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**Report Highlights:**

This report is an addendum to GAIN report number E42021-0072, the EU Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) Report, dated October 12, 2021. It is meant to be read in tandem with the aforementioned report and lists the Dutch import regulations and standards that are not harmonized within the EU, or where the Netherlands varies from the EU standards.

## Summary

This Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) Subject report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs in The Hague (FAS/The Hague). While the EU FAIRS report provides an overview of food and feed legislation currently in force for the European Union (EU), this report lists the Dutch import regulations and standards that are not harmonized within the EU or where the Netherlands varies with the EU. Accordingly, this report should be read in tandem with GAIN report number [E42021-0072: EU FAIRS Report, October 12, 2021](#). The sections below are numbered to correspond to the numbers in the EU Report.

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### DISCLAIMER:

While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, the information provided may not be completely accurate because policies may have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available at the time. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their Dutch buyers, who are in the best position to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. Final approval of any product is subject to Dutch regulations and standards as interpreted by border officials at the time of product entry.

For U.S. agricultural, forestry, fishery and food-related exports, the Netherlands is the gateway to the European Union (EU). In 2020, Dutch imports of U.S. agricultural and related products reached \$3.3 billion, and increased by nearly eight percent during the first eight months of 2021 (when compared to the same period in 2020). The main agricultural and food products imported from the United States were soybeans, food preparations, wood pellets, almonds, and beef.

Most, but not all, Dutch food legislation is harmonized at the EU level. However, imported products must meet existing Dutch requirements in cases where EU regulatory harmonization is not yet complete or absent. National measures still exist for the choice of language, use of stickers, samples, vegetarian and vegan products, packaging waste management, food contact materials, enzymes, processing aids, product registration, novel foods, fortified foods, food supplements, and irradiated foodstuffs.

FAS/The Hague recommends interested parties also read the Netherlands Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) – Certification Report. This, and all other reports, can be downloaded at: <https://gain.fas.usda.gov/#/>.

## **Section I. General Food Laws**

### **The Netherlands**

As a member of the EU, the Netherlands conforms to all EU regulations and directives. [Regulation 178/2002](#) (General Food Law) is the harmonized regulation that sets out the general principles and requirements of the EU's harmonized food law. The Dutch Food and Drugs Law is called “[Warenwet](#)” (in Dutch). The Warenwet provides the Dutch regulatory framework for all food and non-food products, and applies to domestically produced and imported products. Revisions of the Dutch Food and Drugs Law are published in the “[Staatscourant](#)” (where all other Dutch legislation can be found as well). If you are a U.S. interested party, or doing business with one, and need further assistance, please contact FAS/The Hague via [agthehague@usda.gov](mailto:agthehague@usda.gov).

The Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority, or NVWA, is the name of the Dutch food safety authority. It is an independent agency in the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature, and Food Quality. The NVWA monitors animal and plant health, animal welfare, and the safety of food and consumer products, as well as enforcing nature legislation, <https://english.nvwa.nl/about-us/organisation>. The NVWA's contact details can be found in Appendix I and online at <https://english.nvwa.nl/about-us/contact>.

## **Section II. Labeling Requirements**

### **A. General Requirements**

Per the EU, the standard U.S. label on food products fails to comply with EU labeling requirements. On December 13, 2014, the EU's “[Food Information to Consumers \(FIC\)](#)” [regulation 1169/2011](#) became applicable for all pre-packaged food and drink products marketed in the EU, including those imported from non-EU countries. The mandatory nutrition declaration requirement introduced by the FIC regulation went into effect on December 13, 2016. More information, as well as updates on EU labeling rules, can be found online at <http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/eu-labeling-requirements/>.

### **4. Language Requirements**

Dutch is the official language of the Netherlands. Therefore, labels must be in Dutch (while additional languages are permissible).

### **7. Minimum Durability**

Annex X to FIC regulation 1169/2011 sets out rules for the indication of the date of minimum durability, use-by date, and date of freezing. The use-by date must be indicated on pre-packed individual portions. The durability date AND the date of (first) freezing preceded by the words “frozen on” is required on labels of frozen meat, frozen meat preparations, and frozen unprocessed seafood products.

