

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## **Belgium-Luxembourg**

**Post:** The Hague

### **Trade Assistance in the Benelux Countries**

**Report Categories:**

Export Accomplishments - Other

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**Report Highlights:**

The seaports of Rotterdam and Antwerp, and the airport Schiphol Amsterdam are important entry points for U.S. agricultural products shipped to the EU. Due to the volume of trade, and often complex import requirements, USDA/FAS staff in the Netherlands is frequently called upon to assist in importing shipments from the United States. This report describes three recent instances in where shipments with a total value of 532,600 US\$ were released.

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#### Release of a container with animal by-products

On April 10, 2012, FAS The Hague was informed by the Belgian Food Safety Agency (FAVV) that they detained a shipment from Illinois with frozen pork pancreas glands. The reason for this detainment was that the wrong approval number of the manufacturing plant was mentioned in the Health Certificate. The FAVV requested the USDA to issue a new Health Certificate and a declaration why the first was issued incorrectly. FAS The Hague discussed with APHIS Riverdale and the FAVV the content and format of the declaration and forwarded the declaration and a copy of the re-issued Health Certificate to the FAVV. On April 17, the FAVV informed FAS The Hague that the shipment was released. The shipment of the U.S. product represents an estimated value of US\$ 25,000.

#### U.S. egg products released after being held in Antwerp due to labeling issues

On April 19, 2012, FAS The Hague was informed by USDA/FSIS that a shipment of egg products was being held in the port of Antwerp. The labels on the packages did not mention 1) the 'storage temperature' and 2) the 'best before date'. This is a requirement according to EU Regulation 853/2004, Section X, Chapter II (V) of Annex III. The FAVV in Belgium offered to have this information stickered on the packages. In order to do that, FAVV requested a declaration from FSIS. After intensive discussions between FSIS, FAS Washington and FAS The Hague, FSIS presented the required statement. Due to Post's intervention, the shipment had been released on May 9, 2012. The shipment is valued at US\$ 57,500.

#### Release of two containers with whey protein isolate

On June 12, 2012, FAS The Hague was informed by Davisco International (Minnesota) that the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA) held two containers containing whey protein isolate. The reason for detainment was that the Health Certificate was issued a day after the departure date mentioned on the certificate. The factual departure date mentioned on the Bill of Lading was, however, a day later. FAS The Hague contacted the customs agent and advised to fax the Bill of Lading with accurate departure date and an explanatory letter to the NVWA. On June 19, 2012, the customs agent informed FAS The Hague that the NVWA released the two detained containers. The shipment of the U.S. product represents a value of US\$ 450,100.