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Export Certificate Report

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Prepared By: Joshua Taylor

Approved By: Daniel Archibald

Report Highlights:

This report provides information on the certificates required for the importation of food and agricultural products into Ghana, plus further information on food product registration, labeling, import permits and other relevant information to assist U.S. exporters. New information includes export certificate protocols for sheep and goats as well as ovine and caprine embryos/semens, which the Government of Ghana approved in 2020. Ghana now allows USDA Accredited Veterinarians to use USDA's online Veterinary Export Health Certification System (VEHCS) to complete health certificates. This report complements the FAIRS Annual Country Report for Ghana.

Disclaimer: This report was prepared by the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service's Office of Agricultural Affairs in Accra, for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care has been 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 products 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.

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Executive Summary:

The GOG requires poultry and poultry products from the United States to be accompanied by FSIS Form 9060-5--Export Certificate of Wholesomeness. Same requirement pertains to U.S. beef and beef products. In the case of live poultry-day old chicks and hatching eggs, APHIS VS Form 17-6 Certificate for Poultry or Hatching Eggs for Export must accompany the shipment. Live animals/bovine, bovine semen, and bovine embryos arriving from the United States must be accompanied by APHIS VS Form 17-37 Certificate of Inspection for Export /US origin health Certificate. The same requirement pertains to live animals/sheep and goats, ovine and caprine semen, and ovine and caprine embryos arriving from the United States.

All imported agricultural and food products, regardless of type are subjected to similar health, sanitary and phytosanitary regulations and procedures. Ghana's import laws place the responsibility of guaranteeing that any imported agricultural and food product is in full compliance with Ghana health and phytosanitary regulations on the importer.

Specific attestations are required to be made on the export certificates. For instance, stating that fat content is no more than 15% in the case of poultry and poultry products. Certification statements, test requirements and embarkation statements form part of the specific attestations that should appear on the export certificates.

To be allowed on the Ghanaian market, all food products, regardless of the source or origin must first be registered with the Food and Drugs Authority (FDA). A minimum labeling requirement based on the Codex Alimentarius standards must be met before certification by the FDA.

GOG resorts to a non-transparent policy of import permit issuance to regulate the import of frozen chicken.

Section I: List of All Export Certificates Required by Government

Products	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry (Ghana)
Poultry and poultry products	Obtain FSIS Form 9060-5-- Export Certificate of Wholesomeness	Section III A.	Food safety	MOFA(VSD)/FD A
Beef and beef products	Obtain FSIS Form 9060-5-- Export Certificate of Wholesomeness	Section III B.	Food safety	MOFA(VSD)/FD A
Live poultry - day old chicks and hatching eggs	Obtain APHIS VS Form 17-6 Certificate for Poultry or Hatching Eggs for Export	Section III C.	Health/ sanitary	MOFA (APD/VSD)
Live animals/Bovine	Obtain APHIS VS Form 17-37 Certificate of Inspection for Export of Cattle /US origin health Certificate	Section III D.	Health/ sanitary	MOFA (APD/VSD)
Bovine Semen	Obtain APHIS VS Form 17-37 Certificate of Inspection for export of Bovine semen /US origin health Certificate	Section III E.	Health/ sanitary	MOFA (APD/VSD)
Bovine Embryos	Obtain APHIS VS Form 17-37 Certificate of Inspection for export of Bovine embryos /US origin health Certificate	Section III F.	Health/ sanitary	MOFA (APD/VSD)
Live animals/Sheep and Goats	Obtain APHIS VS Form 17-37 Certificate of Inspection for Export of Sheep and Goats /US origin health Certificate	Section III G.	Health/ sanitary	MOFA (APD/VSD)
Ovine and Caprine Semen	Obtain APHIS VS Form 17-37 Certificate of Inspection for export of Ovine and Caprine semen /US origin health Certificate	Section III H.	Health/ sanitary	MOFA (APD/VSD)
Ovine and Caprine Embryos	Obtain APHIS VS Form 17-37 Certificate of Inspection for export of Ovine and Caprine embryos /US origin health Certificate	Section III I.	Health/ sanitary	MOFA (APD/VSD)

Section II: Purpose of Specific Export Certificates

All food and agricultural products imported into Ghana are required to comply with Ghana's food, health, and sanitary/phytosanitary laws. All food and agricultural products, including plant products that enter Ghana ports are required to pass through procedures designed to check that they are safe for their intended use.

