

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Bulgaria

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification

FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:

Bulgaria, as a member of the European Union (EU), applies EU regulatory requirements for imports of animal and/or plant-origin food and agricultural products. The EU has harmonized export certification requirements for most products. Competent Bulgarian authorities may need to be consulted, on a case-by-case basis, to address import requirements for some minor categories of non-harmonized products. The following report should also be read in conjunction with the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) Certificate Report prepared by the U.S. Mission to the EU's Office

of Agricultural Affairs in Brussels.

DISCLAIMER: This report was prepared by U.S. Embassy Sofia's Office of Agricultural Affairs for U.S. exporters of domestically produced food and agricultural products. 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 publication, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. Post recommends 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 approval of any product is subject to the importing country's rules and regulations as interpreted by border officials at the time of product entry.

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

EU legislation requires many health and supervisory requirements that are meant to guarantee that imports meet the standards of production in Member States.

As an EU member, Bulgaria applies EU export certification requirements for products imported. Required certificate details are set out in specific legislation, including veterinary health certificate models to be used (links included at the end of this report).

A. Export Certificates/Requirements for Animal Products

The EU has established harmonized import requirements for animals and animal products applicable for any Member State. The EU recognizes the United States as eligible to export some animal products to it. Import requirements for animal products exported to the EU (and Bulgaria) can be found at FSIS website along with export certificates for each type of product:

<https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs/exporting-products/export-library-requirements-by-country/European-Union>

For several products, the EU requires export establishments be pre-approved based on submissions made by the U.S. Government. The U.S. interagency responsible for determining EU-eligible export establishments are: the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Approved establishments may be subject to EU inspection.

The list of EU-approved animal and animal product establishments can be found at <http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/certification/approved-u-s-establishments>.

The EU requires veterinary and/or general health certificate accompany each shipment of meat and be signed and dated prior to shipment. The competent U.S. certifying agent will delete any statement appearing on the EU model certificate that is not applicable.

B. Export Certificates/Requirements for Live Animals

The EU imposes a number of general requirements for all veterinary health certificates. Directive 2002/99/EC; Annex IV.6, stipulates that certificates must be issued before the consignments to which they relate leave the control of the competent authority. Non-compliance will lead to rejection of

shipment at the EU border entry point. For that reason, FSIS, APHIS, and AMS include this specific guidance on online (e.g. in the FSIS Export Library).

Bilingual Bulgarian/English health certificates are available for some commodities/species on APHIS website (see below). If a bilingual certificate for that species or commodity is not listed below, please refer to the English version on the link to the [European Union](#). It is the responsibility of the exporter to obtain a bilingual certificate if it is not listed below.

Bovine Semen:

- [Bovine Semen Model 1](#) – Bilingual (English/Bulgarian) health certificate for imports into and transits through the EU of bovine semen dispatched from a semen collection center where the semen was collected - April 2015 (pdf 171kb)
- [Bovine Semen Model 3](#) – Bilingual (English/Bulgarian) health certificate for imports into and transits through the EU of bovine semen dispatched from a semen storage center.

Equine Semen:

- Model 1: [Equine semen collected, processed and/or stored after 30 September 2014 and dispatched from the semen collection center of origin](#) - Health Certificate - April 2015
- Model 4: [Equine semen dispatched after 31 August 2010 from a semen storage center](#) - Health Certificate - May 2015 (pdf 140kb)

Supplementary information regarding the export certificates for the EU market is available on the website of the [USEU Brussels](#).

C. Export Certificates/Requirements for Plant and Plant Products

The import requirements for plants and plant products are harmonized at the EU level. The international body regulating the international trade with plant and plants products who lays down the models of certificates is the [International Plant Protection Convention of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#) (IPPC). Unlike veterinary products, there is only one model certificate for all plant products in accordance with IPPC's conventions. For the United States, APHIS issues the required phytosanitary certificate with the requisite attestations to specific EU requirements.

D. Export certificates/requirements for non-harmonized products

There are only few products/by-products or exotic animals on which the EU legislation is not harmonized. In such cases, import of these products is subject to Bulgarian national legislation and import requests are assessed by the competent authorities on a case-by-case basis. The National Food Safety Agency is the competent authority for providing the specific import conditions on non-harmonized products.

The import agent should have some guidance to provide on Bulgarian import requirements for that product. If not, request guidance on current requirements from the U.S. Embassy's Agricultural Office, see Appendix for contact information. Note: U.S. regulatory agencies that issue export certificates usually identify a Member State's specific requirements in their export libraries and guides.

Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

Bulgaria, as a member of the EU, conforms to all EU regulations and directives. Therefore, it is recommended that this report be read in conjunction with the EU Certification Guide, GAIN Report, available at: [Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification Brussels USEU EU-28 12-20-2017](#). This report consolidates EU-28 requirements published by the U.S. Mission to the EU in Brussels, Belgium. This report plus country specific reports can be accessed through the FAS website (<http://gain.fas.usda.gov>) and are updated annually in December.

Currently, all export certificates are fully consistent with the ones requested by the EU (with minor exceptions). Harmonized import requirements refer to introduction into the EU of both plant and animal origin products coming from third countries. Certificates must be drawn up in the official language of the Member State of destination and that of the Member State in which the border inspection takes place, or be accompanied by a translation into Bulgarian language. The certificates must be issued before the consignment to which it relates leaves the control of the competent authority of the country of dispatch.

