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Finland

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification

FAIRS Export Certificate Report

Approved By:

Paul Spencer

Prepared By:

Asa Wideback

Report Highlights:

Sections updated: Section I and Section III. As a member of the European Union (EU), Finland fully applies EU regulations on export certificates. In addition to certificates required by the EU, there are specific sanitary certificate requirements with regard to salmonella for imports of fresh meat, meat preparations and eggs into Finland.

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

Being a member of the European Union (EU), Finland fully applies EU export certificate regulations. For a list of EU-required export certificates and the products they cover, please refer to the U.S. Mission to the European Union's FAIRS

Export Certificate GAIN report available at: www.fas.usda.gov/posthome/useu/

In addition to those certificates required by the EU, Finland also has specific salmonella certificate and testing requirements for fresh meat, meat preparations or minced meat (with the exception of heat-treated meats) and eggs. These requirements are regulated in Regulation (EC) No 1688/2005. According to EU Decision 2008/752, a declaration on the veterinary certificate for meat products is enough to certify that the salmonella tests have been conducted according to 1688/2005 [1]. With regard to eggs and egg products, the specific salmonella requirements only apply to fresh eggs. Heat treated egg products may be imported without salmonella certification. There are, however, no establishments in the US approved for exports of fresh eggs to the EU.

[1] The model certificates in this regulation are intended for internal trade within the EU but were previously also used for external trade with third countries. After the implementation of EU Decision 2008/752, however, a declaration on the veterinary certificate for meat products is enough to certify that the salmonella tests have been conducted according to EU Regulation 1688/2005.

Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

Salmonella Guarantees

The purpose of the salmonella guarantee is to provide consumer protection. In its EU accession, Finland and Sweden received a derogation allowing them to apply stricter salmonella controls than other EU member countries. Finland and Sweden were granted additional salmonella guarantees covering trade in fresh meat from cattle and hogs, fresh poultry meat and table eggs. Minced meat is also covered. All consignments containing fresh meat, meat preparations or minced meat (with the exception of heat-treated meats) are subject to salmonella control. These requirements do not apply to imports from Norway and Sweden, since these countries have the same salmonella controls in place as Sweden.

New Methods Approved for Salmonella Testing

The EU Commission has approved new testing methods for salmonella in fresh meat (beef, pork and poultry) imported from another EU country. Commission Decision 2003/470/EG approves alternative analytical methods for salmonella testing than those referred to in Decisions 95/409/EG and 95/411/EG. Importers who wish to use other test methods for salmonella are required to provide documentation to the National Food Administration demonstrating that the method used is valid and in accordance with Decision 2003/470/EC.

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

Salmonella – Meat

The specific declaration (attestation) required on the veterinary certificate certifies that the product to be imported into Finland fulfils the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1688/2005, implementing Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards special guarantees concerning salmonella for consignments to Finland and Sweden of certain meat and eggs.

Section IV. Government Certificate's Legal Entry Requirements

Salmonella Meat

- Does the original certificate need to accompany the product at the time of entry?

Yes. The general principle is that certificates must be in the official languages of Finland, in Finnish or Swedish. However, English versions are also accepted. Please contact the Finnish Food Safety Authority and Customs for precise information.

- Can the certificate be applied to multiple shipments?

No. The Certificate follows the individual consignment.

- Will Finland accept a Supplier's or Manufacturer's Export Declaration as proof of compliance?

The certificate must be issued by the competent authority. Supplier's or Manufacturer's Export Declaration are not accepted as proof of compliance.

- Will Finland accept a U.S. State issued export certificate?

Yes.

- Will Finland derogate export certificates?

The EU has a bilateral veterinary equivalency agreement with the United States. However, the certificate requirements must be respected.

Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements

Foods of animal origin (meat, fish, milk, eggs and products thereof) must come from an EU-approved establishment in the country of origin and be accompanied by a veterinary/health certificate as described in Section I. The list of approved U.S. export facilities can be found on the website of the Foreign Agricultural Service U.S. Mission to the European Union at:

<http://useu.usmission.gov/agri>

Author Defined:

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