The health, sanitary and phytosanitary regulations and procedures applied to imported agricultural and food products are similar for all types of products. Under Ghana import laws, it is the responsibility of the importer to ensure that any product entering the country is in full compliance with Ghana health and phytosanitary regulations. The enforcing authorities will check for compliance by inspecting the goods and relevant import/export documentation and decide on whether the goods may enter Ghana. In cases of non-compliance, the goods may be required to be treated before released or they may be rejected and ordered to be destroyed or disposed of outside Ghana.

The Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) is the main government regulatory authority mandated to protect and promote public health by ensuring that food and drugs consumed in Ghana are wholesome and safe. Depending on the food product, the FDA performs its function in collaboration with MOFA directorates such as Veterinary Services, Animal Production and Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorates.

By law, the FDA has the right to test and analyze any domestic or imported product at its laboratories to determine if the product is free of contamination. (See 2020 FAIRS Annual Country Report).

Section III: Specific Attestations Required on Export Certificates

A. Poultry and poultry products

A Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness (FSIS9060-5) must accompany all U.S. poultry and poultry products.

Exporters must ensure that the health certificate accompanying all poultry shipments to Ghana includes the following statement:

"Fat content is 15% or less"

Note: This statement should be supported by fat analysis performed in a USDA certified laboratory. According to the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Ghana, the maximum fat content standard for poultry is fifteen (15) percent. FSIS personnel should **not** sign this statement.

Note: Exporters should work closely with Ghanaian importers to assure that the product meets all requirements as described on the import permit.

All U.S. federally inspected establishments are eligible to export to Ghana. For the latest information, please see the [FSIS Export Library entry for Ghana](#).

B. Beef and beef products

A Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness (FSIS 9060-5) must accompany all U.S. beef and beef products.

Exporters must ensure that the health certificate accompanying all beef shipments to Ghana includes the following statement:

"Fat content is not more than 25%"

Note: Fat analysis performed in a USDA certified laboratory should support this statement. According to the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Ghana, the maximum fat content standard for beef and beef products should not be more than twenty-five (25) percent. FSIS personnel should **not** sign this statement.

Note: Exporters should work closely with Ghanaian importers to assure that the product meets all requirements as described on the import permit.

All U.S. federally inspected establishments are eligible to export to Ghana. For the latest information, please see the [FSIS Export Library entry for Ghana](#).

C. Live birds/day-old chicks/hatching eggs

The Republic of Ghana will accept imports of U.S. live poultry, including day-old chicks and hatching eggs, using "Certificate for Poultry or Hatching Eggs for Export" (VS Form 17-6). The Veterinary Authority at the point of embarkation should issue the Health certificate accompanying all live fowl, day-old chick and/or hatching eggs shortly before shipment.

D. Live animals/Bovine

An APHIS Certificate of Inspections of Export Animals and/or a U.S. origin Health Certificate must accompany all live animals from the U.S. The Government of Ghana will accept imports of live cattle using Certificate of Inspection of Export Animals /US origin health Certificate (VS Form 17-37).

For complete import requirements and copies of the certificates, please visit:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/export/international-standard-setting-activities-oie/regionalization/sa_by_country/sa_g/ct_animal_ghana

Certification Statements:

- 1). The United States is free of contagious bovine pleuropneumonia and foot and mouth disease.
- 2). The United States is recognized by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) as a country with negligible risk of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).
- 3). The State(s) of Origin has been free of clinical cases brucellosis and tuberculosis for the last 12 months prior to export.
- 4). The Herd of Origin has been free of clinical cases of bovine leucosis, infectious bovine rhinotracheitis, campylobacteriosis and trichomoniasis for the last 12 months prior to export.

