considered relevant by the certifier].

I certify that the information submitted above is true and the above product complies with the Korean Government requirements that the level of accidental mixing of GM varieties in the raw ingredient used in the product is below the 3-percent threshold. Full documentation of identity preservation is available upon request after notification to our company of the GM ingredient(s) that have been detected in our product(s).

Sincerely,

[Name]
[Title]
[Company name]

State of [Name]
[City]

Subscribed and sworn to before me this [day] of [month, year]
[Expiration Date of the Commission]
[Signature of Notary Public] [SEAL]