**In English:**

The date of 'minimum durability' shall be preceded by the words:

- 'Best before'
- 'Best before end'

**In Dutch:**

- 'Ten minste houdbaar tot'
- 'Ten minste houdbaar tot einde'

The 'use by' date shall be preceded by the words:

- 'Use by'
- 'Te gebruiken tot'

The date of 'freezing' or the date of 'first freezing' shall be preceded by the words:

- 'Frozen on'
- 'Ingevroren op'

THE Dutch government wants to [reduce food waste](#) by 50 percent by the year 2030. Together with the Dutch food industry and food distributors, the Ministry of Agriculture is discussing the use of 'best before' labels on food products. Although required in the above EU Regulation, many products which have a 'best before' date on the label are edible after that date but are often thrown away due to perceived safety concerns.

**12. Nutrition Declaration**

Article 35 of FIC Regulation 1169/2011 allows Member States to recommend the use of additional forms of expression or presentation on the nutrition declaration. There are several voluntary nutrition labeling schemes. In 2019, the Dutch government endorsed the Nutri-Score scheme. This scheme includes a color-coded designation from A (best nutritional quality) to E (poorer nutritional quality). Several Dutch retailers and food companies are using the Nutri-Score scheme. For additional information, see, e.g., [NL2019-2283: Dutch Food Company Adds Nutri-score to Packaged Products](#).

**15. Use of Stickers**

Packaged food products from the United States are often imported with a standard U.S. label and re-labeled in the Netherlands in order to meet the Dutch labeling requirements. Stick-on labels are accepted in the Netherlands.

**16. Samples**

Products from the United States that are not approved for export to the Netherlands and are used for research and diagnosis, pathogens, trade samples, and demonstration material purposes in the Netherlands can, in some cases, be granted an import exemption.

For animal and animal products, an import exemption can be requested by completing the following [document](#) (in Dutch). Additional information on requesting an import exemption can be found on the [website of the NVWA](#) (in Dutch).

For plants, produce, and plant based material, an import exemption can be requested by completing the following [document](#) (in Dutch). Additional information on requesting an import exemption can be found on the [website of the NVWA](#) (in Dutch).

## B. Other Specific Labeling Requirements

### 3. Labeling of Genetically Modified (GM) Foods

While there is an EU regulation for the labeling of genetically modified food products, EU-harmonized legislation defining “non-GM,” “GM-free,” or similar labeling terms does not exist.

In order to limit the number of labels on packaged food products, the Netherlands is of the opinion that there are three types of food products: GM foods (EU labeling regulations), organic foods (by definition they do not contain GM components (EU labeling regulations)), and conventional food products.

Food companies can, if they want, mention on their product label that a product is “produced without using genetically engineered technology” (in Dutch: “bereid zonder gentechniek”). If food companies want to mention this on their product label, they have to comply with the Dutch regulation [Warenwetbesluit nieuwe voedingsmiddelen en genetisch gemodificeerde levensmiddelen](#) (in Dutch).

### 4. Organic Food Labeling

Under the new EU Organic Regulation, which will enter into force on January 1, 2022, the EU-U.S. equivalency arrangement will expire five years after its entry into force. By this date, the equivalency arrangement has to be converted into an organic trade agreement. If not, U.S. exporters of certified organic products will have to fully comply with the same standards as the EU Organic Regulation.

### 12. Plant-based Meat and Dairy Alternatives

To date, there is no EU-harmonized definition of the terms “vegetarian” and “vegan” and no specific requirements for the labeling of plant-based meat and dairy alternatives.

In the Netherlands, vegetarian products can carry a V-label, which is widely used in Europe. The Vegan quality mark can be found on products worldwide. Additional information can be found **BOUT THIS LABELING** program at: <https://www.voedingscentrum.nl/encyclopedie/vegetarisch.aspx>.

Picture 1. The V-label and the Vegan quality mark



Source: <https://www.voedingscentrum.nl/encyclopedie/vegetarisch.aspx>

## **Section III. Packaging and Container Requirements**

### **B. Packaging Waste Management**

EU Member States are required to take measures to reduce packaging waste and must introduce systems for reuse, recovery, and recycling of packaging materials ([Council Directive 94/62/EC](#)). In the Netherlands, the Afvalfonds Verpakkingen (Packaging Waste Fund) was established by producers and importers to collectively meet the extended producer responsibilities as outlined in the Packaging Decree and Packaging Agreement. More information can be found on their website <https://afvalfondsverpakkingen.nl/en/> and <http://www.pro-e.org/netherlands1.htm>.