5). The animals were isolated for at least 21 days immediately prior to export, in a facility approved by a USDA accredited veterinarian.

6). The animals were inspected within 21 days prior to export and found to be free from clinical evidence of communicable diseases.

Test Requirements: The cattle must show negative results for the diseases listed below. (Mark through the non-applicable testing option.)

i). Tuberculosis: Intradermal test using bovine PPD tuberculin

ii). Brucellosis OR other test accepted by USDA Test date(s) Complement fixation test at a 1:10 dilution OR buffered Brucella antigen test (i.e., card test) OR Enzyme- linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) or standard tube test OR plate agglutination test at a 1:50 dilution. Test date(s)

Other Veterinary Treatments and Inspections

Within 21 days prior to the export, the animals were inspected and treated for internal and external parasites.

Date(s) of treatment: _____

Name(s) of product: _____

Within 60 days prior to export, the animals were vaccinated against the following diseases:

Vaccination date _____ Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR)

Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) Parainfluenza Leptospirosis

The animals will receive a USDA veterinary inspection at the port of embarkation, within 48 hours of export, and found free of evidence of communicable disease and fit for travel.

E. Bovine Semen

The Government of Ghana will accept imports of Bovine – Semen -Health Certificate for Inspection of Export of Semen/US origin health Certificate (VS Form 17-37).

For complete import requirements and copies of the certificates please visit:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/export/international-standard-setting-activities-oe/regionalization/sa_by_country/sa_g/ct_animal_ghana

Certification Statements:

1. The United States is free of contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, foot and mouth disease, lumpy skin disease, and Rift Valley fever, without vaccination.

2. The semen collection center has been free of clinical cases of brucellosis and tuberculosis during the thirty (30) days prior to commencement, until conclusion of, semen collection for export.

3. The semen collection center has been free of clinical cases of campylobacteriosis, trichomoniasis, and leptospirosis during the thirty (30) days prior to commencement, until conclusion of, semen collection for export.

4. Donor animals:

- a. were continuous residents in the United States either for a minimum of sixty (60) days immediately preceding collection of the semen for export or have been resident since birth.
- b. were identified by a permanent identification system recognized by the USDA.
- c. were not resident in any establishment that is subject to quarantine restrictions due to diagnosed diseases which affect cattle, for at least the 90 days before the first semen collection for this consignment through completion of the testing of the donors.
- d. on the day(s) of collection the donor did not show any clinical evidence of infectious diseases transmissible in semen.
- e. were not used for natural mating and were isolated from animals not of equivalent health status since arriving at the semen collection center.

5. The semen for export:

- a. was collected, processed and stored at an approved semen collection center in a manner that is acceptable to the USDA, and is under the supervision of the USDA Accredited Veterinarian.
- b. is sealed in straws or vials that are clearly and permanently marked to identify the donor and the date(s) of collection.
- c. were frozen in fresh liquid nitrogen or liquid nitrogen vapor, and then stored in cleaned and disinfected tanks or new containers, under strict hygienic conditions.
- d. will be shipped in cryogenic containers sealed by a USDA Accredited Veterinarian, prior to shipment.

Test Requirements:

Each donor animal was test negative for the following diseases within six months prior to or six months after collection, unless otherwise specified below, in a laboratory acceptable to APHIS, as noted on the attached test chart:

1. *Tuberculosis: Intradermal test using bovine PPD tuberculin **OR** other test accepted by USDA.
2. Brucellosis1: Complement fixation test at a 1:10 dilution **OR** buffered *Brucella* antigen test (i.e., card test) **OR** enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) **OR** fluorescent polarization assay (FPA) **OR** standard tube test or standard plate agglutination test at 1:50 dilution **OR** other test accepted by USDA.
3. **Campylobacteriosis: Culture or PCR of cultured preputial material

4. ****Trichomoniasis:** Culture or PCR of cultured preputial material

5. Leptospirosis: Microtiter agglutination test, at the 1:400 dilution for serotypes: L.canicola, L. grippotyphosa, L. hardjo, L. pomona, and L. icterohaemorrhagiae **OR** other test accepted by USDA.

