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Report Name: Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards
Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:

As a member of the European Union, France implements EU regulations for the import of animal and plant products. The US export certification requirements for most products are harmonized at the EU level; however, a few products, which are not yet harmonized across the EU, are still subject to French national regulations.

Disclaimer : *This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Paris. While the information contained in this report was collected with every due diligence, U.S. exporters are strongly encouraged to verify import requirements with their French customers. Local importers are usually in the best position to verify requirements and clarify any ambiguities with local authorities, **before goods are shipped.***

FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT INTO FRANCE IS SUBJECT TO FRENCH AND EU RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY FRENCH PORT OF ENTRY OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

As a member of the European Union, France has implemented EU regulations for the import of products of animal and plant origin and therefore export certification requirements for most products destined for the EU market have been harmonized at the EU level. For information on export certifications for the EU market, please refer to the 2022 [EU Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Country Report | E42022-0063](#) which can be found on the USEU website: <http://www.usda-eu.org/reports/> or on the USDA GAIN search engine: <https://gain.fas.usda.gov/#/search>

[Regulation \(EU\) 2019/625](#) defines composite products as foodstuffs intended for human consumption that contain processed products of animal origin and/or ingredients of plant origin. Composite products include a wide variety of products, including cheesecakes, high protein food supplements, pizzas and lasagnas. U.S. exports of “composite products” continue to be restricted due to burdensome certification requirements. While the U.S. is eligible to ship hormone-free meat, dairy products, egg products, and fishery products separately, it is often not possible to ship composite food products that combine ingredients that might otherwise be eligible for export as a single product.

Exporters should also be aware that with the recent changes to the EU composite product certificate, which was triggered by an update in EU Animal Health Law, the EU has also instituted changes to other composite products that require a U.S. Government-issued health certificate. The new EU system is no longer based on the percentage of ingredients of animal product in the final product. As of January 15, 2022, the EU has instituted three categories of composite products: (1) non-shelf stable composite products, (2) shelf stable composite products that contain meat products and (3) shelf stable composite products that do not contain meat products. All processed products of animal origin must be sourced from EU-approved establishments. The EU continues to require composite product certificates for all non-shelf stable products and for shelf stable composite products containing a meat ingredient.

For shelf stable products not containing meat, a U.S. Government issued certificate is not required. For these products, the representative of the importer must simply declare that the goods meet the relevant EU requirements, using the “Private Attestation” model form.

For products that are subject to French national regulations (i.e. not yet harmonized at the EU level), please refer to the FAS Paris [2022 FAIRS report](#). As conditions are constantly evolving, exporters should consult French authorities on a case-by-case basis to find the latest requirements for non-

harmonized products. Imported products must meet existing EU Member State requirements and all products must be accompanied by the proper certification documentation at port of arrival. In general, health certificates are required for all imported products of animal origin and phytosanitary certificates are needed for all plant products that could introduce pests into the EU. In France, food safety remains the primary responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

Inquiries on import requirements can be addressed (in French) to the

Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation, Direction Générale de l'Alimentation
Service d'inspection vétérinaire et phytosanitaire aux frontières (SIVEP)
Sous Direction des Affaires Sanitaires Européennes et Internationales (SDASEI)
251 rue de Vaugirard 75352 Paris cedex 15 France
Tel : +33(0)1 49 55 81 74 Fax : +33 (0)1 49 55 83 14
Email : import.dgal@agriculture.gouv.fr

A database of import regulations is available (in French) at:

<https://teleprocedures.franceagrimer.fr/impadon/>

All certificates must be in the official language of France, therefore in French.

Usually the importer (or sometimes the exporter or freight forwarder) applies to the national authority providing all relevant details. There is no set form for this kind of application. EU food legislation is translated into the 24 official languages of the EU (including French) and is published in the Official Journal. The Eurlex website <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm> provides free access to the full compendium of European Union rules and regulations. EU plant and plant product import regulations that have been harmonized are published in single directives. Unlike veterinary products, there is only one model certificate required for all plant products in accordance with international regulations laid out by the International Plant Protection Convention of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. www.ippc.int/

This report accompanies the 2022 [EU Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Country Report | E42022-0063](#) prepared by the FAS Office in the U.S. Mission to the European Commission (USEU). For additional information on US export certifications for the EU market, please refer to the USEU USDA/ FAS website: <http://www.usda-eu.org/reports/>

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Attachments:

No Attachments