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

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Report Highlights:

Lithuania applies harmonized European Union (EU) regulations, including requisite certificates for most animal and plant-origin food and agricultural imports from non-EU countries. U.S. exporters should be aware that some interpretational variations can occur between EU Member States and are advised to consult with their Lithuanian importers regarding market access questions. U.S. exporters may also wish to consult with Lithuanian authorities on a case-by-case basis.

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DISCLAIMER:

U.S. Embassy Warsaw’s Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA) prepared this report for exporters of U.S.-origin food and agricultural products, as OAA Warsaw regionally covers Lithuania. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate due to policy changes since preparation, or because clear information about these policies was not available. Post recommends that U.S. exporters verify all import requirements with their international customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. The following Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) Certificate report should be read in conjunction with the 2021 Lithuania FAIRS Country report and the 2021 EU FAIRS Certificate reports prepared by the U.S. Mission to the EU’s (USEU) OAA, which are available on their [website](#). FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCTS IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY’S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

Executive Summary

EU import requirements for food, feed, animals and products, and plants and products are generally harmonized among Member States. Depending on the product, EU import requirements include specific model certificates with pre-defined attestations for animal health, plant health, food safety, or quality specifications (*e.g.* organic). U.S. exporters should be aware that some interpretational variations can occur between EU Member States and are advised to consult with their Lithuanian importers regarding market access questions. U.S. exporters may also wish to consult with Lithuanian authorities on a case-by-case basis.

I. List of Required Export Certificates

Lithuania applies EU export certification requirements for imported products. Post recommends reading this report in conjunction with the OAA USEU 2021 EU FAIRS Country and Certificate reports, which can be found on their website [here](#) and [here](#). There are no additional country-specific certificates (besides EU certificates) for food imports derived from plants and animals. U.S. export certificates in English must also include an official translation into Lithuanian.

After conducting a ‘fitness check’ of the General Food Law, the EC amended Regulation EC/178/2002 in June 2019 via Regulation 2019/1381, seeking to increase the transparency of the EU risk assessment procedures. Another result of the fitness check was to replace Directive EC/2000/29 of May 8, 2000, which regulated the introduction or dissemination of organisms deemed hazardous to plants or plant products. These regulations are enforceable among all Member States without the need for any additional national level implementing regulations:

- Regulation (EC) No 2016/2031 of 26 October 2016 on plant pest protection measures.

- Regulation (EC) No 2017/625 of 15 March 2017 on official controls and enforcement of food and feed laws, and animal health and welfare requirements, plant health and plant protection products. This Regulation supersedes former Regulation 882/2004.

Following an update of the EU's Animal Health Law ([Regulation \(EU\) 2016/429](#)), which entered into force on April 21, 2021, the EU has updated all required certificates for products of animal origin. Models of the new certificates for food of animal origin were published in [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) No 2020/2235](#), as amended by [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/1471](#). The transitional provisions of Regulation 2020/2235 allow for the continued use of the old certificates until March 15, 2022, provided that the certificates are signed before January 15, 2022.

Some U.S.-origin animal products from EU-approved U.S. processing plants are eligible for export to Lithuania and the EU. For these products, one or more U.S. regulatory agencies, including the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), will be responsible for determining export eligibility. [EU-approved production plants](#) in the United States may be subject to EU audits.

Only the international trade of a few products/by-products and exotic animals are not harmonized under EU legislation. In such cases, Member State national regulations apply. For specific questions about shipping food and agricultural exports from the United States to Lithuania, exporters are advised to contact OAA Warsaw or consult U.S. regulatory agencies' websites in their export libraries and guides.

II. Purpose of the Export Certificates

EU legislation calls for many health and supervisory requirements that are meant to guarantee that imports meet the standards of production in Member States.

Products of animal origin

The EU requires veterinary and/or general health certificates to accompany each shipment of meat, which must be signed and dated prior to shipment. The competent U.S. certifying official will delete any statement(s) appearing on the EU model certificate that is not applicable. The EU imposes general requirements for all veterinary health certificates. In accordance with [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2020/2235](#), certificates must be issued before consignments leave control of the competent authority. Non-compliance may result in rejection at the EU port of entry.

Plants and plant products

Regulation (EC) No 2017/625 requires products defined as a 'plant', including seeds for planting, cut flowers, ornamental plants, and fresh horticulture, which are imported into the EU be accompanied with a phytosanitary certificate and subject to border control measures. For the United States, APHIS issues the required phytosanitary certificate and any specific EU attestations.

Composite Products

Regulation (EU) 2019/625 defines composite products as foodstuffs intended for human consumption that contain processed products of animal origin and ingredients of plant origin. Composite products

include a wide variety of products, including cheesecakes, high protein food supplements, pizza, 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 the composite products that combine these eligible ingredients.

Exporters should be aware that in parallel with the aforementioned changes to the composite product certificate that was triggered by an update of the EU’s Animal Health Law, the EU also made changes to the categories of composite products that require U.S. Government-issued health certificates. The new system is no longer based on the percentage of ingredients of animal product in the final product and goes into effect on January 15, 2022. It establishes 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 have to 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 with a meat ingredient.

For shelf stable products not containing meat, no certificates signed by the U.S. Government are required. For these products, the representative of the importer must declare that the goods meet the relevant EU requirements, using the “Private Attestation” model form.

More information on the EU import conditions for composite products is available on the European Commission’s [website](#).

III. Specific Attestation Required on the Export Certificate

Lithuania’s State Food and Veterinary Service ([SFVS](#)) is the competent authority for all veterinary import requirements regarding products of animal origin from non-EU countries. SFVS requires that seal numbers on containers are printed on veterinary certificates. A seal number on bills of landing is not sufficient. If no seal number is present on the certificate, a physical check may be conducted to verify the identity of the shipment.

IV. Government Certificate Legal Entry Requirements

According to SFVS requirements, products of animal origin may be imported to Lithuania if:

- They contain original veterinary certificates drawn up in at least one of the official languages of the border inspection and the country of destination issued by the competent authority of the country of origin;
- Products are labeled in a way that can be identified;
- Products and import requirements meet all criteria published by the European Commission;
- Products, or their parts, derived from any third countries are declared; and
- Products are sourced from production plants eligible to ship to the EU.

U.S. food and agricultural product exporters to Lithuania can contact OAA Warsaw with any questions or requests for additional information:

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Attachments:

No Attachments