*Testing is not required of bulls that originate from herds that are Certified and Accredited Free of brucellosis and tuberculosis, respectively.

**Testing is not required of bulls that have never been used for natural breeding.

F. Bovine Embryos

The Government of Ghana will accept imports of Bovine – Embryo -Health Certificate for Inspection of Export Embryo/US origin health Certificate (VS Form17-37).

For complete import requirements and copies of the certificates, please visit:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/export/international-standard-setting-activities-oie/regionalization/sa_by_country/sa_g/ct_animal_ghana

Certifications Statements:

1. The United States is free of contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, foot and mouth disease, lumpy skin disease, and Rift Valley fever, without vaccination.

2. The embryos were collected on a premises which has been free of clinical cases of brucellosis and tuberculosis during the thirty (30) days prior to commencement, until conclusion of collection of embryos for export.

3. The embryos were collected on a premises which has been free of clinical cases of bovine viral diarrhea (BVD), campylobacteriosis, trichomoniasis, and leptospirosis, during the thirty (30) days prior to commencement, until conclusion of, embryo collection for export.

4. Donor animals:

- a. were continuous residents in the United States either for a minimum of sixty (60) days immediately preceding collection of the embryos for export or have been resident since birth.
- b. were identified by a permanent identification system recognized by the USDA.
- c. were not resident in any establishment that is subject to quarantine restrictions due to diseases which affect cattle for at least the 90 days before embryo collection for this consignment, until completion of the testing of the donors.
- d. originate from states officially free of tuberculosis and brucellosis.
- e. on the day(s) of collection the donor did not show any clinical evidence of infectious diseases transmissible via embryos.

5. The embryos for export:

- a. were produced with semen that meets the import health requirements of the importing country, or the Certified Semen Services (CSS), or equivalent.
- b. were collected by an embryo collection team approved by USDA APHIS, annually.
- c. were collected, processed and stored in accordance with the procedures established by the International Embryo Technology Society (IETS).
- d. are sealed in straws or vials that are clearly and permanently marked to identify the donor and the date(s) of collection.
- e. are stored in the frozen state for at least 30 days after collection before shipment, and during this time, the donors, and all animals in contact with them, have remained free from any diseases transmissible via embryos.
- f. were frozen in fresh liquid nitrogen or other cryoprotectant, and then stored in cleaned and disinfected tanks or new containers, under strict hygienic conditions.
- g. were sealed in liquid nitrogen tanks prior to shipment.

G. Live animals/Sheep and Goats

An APHIS Certificate of Inspections of Export Animals and/or a U.S. origin Health Certificate must accompany all live animals from the U.S. The Government of Ghana will accept imports of live sheep and goats using Certificate of Inspection of Export Animals /US origin health Certificate (VS Form 17-37).

For complete import requirements and copies of the certificates, please visit:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/export/international-standard-setting-activities-oie/regionalization/sa_by_country/sa_g/ct_animal_ghana

Certification Statements:

1. The United States is free of foot-and-mouth disease without vaccination, sheep and goat pox, peste des petites ruminants, contagious caprine pleuropneumonia, and Rift Valley fever, in accordance with the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.
2. The animals were born or legally imported into the United States.
3. Scrapie is a notifiable disease in the United States.
4. The feeding to sheep and goats of meat-and-bone meal or greaves of ruminant origin is banned and effectively enforced in the United States.
5. Each animal is identified by a permanent identification system recognized by the USDA.
6. During the 12 months prior export, the States of origin of the animals have not reported/confirmed any clinical cases of caprine/ovine brucellosis (*Brucella melitensis*).

7. The animals have been in isolation in facilities approved by a USDA Accredited Veterinarian, for a minimum of 21 days prior to export.

8. The flock(s) of origin:

- a. Has not had a confirmed case of clinical scrapie in the last seven (7) years prior to export.
- b. Has had no clinical cases of tuberculosis, and/or caprine arthritis/encephalitis, and/or maedi-visna in the last three (3) years prior to export, OR were tested as listed below.
- c. Has had no clinical cases of Chlamydomphila abortus (enzootic abortion of ewes) in the last two (2) years prior to export.
- d. Has had no clinical cases of bovine brucellosis (Brucella abortus), contagious epididymitis (Brucella ovis) or paratuberculosis, in the last twelve (12) months prior to export.
- e. Has had no clinical cases of contagious agalactia in the last six (6) months prior to export.

