

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY
USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT
POLICY

Required Report - public distribution

Date: 3/14/2014

GAIN Report Number:

Nicaragua

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification

FAIRS Export Certificate Report

Approved By:

Kelly Stange, Agricultural Attaché

Prepared By:

Jimmy Bolaños, Agricultural Specialist

Report Highlights:

This report lists Nicaraguan import requirements for export certification and import permits for agrochemicals, vet products, feed stuffs and food product for human consumption.

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

Disclaimer: This report was prepared by the office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Managua, Nicaragua for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care was taken in preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate, either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped.

Final import approval of any product is subject to the importing country's rules and regulations as interpreted by border officials at the time of the product entry.

Table.1. Export Certificate Matrix

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAGFOR) and the Ministry of Health (MINSa) in Nicaragua require registration of imported products prior to issuing import permits. MAGFOR is responsible for the inspection of agricultural products (including processed food) at the borders and the registration of animal feeds, agrochemicals and seeds, while MINSa regulates processed food registration. As a first import requirement, every importer must request an import permit to MAGFOR or MINSa prior to the importation of any shipment (Please refer to attachments to see import permits' format). Attached to these formats importers need to provide a copy of the commercial invoice, certificate of origin and a Health or Phytosanitary certificate. To find the import requirements of agricultural products please refer to the following link:

<http://190.212.165.220/cuarentena/siaucitini/wfinicio.aspx>

The following certificates are requested once all the products (except for plants and animals) have been registered at MAGFOR or MINSa. For more information about the product registration process please refer to the FAIRS Country Narrative Report.

Product (s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
Agrochemicals, Veterinary Products	Sanitary-Phytosanitary Import Permit Certificate of Origin Certificate of Qualitative-Quantitative Analysis Copy of the Commercial Invoice	Certificates must be issued by a competent Government Authority	Traceability	MAGFOR

Feedstuffs	Sanitary- Phytosanitary Import permits Certificate of Origin Sanitary Certificate Copy of the commercial Invoice	Certificate must be issued by a competent government authority except for the certificate of chemical analysis.	Traceability	MAGFOR
Plant Products and Sub-Products	Sanitary- Phytosanitary Import permit Certificate of origin Phytosanitary Certificate Certificate of chemical Treatment (when applicable). Copy of the Commercial invoice	Certificate must be issued by a competent government authority	Traceability	MAGFOR
Animal Products and Sub-Products	Sanitary- Phytosanitary Import permit Sanitary Certificate Certificate of origin Copy of the	Certificate must be issued by a competent government authority	Traceability	MAGFOR

	commercial invoice			
Processed Food	Sanitary-Phytopsanitary Import Permit Certificate of origin Sanitary or Phytopsanitary certificate Copy of the Commercial Invoice	Certificates must be issued by a competent government authority	Traceability	MAGFOR

Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

Sanitary and Phytopsanitary Import Permit:

The sanitary and phytopsanitary import permit is the official document that authorizes the import of any product to Nicaragua. The importer requests this permit and MAGFOR reviews the application to make sure the product is eligible to enter the Nicaraguan market and complies with all the sanitary and phytopsanitary requirements established by Nicaragua. An import permit is valid for one shipment. If the import permit is not used within thirty days, the importer may request the Government of Nicaragua authorities to renew it.

Certificate of Origin:

The Certificate of Origin is a document that is submitted to customs to certify the country of origin of the goods so that they can enjoy tariff or free trade preferences as specified in a free trade agreement. The minimum information a certificate of origin should contain is: name of issuer and contact information, customs tariff and description of the merchandise, information to support a product of origin and date of the certificate. The Ministry of Agriculture of Nicaragua (MAGFOR) requests certificates of origin issued by chambers of Commerce. In addition to this, the importer must present the DR-CAFTA certificate of origin to customs to get free trade preferences if applicable.

Phytopsanitary Certificate:

A Phytopsanitary certificate is used to attest that consignments meet phytopsanitary import requirements and is undertaken by an NPPO (National Plant Protection Organization). A phytopsanitary certificate for export or for re-export can be issued only by a public officer who is technically qualified and duly authorized by an NPPO. In the U.S., the USDA APHIS Plant Protection and quarantine maintains the export program for the U.S. exports and foreign-origin agricultural commodities.

Sanitary Certificate:

MAGFOR requires sanitary or health certificates for animals and animal sub-products. The USDA APHIS is the head of veterinary services, which would provide these certificates. Please refer to APHIS' import and [export matrix](#) for a list of plant or animal export protocols already negotiated between USDA and MAGFOR.

Commercial Invoice:

A commercial invoice is a bill for the goods from the seller to the buyer. These invoices are often used by governments to determine the true value of goods when assessing customs duties. Governments that use the commercial invoice to control imports will often specify its form, content, and number of copies, language to be used, and other characteristics.

Certificate of Free Sale:

The certificate of free sale, which states that goods such as food items, cosmetics, biologics, or medical devices are legally sold or distributed in the open market, freely without restriction, and approved by the regulatory authorities in the country of origin, is requested by MINSA just for product registry.

Certificate of Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis:

MAGFOR requires a certificate of quantitative and qualitative analysis for agrochemicals. The certificate provides information about active components of the product and is issued by the manufacturer. Please refer to the FAIRS Narrative report for more information.

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

A competent government authority from the exporting country has to issue all required certificates and the products (agrochemicals, animal feeds, food products, etc.) must be first registered in Nicaragua. Please refer to the FAIRS narrative report to see registration requirements for different products.

The certificate of free sale required by MINSA for product registration must state that the product is of "free sale" in the country of origin and that the product is apt for human consumption. MAGFOR requires specific attestations when an animal or plant health condition is developed in the exporting country. In such cases MAGFOR will provide importers with a detailed outline of the attestation for the export/SPS certificates.

Section IV. Government Certificate's Legal Entry Requirements

MAGFOR or MINSA must issue an import permit prior to each importation. The importer requests the import permit with supporting information, including of a copy of a SPS certificate, certificate of origin, and a commercial invoice. Consistent information such as amount, description, origin, and point of shipping must be stated in the request form. MINSA requires that processed food products be registered in Nicaragua prior to importation. Food samples for showcasing are allowed one entry without registration but they must be accompanied by a certificate of free sale.

SPS technical officers review the supporting documents (original import permit, original SPS certificate or certificate of origin and a copy of the commercial invoice) and inspect a product at the time of entry.

An import permit is valid for one shipment. If the import permit is not used within thirty days, the importer may request government of Nicaragua authorities to renew it. MAGFOR and MINSA will accept only certificates issued by competent government authorities of the exporting country. When shipment of products does not meet Government of Nicaragua import requirements, products are normally detained at the port of entry for sampling. Samples are subject to laboratory analysis to determine its physical and chemical characteristics. A product may be confiscated for destruction, re-exported, depending on its condition, as determined by government authorities.

Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements

At the time this report was written, there are no additional import requirements that apply or are associated with plant, animal or processed food products being certified in conformance with Nicaragua's laws.

Appendix I. Electronic Copy or Outline of Each Export Certificate

Please see attached the following documents:

1. Technical Norm 11 005-08 Import requirements for plant products and Plant- Sub-products.
2. Sanitary-Phytosanitary Import Permit.
3. Health certificate.
4. Phytosanitary certificate.
5. DR- CAFTA certificate of origin.
6. Certificate of origin issued by a chamber of commerce.
7. Commercial Invoice