### **D. Material in Contact with Food Stuff**

An introduction to the European Food Contact Material (FCM) legislation can be found on the website of the European Commission at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/chemical\\_safety/food\\_contact\\_materials\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/chemical_safety/food_contact_materials_en). Member States are allowed to provisionally authorize the use of certain substances not listed in one of the specific EU directives. Member States may also restrict or temporarily prohibit the use of certain materials authorized by the specific directives for reasons of public health. This, however, is a practice that is rarely used. When there is no specific EU legislation, EU Member States may establish national measures. The Netherlands has national rules for a number of materials: paper and board, rubber, metals and alloys, glass and glass ceramics, ceramics and enamels, textiles, wood and cork, coatings and varnishes, and colorants and pigments. The Dutch Warenwet covers the legislation on and requirements for food contact materials, detailed information can be found [here](#) (in Dutch). The competent authority in the Netherlands is the Ministry of Public Health, Welfare, and Sport.

## **Section IV. Food Additive Regulations**

### **C. Enzymes**

The existing [provisions](#) (in Dutch) in the Netherlands on the marketing of food enzymes will continue to apply until the adoption of an EU positive list of authorized enzymes, which is currently under development. In addition, there are [restrictions on the use of enzymes in meal and bread in the Netherlands](#). Guidance documents on the use of enzymes can be found on the European Commission's website at: [https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food-improvement-agents/enzymes/eu-rules\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food-improvement-agents/enzymes/eu-rules_en). The competent authority in the Netherlands is the Ministry of Public Health, Welfare, and Sport.

### **D. Processing Aids**

EU harmonized rules only exist for certain categories of processing aids: a list of extraction solvents allowed in the production of foodstuffs and food ingredients, along with their conditions of use has been established in [Council Directive 2009/32/EC](#). Processing aids that are subject to Dutch legislation can be found in the '[Warenwetbesluit Bereiding en Behandeling van Levensmiddelen](#)' and '[Warenwetregeling Extractiemiddelen](#).' The competent authority in the Netherlands is the Ministry of Public Health, Welfare, and Sport.

## **Section V. Pesticides and Contaminants**

### **A. Pesticides**

[EU Regulation 1107/2009](#) sets out rules for the authorization of plant protection products. For the authorization/withdrawal of plant protection products, the EU is divided into three zones. The Netherlands, together with Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Hungary, Austria, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, and Slovakia, falls under Zone B – Centre (see Annex I of regulation 1107/2009).

## **Section VI. Other Requirements, Regulations, and Registration Measures**

### **A. Certification and Document Requirements**

Following an update of the EU's Animal Health Law, which entered into force on April 21, 2021, the EU has updated required certificates for products of animal origin. Models of the new certificates for foods of animal origin were published in [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) No 2020/2235](#), as amended by [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/1471](#). The transitional provisions of Regulation 2020/2235 allows for the continued use of the old certificates until March 15, 2022, provided that the certificates are signed before January 15, 2022. As of the submission of this report, U.S. Government agencies had not yet switched to any of the new certificates. This is also the case for the composite product certificates issued by the Agricultural Marketing Service and Food Safety and Inspection Service (see below).

### **Composite Products**

[Regulation \(EU\) 2019/625](#) defines composite products as foodstuffs intended for human consumption that contain processed products of animal origin and ingredients of plant origin. Composite products include a wide variety of products, including, for example, cheesecakes, high protein food supplements, pizza, and lasagnas. Several U.S. exports of “composite products” continue to be restricted by burdensome certification requirements. While the U.S. is eligible to ship hormone-free meat, dairy products, egg products, and fishery products separately, it is often not possible to ship the composite products that combine these eligible ingredients. At the time of this report's publication, those which only contain dairy and egg products can be exported to the Netherlands.

Exporters should be aware that in parallel with the aforementioned changes to the composite product certificate, the EU also made changes to the categories of composite products that require U.S. Government-issued health certificates. The new system is no longer based on the percentage of ingredients of animal product in the final product, as was the case until April 21, 2021. The new system that went into effect on April 21, 2021 establishes three categories of composite products: (1) non-shelf stable composite products, (2) shelf stable composite products that contain meat products, and (3) shelf stable composite products that do not contain meat products. All processed products of animal origin have to be sourced from EU-approved establishments. The EU continues to require composite product certificates for all non-shelf stable products and for shelf stable composite products with a meat ingredient. A private company attestation will be required for shelf stable products not containing meat. It should be noted that this attestation is not issued by the U.S. Government, but has to be signed by a representative of the importing company.