9. None of the animals in the shipment have been designated for destruction/removal due to disease eradication measures.

10. Within 21 days of export, all animals were treated with _____, a product that provides broad-spectrum coverage against internal parasites, and with _____, an approved product for use against external parasites.

Test Requirements:

All animals must be tested during the isolation period, with the exception of tuberculosis, with negative results as prescribed below:

1. Tuberculosis (Mycobacterium bovis), (for goats only, if required), tested within 90 days of export: Intradermal caudal fold tuberculin test, or other test accepted by APHIS.

Date: _____

2. Bluetongue: AGID (Agar-gel immunodiffusion)* test, or ELISA,* or PCR, or other test accepted by APHIS. Date: _____ * If an animal had positive results for bluetongue virus antibodies, the animal was tested for bluetongue virus agent with negative results prior to export.

3. Maedi-visna (for sheep only, if required): AGID, or CF test, or ELISA, or other test accepted by APHIS Date: _____

4. Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (for goats only, if required): Serology, or other test accepted by APHIS. Date: _____

Embarkation Statements:

1. During transit, animals will not be comingled with any animals of lesser health status.

2. The loading of the animals was carried out in vehicles or containers previously cleaned and disinfected using an approved disinfectant.

3. The animals will receive USDA veterinary inspection within 48 hours of export, and be found free of evidence of communicable diseases, and fit to travel.

H. Ovine and Caprine Semen

The Government of Ghana will accept imports of Bovine – Semen -Health Certificate for Inspection of Export of Semen/US origin health Certificate (VS Form 17-37).

For complete import requirements and copies of the certificates please visit:

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/export/international-standard-setting-activities-oie/regionalization/sa by country/sa g/ct animal ghana](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/export/international-standard-setting-activities-oie/regionalization/sa%20by%20country/sa%20g/ct%20animal%20ghana)

Certification Statements:

1. The United States is free of foot-and-mouth disease without vaccination, sheep and goat pox, peste des petites ruminants, contagious caprine pleuropneumonia, and Rift Valley fever, in accordance with the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.
2. The donor animals were born or legally imported into the United States.
3. During the 12 months prior to collection, the States of origin of the donor animals have not reported/confirmed clinical cases of caprine/ovine brucellosis (*Brucella melitensis*).
4. During the 12 months prior to collection, the farms of origin of the donor animals have been free of clinical cases of scrapie, maedi-visna, caprine arthritis/encephalitis, bluetongue, paratuberculosis, ovine epididymitis, and contagious agalactia.
5. On the day(s) of collection, all the donor animals were in good health and did not show clinical signs of infectious or communicable disease.
6. The semen has been diluted using diluents that do not contain pathogenic organisms and to which antibiotics have been added in accordance with OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code recommendations.
7. The semen straws are individually identified with donor animal and collection identification code.
8. Semen was stored in containers which were new or cleaned and disinfected with a licensed product.
9. The shipping containers will be sealed by USDA accredited veterinarian prior to transportation to the port of embarkation.
10. Semen was not exported prior to the final endorsement of required veterinary health certificate by the competent veterinary authority.

Test Requirements:

The donor animals were tested according to recommendations in the OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals, with negative results, for the following diseases within 6 months prior to semen collection:

1. Tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*), for goats. Date of test:
2. Contagious epididymitis (*Brucella ovis*), for sheep: Date of test:

I. Ovine and Caprine Embryos

The Government of Ghana will accept imports of Bovine – Embryo -Health Certificate for Inspection of Export Embryo/US origin health Certificate (VS Form17-37).

