

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## Lithuania

### Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification

### FAIRS Export Certificate Report

**Approved By:**

Michael Henney, Agricultural Attaché

**Prepared By:**

Lyubov Tmanova, Intern;

Jolanta Figurska, Piotr Rucinski, Agricultural Specialists

**Report Highlights:**

Lithuania as a member of the European Union (EU) and applies EU regulatory requirements for import of products of animal or plant origin. The EU has harmonized export certification requirements for most products. The EU requires products be accompanied by a sanitary-phytosanitary certificate at port of arrival. This report should be read in conjunction with the [EU-27 FAIRS Export Certificate Report – 2011](#), the latest update at time of this submission.

**Author Defined:**

This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Warsaw, Poland (also covering Lithuania) 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.

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

The EU has established harmonized import requirements for animals and animal products applicable for any Member State. The EU recognizes the U.S. as eligible to export all animal products to it. For several products, the EU requires export establishments be pre-approved based on submissions made by U.S. government. U.S. government agencies involved in defining EU eligible export establishments are: 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). Approved establishments may be subject to EU inspection. Lists of EU-approved animal and animal product establishments are available on the USEU website at: <http://www.usda-eu.org/> and at [EU 27 FAIRS](#) report link. The EU requires the animal or public health certificate accompany each shipment and be signed and dated prior to shipment. The competent U.S. certifying agent will delete any statement appearing on the EU model certificate that is not applicable.

The EU imposes a number of general requirements for all veterinary health certificates. Directive 2002/99/EC; Annex IV.6, stipulates that certificates must be issued before the consignments to which they relate leave the control of the competent authority. Non-adherence to requirements of this directive will lead to rejection of shipment at EU border entry point. For that reason, U.S. regulatory agencies which issue veterinary health certificates (FSIS, APHIS and AMS) include this guidance specifically in their export libraries.

The EU has harmonized import requirements for plants and plant products as well. Harmonized requirements are published in a single directive. Unlike veterinary products, the EU employs only one model certificate for all plants and plant products. This is consistent with international guidance as laid out by the International Plant Protection Convention of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (website: <http://www.ippc.int/IPP/En/default.htm>). For the U.S., the APHIS issues the required phytosanitary certificate with the requisite attestations to specific requirements of the EU.

EU certification requirements for some products may be partially or not harmonized. For such products rules of the individual Member State would apply. The import agent should have some guidance to provide on the Member State requirement for that product. If not, request guidance on current requirements from the U.S. Embassy's Agricultural Office. Note: U.S. regulatory agencies that issue export certificates usually identify a Member State's specific requirements in their export libraries and

guides.

As a member of the European Union (EU), Lithuania fully applies EU regulations on export certificates. It is difficult to specify the whole list of non-harmonized products, because it is not defined. Therefore, the certificate requirement for a non-harmonized product would need to be requested from the competent Lithuanian authority on a case-by-case basis.

Member States may also apply a waiver to harmonized EU certification requirements in case of commercial samples. In this case the FAS offices in the Member States can also provide the necessary information. Shipments to free zones and sea vessels only need to fulfill EU animal health requirements as these goods are not subject to EU public health requirements.

Specific information on import and export procedures, regulations, and documentation applied in Lithuania can be found online at the Seima custom border

[http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter/w2008\\_home.home?p\\_kalb\\_id=2](http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter/w2008_home.home?p_kalb_id=2) and custom ports

<http://old.cust.lt/en/rubric?rubricID=201>. Supplemental information on free movement of goods in

Lithuania can be found at the [http://ec.europa.eu/youreurope/business/profitting-from-eu-market/selling-goods/lithuania/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/youreurope/business/profitting-from-eu-market/selling-goods/lithuania/index_en.htm).

**The Ministry of Agriculture**

Gedimino av. 19 (J. Lelevelio 6)

LT-01103 Vilnius, Lithuania

Phone: +370 5 239 1111

Fax +370 5 239 1212

E-Mail: [zum@zum.lt](mailto:zum@zum.lt)

<http://www.zum.lt/min/index.cfm?langparam=EN>

**State Food and Veterinary Service**

Siesikų str. 19

LT-07170 Vilnius, Lithuania

Ph: +370 5 240 4361

Fax. +370 5 240 4362

Email: [vvt@vet.lt](mailto:vvt@vet.lt)

<http://vmvt.lt/en>

**Ministry of Health**

Vilnius str. 33,

LT-01506 Vilnius, Lithuania

Ph: +370 800 66 004; +370 5 268 5110

Fax +370 5 266 1402

Email: [ministerija@sam.lt](mailto:ministerija@sam.lt)

<http://www.sam.lt/>

**Ministry of Economy**

Gedimino Ave. 38 / Vasario 16-osios st. 2,

LT-01104 Vilnius, Lithuania

Ph: +370 5 2625515; +370 5 262 6584

Fax: +370 5 262 3974

Email: [kanc@ukmin.lt](mailto:kanc@ukmin.lt)

<http://www.ukmin.lt/lt>

**Customs Department**

A. Jakšto g. 1/25

LT-01105 Vilnius, Lithuania

Tel: +370 5 266 6111

Fax: +370 5 266 6010

E-mail: [info@cust.lt](mailto:info@cust.lt)

Web: <http://www.cust.lt>