

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: 12/28/2012

GAIN Report Number: BK1215

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification

FAIRS Export Certificate Report

Approved By:

Christine Sloop

Prepared By:

Sanela Stanojic

Report Highlights:

Report Highlights: Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) requires various certificates for imported food products which must be signed by the designated authorities. However, there are no specific formats that exporters are required to use, except for phytosanitary certificates that must be in accordance with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). Some veterinary certificates require specific statements e.g. concerning contagious diseases, hormone use, pathogen reduction methods etc. set by the State Veterinary Office (SVO). The SVO is responsible for verifying specific requirements for importing live animals and certain products of animal origin. This report includes an Export Certificate matrix and a detailed outline of the content of each certificate. Sections updated: II and III, and V.

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

Section I. List of All Export Certificates Required By Government (Matrix) : Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
All Food Products	Health Certificate/Evidence of Sanitary Wholesomeness	The food product is safe for human consumption	To certify food hygiene/safety	The Federation of BiH Inspectorate and the Republika Srpska Inspectorate [1]
All Food Products	Certificate/Evidence of Quality	Evidence of quality such as product composition, specification etc.	To certify food quality	The Federation of BiH Inspectorate and the Republika Srpska Inspectorate
All Live Animals and Certain Animal Products (live animals, raw animal products, animal feed, semen, veterinary medicines and waste)	Veterinary Certificate	Depends on the specific requirements set by the State Veterinary Office	To certify that products are safe for animal and human health	The State Veterinary Office
All Plants and Plant Products	Phytosanitary Certificate	To certify that the product has been inspected according to appropriate procedures, considered to be free from	To certify that products are safe for plant and human health	The Federation of BiH Inspectorate and the Republika Srpska Inspectorate

		quarantine pests and considered to conform to the current phytosanitary regulations of the importing country		
--	--	--	--	--

[1] Under the 1995 Dayton Agreement that ended the war, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) was divided into two Entities: the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska. The Entities are generally responsible for agriculture, while the food safety responsibility is shared with the state-level institutions (State Veterinary Office, Plant Health Protection Administration and Food Safety Agency). The entity inspectorates are responsible for border and in-land food control/inspection, excluding the state-level veterinary inspection.

Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

The health certificate/evidence of sanitary wholesomeness attests to a product’s safety for human consumption. The requiring authorities are the Federation Inspectorate and the Republika Srpska Inspectorate, or more precisely their Sanitary/Food Inspection Departments.

The certificate/evidence of quality attests to the product’s quality and to confirm that the product meets certain quality standards. The requesting authorities are the Federation Inspectorate and the Republika Srpska Inspectorate, or more precisely their Market Inspection Departments.

The veterinary certificate is required for live animals, semen, embryo and egg cells, some processed animal products, raw materials for processing, veterinary medicines and accessories, diagnostic kits and materials, animal feed and waste, and other products that might be carriers of animal disease and put animal and human health at risk. The certificate verifies the product’s safety for animal and human health. The requesting authority is the State Veterinary Office of BiH.

The phytosanitary certificate certifies the health of all plants and plant products. The requesting authorities are the Federation Inspectorate and the Republika Srpska Inspectorate (Phytosanitary Inspection Departments).

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

The certificate/evidence of sanitary wholesomeness– there are no specific certifications required by the authorities, except that the product is fit for human consumption and meets the exporting country’s safety requirements. There is no specific format requested, but it should be an original certificate signed by the official authority of the exporting country (e.g. FDA) and translated into local language.

The certificate/evidence of quality - There are no specific certifications required by the authorities and therefore the quality certifications commonly used in international trade are acceptable. However, the market inspection has the authority to sample and test imported products on a random basis, and if the product’s quality does not meet the domestic standards, it will not be cleared and allowed to enter the market.

The veterinary certificate – The veterinary certificate should clearly identify the imported product, the means and route of transportation, the packaging, consignee and consignor, as well as insure clear epizootic/disease status of the country, state, premise, and the amount of the imported item. The State

Veterinary Office (SVO) is responsible for the specific requirements for importing live animals and products of animal origin, and the veterinary certificate must attest that those requirements have been met. The SVO provides the requirements in English language upon an importer's request. No specific format is requested; the content of the certificate is usually negotiated between the SVO and the veterinary authority of the exporting country (e.g. there are U.S. – BiH agreed pet food certificates). The certificate must be an original, issued by the exporting country's official authorities and it should be translated into the local language.

The phytosanitary certificate should be in accordance with International Plant Protection Convention guidelines. The certificate should contain the name and the address of the exporter, declared name and address of consignee, origin, means of conveyance, point of entry, packaging, name of produce, botanical name of plants, quantity, any treatments conducted such as disinfections or disinfection treatments and should state that the product has been inspected according to appropriate procedures, considered to be free from quarantine pests and considered to conform with the current phytosanitary regulation of the importing country.

Section IV. Government Certificate's Legal Entry Requirements

An original document or a certified copy for a multiple shipment must accompany each shipment at the point of entry for each mode of transport, translated into the Bosnian language.

Imported products will be cleared through customs only upon presentation of all required certificates. Phytosanitary certificates are valid for 15 days and veterinary certificates are valid for 10 days from the date of issuance. Certificates cannot be applied to multiple shipments. Products will not be allowed entry if they do not meet local regulations for quality or they contain unapproved biotech products (currently no biotech products are approved).

Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements

Prior import approvals issued by the BiH State Veterinary Office (SVO) are required for live animals, fresh, chilled and frozen meat, veterinary medicines, eggs for reproduction, semen and inseminated egg cells. To import animals for reproduction, additional certificates/evidence regarding origin, production and reproductive value is required. Importers of semen should provide progeny test results. Exporting facilities need to register with the SVO for the first time they export to BiH.

Contact Information:

State Veterinary Office

Radiceva 8/II

7100 Sarajevo

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Contact person: Ms Elna Kolasinac

Tel. +387 33 565 706

Fax +387 33 565 723, 565 725

E-mail: info@vet.gov.ba

elna.kolasinac@vet.gov.ba

<http://www.vet.gov.ba/>

For seeds, planting materials, pesticides and mineral fertilizers the Entities' Agricultural Ministries provide prior approvals/technical opinions based on presented health and quality certificates. Forms are

available at the Ministries. BiH Plant Health Protection Administration issues final import approvals.

Contact Information:

Federation Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry
Phytosanitary Department
Marka Marulica 2
71 000 Sarajevo
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Contact person: Scepán Raguz
Tel. +387 33 726 653
Email: sraguz@net.hr
<http://www.fmpvs.gov.ba/>

Republika Srpska Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
Phytosanitary Department
Trg Republike Srpske 1
78000 Banja Luka
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Contact person: Nikolina Cutura
Tel: +387 051 338 397
Fax: +387 051 338 866
mps@mps.vladars.net
<http://www.vladars.net>

BiH Plant Health Administration
Radiceva 8
71000 Sarajevo
Contact person: Miljana Knezevic
Tel/fax: +387 33 211 693 and 212 387
E-mail: upravabihzzb@bih.net.ba
<http://www.uzzb.gov.ba/>

Seeds and planting material

The registered importer first files the request for consent for import of seeds and/or planting material to the competent ministry of agriculture of the entity. These procedures differ somewhat between the entities, thus it is important to contact the relevant entity regarding the documents required to be enclosed, as well as to obtain information on administrative fees. Upon obtaining the consent, it is required to file an import request with the BiH Plant Health Protection Administration (PHPA) using the form which can be obtained at PHPA. Besides the permit for import of seeds and planting material for agricultural production, it is required to have a certificate of quality issued by the authorized body of the country of origin, and the imported variety has to be listed on the List of Approved Varieties that is available at the PHPA.

Plant health protection products

Only registered importers can perform the imports and placement on the market of plant protection products. Importers that register with the entity ministries of agriculture must have the appropriate professional and technical capabilities to handle plant protection products (i.e. the proper storage facilities and educated workers). With each shipment, the importer (distributor or representative) must file the request for consent to import and request for authorization for placement onto the domestic market of a given product. The request is filed in writing with the competent ministry of agriculture of the entity per prescribed procedure and on the prescribed form. These forms are available from the entity ministries. The procedures differ to a certain extent between the entities and it is important to contact the competent entity first. As an example, the request for consent to import and for placement on the market should indicate the tariff number, trade name, active substance, manner of use, quantity imported, value of goods and border crossing point for the entry of goods and control, as well as the pro forma invoice. With the request, all the documentation must be submitted as evidence of fulfillment of the aforementioned conditions, including evidence of registration. Based on Article 12 of the Law on Phyto-Pharmaceutical Products in BiH, the import of products prohibited in the country of origin and in the EU shall be prohibited. BiH PHPA monitors and regularly updates the list of prohibited products in the EU and this information can be obtained at PHPA. Upon obtaining consent and approval from the responsible entity ministry of agriculture, the importer must file an import request form with PHPA.

Mineral fertilizers

The importer is obliged to file the request for mandatory control of shipments at the point of entry with the phytosanitary inspector of the entity (according to the location of the entry point). The importer is obliged to have the import permit from PHPA, and a certificate of quality.

Mercantile products

Certain mercantile products are subject to mandatory control by a phytosanitary inspector at the border as well, according to the list in Annex 1 of the Decision on Classification of Goods in the Regimes of Import and Export (e.g. potato). The request for mandatory control is to be filed with the competent entity inspection body according to the location of the border crossing.

Contact information:

F BiH Inspectorate

Fehima ef. Curcica 6

71 000 Sarajevo

Tel: + 387 33 563 350

Fax + 387 33 563 351

Email: info@fuzip.gov.ba

Website: <http://www.fuzip.gov.ba/>

RS Inspectorate

Trg Republike Srpske 8
51000 Banja Luka
Tel. + 387 51 337 627
Fax: +387 51 307 955
Email: uprava@inspektorat.vladars.net
Website: <http://www.inspektorat.vladars.net/>

A certificate attesting that the product is free of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) or a GMO free-related statement is often required on the health certificate for grains and similar products. Based on the 2009 Law on GMOs, BiH permits the licensed use of biotech products. However, no GMOs have been approved yet or are in the approval process yet, because BiH only recently passed the by-laws that define the approval procedures.

Appendix I. Electronic Copy or Outline of Each Export Certificate

Because BiH accepts all kinds of export certificates, post cannot provide digital copies. A detailed outline of the content of each certificate is provided under the Section III.

Author Defined:

Disclaimer:

“This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care was taken in the 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 PRODUCT ENTRY.”