For complete import requirements and copies of the certificates, please visit:

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/export/international-standard-setting-activities-oe/regionalization/sa by country/sa g/ct animal ghana](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/export/international-standard-setting-activities-oe/regionalization/sa%20by%20country/sa%20g/ct%20animal%20ghana)

Certification Statements:

1. The United States is free of foot-and-mouth disease without vaccination, sheep and goat pox, peste des petites ruminants, contagious caprine pleuropneumonia, and Rift Valley fever, in accordance with the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.
2. The donor animals were born or legally imported into the United States.
3. During the 12 months prior to collection, the States of origin of the donor animals have not reported/confirmed clinical cases of caprine/ovine brucellosis (*Brucella melitensis*).
4. During the 12 months prior to embryo creation, the farms of origin of the donor animals have been free of clinical cases of scrapie, maedi-visna, caprine arthritis/encephalitis, bluetongue, paratuberculosis, ovine epididymitis, and contagious agalactia.
5. Embryos were created using semen that meets the import health requirements of the importing country, or the OIE, or equivalent.
6. On the day(s) of collection, all the donor animals were in good health and did not show clinical signs of infectious or communicable disease.
7. Embryos were washed at least ten times at a dilution of at least 1/100 between each washing, in accordance with OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.
8. The zona pellucida of each embryo, after washing, should be examined over its entire surface area at not less than 50X magnification to ensure that it is intact and free of adherent material.
9. Embryos were frozen in fresh liquid nitrogen and stored in new or cleaned and disinfected vials or containers containing fresh liquid nitrogen.
10. Only embryos from a single female donor are packaged together in the same straw.
11. Straws are individually identified with donor animal and straw identification code.
12. The shipping containers will be sealed by a USDA accredited veterinarian prior to transportation to the port of embarkation.
13. Embryos were not exported prior to the final endorsement of required veterinary health certificate by the competent veterinary authority.

Test Requirements:

The donor animals were tested according to recommendations in the OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals, with negative results, for the following diseases within 6 months prior to embryo/oocyte collection:

1. Tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*), for goats: Date of test: _____
2. Contagious epididymitis (*Brucella ovis*), for sheep: Date of test: _____
3. Maedi-visna (for sheep) OR caprine arthritis encephalitis (for goats): Date of test: _____
4. Bluetongue: Date of test: _____

Section IV: Government Certificate Legal Entry Requirements

Registration Requirements: All food products imported, advertised, sold or distributed in the country must first be registered with Ghana’s FDA under Sections 18 and 25 of the Food and Drugs Law of 1992 (PNDCL 305B) and Section 4 (b) of the Food and Drugs (Amendment) Act 523, 1996, respectively. The product will then receive a certificate with a registration number. In addition, only companies registered by the Registrar General’s Department are permitted to import food. Legally, failure to register any food item with the FDA means the product cannot be imported. The FDA may apply the following in the case of importation of unregistered products: re-exportation, destruction/confiscation and prosecution, or bringing the product into compliance with the law. Please see the 2020 GAIN FAIRS Country Report for Ghana for further information on registration requirements.

Customs clearance: Customs clearance of cargo through the seaports/air involves a collaborative effort with about twenty ministries, departments and agencies in order to fulfill contractual and tax obligations that might be associated with the import consignment. These bodies control different aspects of the importation/clearance process such as issuance of permits, exemptions or import declaration forms. For the clearance of food and agricultural products, those involved include the Ghana Revenue Authority’s Customs Division, the Ghana Ports and Harbors Authority (GPHA), GFDA, the Ghana Standards Authority (GSA), MOTI, MOFA’s Veterinary Services Directorate, Animal Production Directorate and the Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate, the Ghana Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Drug and Narcotics Board, Shipping Lines, other agencies, and various service providers at the ports of Ghana. Please see the 2020 GAIN FAIRS Country Report for Ghana for further information on import procedures and customs clearance.

