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## **Bulgaria**

# **Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Report**

## **FAIRS Export Certificate Report**

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**Report Highlights:**

Bulgaria is a member of the European Union (EU) and applies EU regulations for importing animal and plant-origin food and agricultural products. Bulgarian authorities may be consulted, on a case-by-case basis, to address import requirements for some categories of non-harmonized products. The following report should also be read in conjunction with the EU Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards ([FAIRS](#)) [Certificate report](#) prepared by the U.S. Mission to the EU's Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA) in Brussels.

**DISCLAIMER:** This report was prepared by OAA Sofia for exporters of U.S.-origin food and agricultural products. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, some information provided may not be completely accurate 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 regulatory requirements meant to guarantee that imports meet the standards of production in Member States. Bulgaria applies EU export certification requirements for imported products. Required certificate details are established in specific legislation, including veterinary health certificates (see links included below).

### **A. Export Certificates/Requirements for Animal Products**

The EU has established harmonized import requirements for animals and animal products applicable for all Member States. Import requirements for animal products exported to the EU (including Bulgaria) can be found at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service's (FSIS) [website](#) along with export certificates for each type of product. For some products, the EU requires export establishments to be pre-approved based on submissions made by the U.S. Government (see [Attaché Report](#)). The list of EU-approved animal and animal product establishments can be found [here](#).

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 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 (see [Attaché Report](#)).

Bilingual Bulgarian/English health certificates are available for some commodities/species on USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) website (bovine semen [model 1](#) and [model 3](#) and equine semen [model 1](#) and [model 4](#)). If a bilingual certificate for that species or commodity is not listed, see [here](#) for an English version. It is the responsibility of the exporter to obtain a bilingual certificate if it is not listed below. Supplementary information regarding the export certificates for the EU market is available on the [USEU Brussels](#) website.

### **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 [Bulgarian Food Safety Agency](#) (BFSA) is the competent authority for providing the specific import conditions on non-harmonized products. U.S. exporters should request guidance on current requirements from OAA Sofia, see Appendix for contact information.

#### **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, [FAIRS Certificate report](#). This report plus country specific reports can be accessed through the [FAS website](#) and are updated annually in December.

Prior to shipment, exporters should ensure that Bulgarian importers can confirm that the consignment will be allowed to enter with the documentation accompanying the consignment. If there are doubts about which requirements are needed, or if/when documents are not required, the U.S. exporter should ask the Bulgarian importer contact the pertinent [border inspection posts](#) (BIP) (updated list as of March 2018) with a description of the proposed consignment, including the animal-origin contents, and the intended use of the material in Bulgaria. 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 typically respond to the importer in writing.

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

For the identity check of the shipment, the BFSA Border Inspection requires the seal number of the container be printed on the veterinary certificate. 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. See Attaché Report GAIN [BU1801](#).

#### **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. Veterinary border checks of consignments imported into Bulgaria are conducted by official veterinary inspectors, in accordance with Article 188/2 of [Regulation #47](#). The BFSA Border Control is preparing for the implementation of the new EU Official Controls [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/625](#) which is scheduled to be fully enforced from December 14, 2019. See Attaché Report GAIN [BU1801](#).

#### **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. BFSFA is the proper, competent authority in a matter of settlements of veterinary requirements with a third country.

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

For specific information, see the USDA EU's [website](#).

The following links on the FSIS website 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](#);

[Meat products](#) and treated [stomachs, bladders and intestines](#);

[Poultry meat, eggs and egg products](#);

[Composite products for transit and storage](#).

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

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