

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Trade Assistance in the Benelux countries

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Export Accomplishments - Other

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Report Highlights:

The sea and airports in the Benelux countries are important entry points into Europe for U.S. agricultural and food products. This report describes recent instances in where FAS The Hague's advocacy facilitated the release, prevented the detention, or reduced the duty applied to U.S. goods. This quarter the total value of the shipments was \$595,000. USDA/FAS advocacy prevented direct losses to U.S. firms of \$225,000.

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 four recent instances in where FAS The Hague's advocacy facilitated the release, prevented the detention, or reduced the duty applied to U.S. goods. This quarter the total value of the shipments was \$595,000. USDA/FAS advocacy prevented direct losses to U.S. firms of \$225,000.

Release of a container with poultry products

On July 14, 2011, FAS The Hague was informed by the FSIS in Washington D.C. that the Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (VWA) held a container with chicken wings from Kansas. The reason for detainment was that the Health Certificate was issued after the departure date. FAS The Hague contacted the customs agent for further clarification and forwarded the declaration of FSIS explaining how this error was made and which preventive procedure will be implemented in the exporter's warehouse management. On August 1, the importer informed FAS The Hague that the VWA released the detained container. The shipment of the U.S. product represents an estimated value of \$100,000.

Prevention of duty payments for two containers with High Quality Beef

On August 29, 2011, FAS The Hague was informed by FSIS Washington, FAS Rome and the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) that two container loads with high quality beef from California were expected to arrive in Rotterdam without proper documentation. The Certificate of Authenticity referred to the Hilton quota, subject to an Ad Valorem duty of 20%, instead of the zero duty High Quality Beef (HQB) quota. FAS The Hague contacted the customs agent in Rotterdam for further clarification, and discussed with the U.S. Mission to the EU and USMEF which Certificate of Authenticity must be issued for the HQB quota. As a result, FSIS uploaded the right Certificate of Authenticity to their Export Library. On September 6, 2011, the customs agent informed FAS The Hague that he received the proper documentation and Dutch customs cleared the first container without any problems. On September 14, the second container was cleared by customs. The two shipments of the U.S. product represent an estimated value of \$400,000.

Introducing new ice cream products on the Dutch market

On September 6, 2011, FAS The Hague was informed by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and U.S. exporter that the Dutch VWA had stopped a shipment of ice cream due to inconsistency between the labels and health certificate. FAS facilitated in the communication between the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the U.S. exporter, the freight forwarder and Dutch licensee. A month later, the exporter sent a new shipment of ice cream. FAS advised the exporter on the correct EU import regulations. On November 28, 2011 Post was informed that the shipment was cleared without any problems. This shipment represented an estimated value of \$50,000. FAS/The Hague is in contact with the Dutch based licensee to discuss future market development opportunities.

Release of a container with animal byproducts

On November 30, 2011, FAS The Hague was informed by APHIS Brussels that the VWA held a container with animal byproducts for medicinal use from Pennsylvania. The reason for detainment was that the Health Certificate was not signed by an official veterinarian. FAS The Hague contacted the customs agent to inform him about the EU regulations, EC/142/200, which do not require an official veterinarian to sign the Health Certificate but the importer. The customs agent informed the VWA about this requirement. On December 13, the customs agent informed FAS The Hague that the VWA released the detained container. The shipment of the U.S. product represents an estimated value of \$45,000.

It should be noted that the VWA is increasingly reluctant to release shipments of which the Health Certificate is issued after the date of departure from the United States.