General Labeling Requirements: The General Labeling Rules, 1992, (L. I. 1541) of FDA require that food labeling be informative and accurate. Ghana uses the Codex Alimentarius standards to formulate its labeling requirements. The minimum labeling requirements are as follows:

- Labeling should be in English. An English translation must be shown on the label or package insert (where applicable) if it is in another language;
- Labeling shall be legible and shall be of indelible ink;
- Name of product – Brand, Common name and Generic name should be in bold letters;
- Provide Net mass/weight, Net volume or Drained Weight (for solids in liquid medium, e.g. mackerel in tomato sauce) of content- specifying essential ingredients in metric weight for solids, semi-solids and aerosols, and metric volume for liquids;
- The manufacturer/exporter/agent’s name and complete address including location;
- The country of origin must be provided on the product label. L.I. 1541 Ghana Standards Authority (Food, Drugs and Other Goods) General Labeling Rule, 1992 Section 1(1) (i) states *“No person shall offer for sale, sell, distribute, import or otherwise dispose of prepackaged food or drug, unless the food or drug is marked or labeled with country of origin of the food or drug.”*

- Expiry Date: all food products should carry expiry dates and/or shelf life. The active ingredients should be specified on the packaging where applicable. The FDA regulation states that the expiry date should be "at least half the shelf life as at the time of inspection at the port of entry."
- List ingredients (specific names of ingredients and/or E-numbers) by their common names in order of importance by weight. If the food is "standardized," the label must include only those ingredients, which are optional for that standard; directions for use, if any.

Please see the 2020 GAIN FAIRS Country Report for Ghana for further information on labeling requirements.

General Import Requirements: For general guidance, importers are required to obtain the following documents:

- Original Bill of Lading /Airway Bill from the supplier;
- Attested pro-forma invoice from the supplier;
- An Import Declaration Form from the Ministry of Trade and Industry;
- Customs Classification and Valuation Report, which replaces the Final Classification and Valuation Report by Ghana Customs;
- Tax Clearance Certificate from the Domestic Tax Revenue Division of the Ghana Revenue Authority issued in the name of the importer;
- Tax Identification Number (TIN) from the Ghana Revenue Authority;
- Obtain a Packing List; a document that includes **details** about the contents of a package. The packing list is **intended** to let transport agencies, government authorities, and customers know the contents of the package. These **details** help each of these parties handle the package accordingly.
- Permit or License from the appropriate Ministry/Agency Department as applicable for restricted goods;
- Appropriate letter of Exemption from payment of Duty and /or taxes (as applicable); and
- Delivery Order.

Please see the 2020 GAIN FAIRS Country Report for Ghana for further information on general import requirements.

Section V: Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements to ensure market entry

Veterinary sanitary requirements and certificates: VSD (within MOFA) in Ghana is responsible for providing veterinary sanitary requirements and certificates for import and export of live animals, products of animal origin and animal by-products and live birds/day-old chicks/eggs.

VSD helps to:

1. Regulate imports of live birds and animals by ensuring that they are imported from countries certified by the OIE to be disease-free.
2. Control of movement of live animals and birds by ensuring that only healthy animals are permitted to be moved from one area to another to prevent disease transfer.

3. Ensure that all live animals coming into the country are quarantined and only those found healthy are allowed passage into the country.

Currently, requirements developed are limited in scope and not comprehensive enough. Additionally, the requirements are not available in a single database for easy retrieval. Consequently, Ghanaian responses to queries concerning requirements are often delayed, having negative impact on trade facilitation.

Import Permit: To import frozen poultry and poultry products into Ghana, an importer must obtain an import permit from MOFA. With the introduction of the e-customs clearance, the applicant needs the approval from the Minister of MOFA. Upon declaration at the ports, VSD is able to access via the online portal (UNI-PASS) to see whether the details of declaration (approved quantity, country of origin, specific meat product, etc.) matches the copy of approval provided to them by the Minister. At this stage if there is **NO** received approval from the Minister, VSD will alert port officials of the rejection of the permit request. However, if VSD receives a copy of the approval letter from the Minister, they communicate to the port officials that the product is under query, which means granting a provisional permit to the importer. VSD grants a final permit upon receiving required documents (veterinary certificates covering the product from the country of origin, bill of lading, among others) and some required payment from the importer at the VSD. In summary, the VSD has **NO** certificate covering their assessment of products. In addition, there is currently no transparency in the granting of permits.

Attachments:

No Attachments