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Croatia

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification

FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:

This report provides information on the export certificates required by the Government of Croatia. All sections of this annual report were updated in December 2013.

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

Disclaimer: This report was prepared by the USDA/FAS' Office of Agricultural Affairs in Zagreb,

Croatia, for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care has been taken in the preparation of this report, the 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.

Croatia as a member of the European Union follows the EU directives and regulations. It is therefore recommended that this report is read in conjunction with the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (EU-27 FAIRS) export certificate report produced by the US Mission to the EU in Brussels, Belgium:

<http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/certification/fairs-export-certificate-report/>

or search:

<http://gain.fas.usda.gov>

The document requirements for exporting animals, plants and food to the EU are extensive. Appendix 1 of the EU-27 FAIRS export certificate report gives an overview of the required EU health certificates for products imported into or transited through the EU; therefore, also for the Republic of Croatia. It should be noted, however, that model certificates may not be available for products that have never been exported to the EU before. References to the EU legislation that forms the basis for the health certificate are also provided in the EU-27 FAIRS.

While certification requirements are developed at the EU level, the Member State (MS) inspection service is responsible for enforcement of the EU legislation through inspection of imported goods and the corresponding certificates. Contact information for those services in the Republic of Croatia is given in the Appendix I of this report.

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.

Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

EU legislation, that is, legislation of the Republic of Croatia calls for many health and supervisory requirements that are meant to guarantee that imports meet the standards of production in the Republic of Croatia.

Import requirements for animals and animal products are harmonized across the EU in a three-part process. First, the EU must recognize a country as eligible to export a particular animal or animal product. The EU recognizes the U.S. for all animal products. For several products, the EU has a lists of approved establishments based on submissions from the US government agencies. Only those products

processed at approved establishments may enter the EU. The US agencies involved in listing 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 the EU inspection. All EU-approved establishment lists are available on the USEU website. And lastly, animal or public health certificates based on the model certificates published by the EU and signed by the US officials must accompany all shipments.

The EU import requirements for plants and plant products have also been harmonized and are published in a single directive. Unlike veterinary products, there is only one model certificate 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. (see :www.ippc.int/IPP/En/default.htm) Phytosanitary certificates are issued by APHIS inspectors, who attest to specific requirements of the EU legislation by making additional declarations in the relevant boxes.

Products Subject/Not Subject to Veterinary Certification – Composite Products

In order to have a more harmonized MS application of the EU legislation, Commission Decision 2007/275/EC publishes a list of animals and animal products that are subject to veterinary checks. Products subject to veterinary checks typically need to be accompanied by a veterinary certificate, issued by the competent authority in the U.S. This regulation also provides clarification on which composite products are subject to veterinary checks.

Composite products are defined as foodstuffs intended for human consumption that contain processed products of both animal and plant origins. All composite products containing a processed meat product are subject to a veterinary check. Generally speaking, composite products that have more than 50 percent dairy, egg or fish ingredients also require a certificate, and there are certification requirements concerning the heat treatment for all dairy products. The EU has created a model health certificate for imports of composite products, which was implemented in 2012.

Commission Decision 2007/275/EC also lists certain composite products that are not subject to veterinary checks, provided they are shelf stable and properly packaged and labeled. Unfilled gelatin capsules cakes, meat extracts and other shelf stable products are on this list.

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

Mentioned export certificates attest plant and animal health as well as animal wellbeing. The list of all the US competent authorities for export certification is listed in the Appendix I of this report

Section IV. Government Certificate's Legal Entry Requirements

Certificates must be in the official language of the Republic of Croatia, which is Croatian, as well as the MS where the border inspection occurs, if the product is not exported directly to the Republic of Croatia. According to Croatia's "Act on the Import of Food from Third Countries" (NN39/2013); the

responsible party in the import procedure must provide the inspectors with the analytical reports and certificates in the Latin alphabet and translated into the Croatian language. However, for the time being, Croatia's inspectorate is accepting English language certificates.

For all veterinary health certificates, the EU; thus also the Republic of Croatia, applies the following general principles of certification as defined in Council Directive 2002/99/EC:

1. The representative of the competent authority of dispatch issuing a certificate to accompany a consignment of products of animal origin must sign the certificate and ensure that it bears an official stamp. This requirement applies to every page of the certificate; all must be signed and stamped.
2. Certificates must be written in the official language(s) of the destination MS as well as that of the border inspection MS, or be accompanied by certified translations into all relevant languages. An MS may, however, consent to accept certificates written in one of the official languages of the EU other than its own, which is the case for the Republic of Croatia for the time being.
3. The original version of the certificate must accompany consignments on entry into the EU.
4. Certificates must consist of:
 - (a) a single sheet of paper; or
 - (b) two or more pages that are part of a single and indivisible sheet of paper; or
 - (c) a sequence of pages numbered so as to indicate that it is a particular page in a finite sequence; e.g., 'page 2 of 4 pages'.
5. certificates must bear a unique identifying number. Where the certificate consists of a sequence of pages, each page must indicate this number.
6. the certificate must be issued before the consignment to which it relates leaves the control of the competent authority in the country of dispatch.

Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements

There are no additional Croatian certificates (other than EU certificates) for food products derived from plants and animals.

There are voluntary certificates that may help reduce the level of import controls. For example, EU legislation does not require that nuts and peanuts are accompanied by an aflatoxin certificate. However, shipments with these certificates are less tested/ controlled upon entry in the EU.

Author Defined:

Appendix I.

U.S. Competent Authorities

The following is a list of the U.S. regulatory agencies and certifying bodies with links to the relevant websites:

- AMS: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

European Union Health Certification Program

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/>

- APHIS: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA

International Animal Export Regulations

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/>

International Animal Products Export Regulations

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/products/>

Plant Export Services

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/plant_exports/index.shtml

- FDA: Food and Drug Administration

<http://www.fda.gov/food/guidanceregulation/importsexports/exporting/default.htm>

- FSIS: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA

Export Requirements for Croatia:

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs/exporting-products/export-library-requirements-by-country/Croatia>

Export Requirements for the European Union:

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs/exporting-products/export-library-requirements-by-country/European-Union>

- NOAA: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

http://www.seafood.nmfs.noaa.gov/Export_Certification.html

For additional information on exporting seafood to the EU and Croatia, please contact stephane.vrignaud@trade.gov

Croatian Competent Authorities

- Croatian Border Veterinary Inspection

<http://www.veterinarstvo.hr/default.aspx?id=153>

Government of the Republic of Croatia
Ministry of Agriculture
Planinska ulica 2a,
10000 Zagreb
Veterinary Directorate
Tel. +385 1 6443 540
Fax. +385 1 6443 899
E mail: office@mps.hr
web page: www.mps.hr

- Croatian Border Sanitary Inspection

http://www.zdravlje.hr/ministarstvo/ustroj_ministarstva/uprava_za_sanitarnu_inspekciju

Government of the Republic of Croatia
Ministry of Health
Ksaver 200a
10 000 Zagreb
Directorate for Sanitary Inspection
Tel. +385 1 4607 622
Fax. +385 1 4677 631
<http://www.zdravlje.hr/>

- Croatian EFSA Focal Point

<http://www.hah.hr/english/hah.php>

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