Prior to shipment, exporters should always ensure that their Bulgarian importers confirm that the consignment will be allowed to enter with only the documentation accompanying the consignment. If there is any doubt about which documents are required or if any requirements are not listed (especially in cases when certificates are not EU-harmonized), the U.S. exporter should coordinate with the Bulgarian importer to email the appropriate Bulgarian officials at: bfsa@bfsa.bg. The importers should be prepared to provide a description of the proposed imports and the intended use of the material in Bulgaria. The Bulgarian officials will respond to the importer in writing. The U.S. exporter should then obtain that response from the importer, and provide a translation of it (including the original email question) to their local Veterinary Services service center.

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

For the identity check of the shipment, the Food Safety Agency Border Inspection requires the seal number of the container be printed on the veterinary certificate. A seal number on the Bill of Lading may not be sufficient as these can be easily re-issued by private companies. If no seal number is present on the certificate, the border inspection will make efforts to do identity checks based on other supporting documents, however, a physical check may be necessary to verify the identity of the shipment.

For some veterinary certificates, additional statements (declaration of BSE/TSE) are now included. Recent legislation includes this language as part of the model veterinary health certificate.

Section IV. Government Certificate's Legal Entry Requirements

There are two major regulations on border import control, [Regulation #46](#) on veterinary requirements for imports of raw materials and products of animal origin, and [Regulation #47](#) on Border Inspection Points and the requirements and procedures for veterinary border inspections.

According to Article 2 of the Regulation #46 of April 20, 2006 and published in Official Gazette #43 of May 26, 2006, products of animal origin may be imported if:

- Products originate from third countries, part of countries or regions, included in the official published lists of the European Commission;

- Products are produced in or shipped out from establishments which are located in the countries, parts of countries or regions included in the official published lists of the European Commission and are approved by the competent authorities of the respective country for imports in the EU;
- Products meet the veterinary medical import requirements of the EU;
- Products are accompanied by original veterinary certificate required by the EC and drawn up in at least one of the official languages of the border inspection and the country of final destination issued by the competent authority of the country of origin;
- Products come from a country or a region which is not banned for imports in the EU; and
- Products are obtained from live animals which meet the animal health import requirements.

Veterinary border checks of consignments imported into Bulgaria are conducted by official veterinary inspectors, in accordance with Article 188/2 of Regulation #47 (Bulgarian Official Gazette #4, January 16, 2007).

Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements

In accordance with Chapter VI, Article 15, Regulation #47 all consignments of products of animal origin intended for imports or for transit through the territory of Bulgaria are subject of border veterinary control.

Bulgarian Food Safety Agency is the proper, competent authority in a matter of settlements of veterinary requirements with a third country. Those specifications must be executed in imports from third countries, in extent not specified by the EU regulations.

Appendix I. Electronic Copy or Outline of Each Export Certificate

EU Brussels site: <http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/certification/>

The following links contain most important samples of import certificates (in English or in English/Bulgarian) required for various products and the list of third countries from which import of certain product is permitted:

Animals and red meat:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02010R0206-20170701&from=PL>

Meat products and treated stomachs, bladders and intestines

https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/wcm/connect/54719909-7810-4386-958e-f12f281c46b5/bump_43.pdf?MOD=AJPERES

https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/wcm/connect/43503adf-f6af-406e-affe-3ac70f0447c8/butransit_174.pdf?MOD=AJPERES

Poultry meat, eggs and egg products:

https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/wcm/connect/eeb687c0-d355-460a-9c87-5ca4949a672f/POU_bg_148.pdf?MOD=AJPERES

https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/wcm/connect/4a02bd14-efce-40ea-878d-5727b008ab4f/poultry_transit_bg_76.pdf?MOD=AJPERES

https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/wcm/connect/4a02bd14-efce-40ea-878d-5727b008ab4f/poultry_transit_bg_76.pdf?MOD=AJPERES

Composite products for transit and storage

https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/wcm/connect/da4660f9-d7ab-4ee6-b4bf-dbd86ea5746a/EU_BG_Composite_Product_Transit_Certificate_114.pdf?MOD=AJPERES

For additional information concerning market entry, other import requirements, and a current importer list, U.S. exporters of agricultural products and commodities contact:

Embassy of the United States of America
Office of Agricultural Affairs
Sofia 1407, 16 Koziak Street
Ms. Mila Boshnakova – Agricultural Specialist
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E-mail: agsofia@fas.usda.gov

Appendix II. Bulgarian Competent Authorities

Ministry of Agriculture and Food
Blvd. Hristo Botev 55 Sofia 1040
Tel.: (+359) 2-985-11858;
Fax: (+359) 2-981-7955
Website: <http://www.mzh.government.bg>

Bulgarian Food Safety Agency
Bul. Pencho Slaveikov 15A, Sofia 1606
Tel.: (+359) 2-915-98-20
Fax: (+359) 2-954-9593
E-mail: bfsa@bfsa.gov
Website: <http://www.babh.government.bg/en/>

Bulgaria Customs Agency, Ministry of Finance
Str. Rakovski 47, Sofia 1202
Tel.: (+359) 2-9594-210
Fax: (+359) 2-9859-4528
E-mail: pr@customs.bg
Website: <http://customs.bg>