More information on the import conditions for composite products is available on the European Commission's [website](#). This website also includes a compilation of [Questions & Answers](#) intended to clarify a multitude of practical questions that have been raised on the new rules.

## **B. Inspections**

The list of animal origin products subject to official controls at border posts was updated in [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/632](#). Composite products listed in [Commission Delegated Regulation 2021/630](#) are exempted from checks at the border because of the low risk present. The list includes products such as biscuits, confectionary and food supplements. All consignments to be presented at the border control posts have to undergo documentary checks. Identity and physical checks are carried out at a frequency depending on the risk linked to the specific animals or goods. The criteria to determine and modify the frequency rates are established by the Commission.

The EU also maintains a list of food and feed of non-animal origin from certain third countries subject to a specified level of physical controls for certain contaminants. This list is published in [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1793](#) and is regularly reviewed to account for the latest noncompliance information.

In the Netherlands, the NVWA is responsible for inspections. Criteria for laboratories conducting food controls have been harmonized, but it is the Member States' responsibility to designate laboratories that are allowed to perform analyses. A list of laboratories designated by the Netherlands to perform analysis can be found at the website of the Dutch Accreditation Council at: <https://www.rva.nl/en/alle-geaccrediteerden/>. Different laboratories are accredited for different types of controls.

Dutch Accreditation Council (RVA)  
P.O. Box 2768, 3500 GT Utrecht, the Netherlands  
Phone: +31-30-239-4500  
Email: [contact@rva.nl](mailto:contact@rva.nl)  
Website: <https://www.rva.nl/en>

## **D. Product Registration**

Certain foods, such as total diet replacements for weight control, fall within the scope of the EU's [Foods for Specific Groups Regulation 609/2013](#), and must be notified to the competent authority of the Member State where the food is marketed.

Exporters of vitamin-enriched foods or nutritional supplements are advised to check for the existence of specific EU Member State registration or notification requirements. The competent authority in the Netherlands is the Ministry of Public Health, Welfare, and Sport.

## **Section VII. Other Specific Standards**

### **A. Novel Foods**

The [EU framework regulation 2015/2283](#) on Novel Foods became applicable on January 1, 2018. Food business operators are responsible for verifying whether the food or ingredient they intend to market in the EU is novel or not. Novel Food regulation 2015/2283 provides for a consultation process when the status of a food or food ingredient is unsure. [Commission Implementing Regulation 2018/456](#) lists the



procedural steps that food business operators must follow to consult with the competent authority of the EU Member State where they first intend to market their product. The competent authority in the Netherlands is the Ministry of Public Health, Welfare, and Sport.

Consultation requests should be sent electronically to the novel food assessment body:

Medicines Evaluation Board (CBG-MEB)

Novel Food Unit

P.O. Box 8275

3503 RG Utrecht, the Netherlands

Email: [novelfoods@cbg-meb.nl](mailto:novelfoods@cbg-meb.nl)

Website: <https://english.cbg-meb.nl/>

#### **D. Fortified Foods**

[European Parliament and Council Regulation 1925/2006](#) established an EU-wide regulatory framework for the addition of vitamins and mineral and of certain other substances such as herbal extracts to foods. It lists the vitamins and minerals that may be added to foods and sets criteria for setting maximum and minimum levels.

Maximum permitted levels of vitamins and minerals that are not yet harmonized, are still subject to Member State national rules. In the Netherlands, these national rules are regulated in the Dutch Decision [Warenwetbesluit toevoeging micro-voedingsstoffen aan levensmiddelen](#). The competent authority in the Netherlands is the Ministry of Public Health, Welfare, and Sport.

#### **F. Food Supplements**

[Regulation \(EC\) No 999/2001](#) has been amended by [Commission Implementing Decision 2016/1196](#). As a result, Dutch import requirements changed. U.S. manufacturers of gelatin capsules containing fish oil who wish to export to the Netherlands need, in addition to a fishery certificate issued by U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), a TSE attestation per Annex V to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001.

U.S. exporters of whey protein supplements should work with their importers to determine whether the product should be accompanied by a certificate for processed dairy products or one for composite products. For more information see [GAIN report "Certification and Labeling of EU Whey Protein Supplements."](#) Marketing food supplements in the EU is a very complex issue. The [GAIN report "Exporting Food Supplements to the EU"](#) provides detailed information on marketing food supplements in the EU.

#### **G. Irradiated Foodstuffs**

Harmonization of EU rules on food irradiation has been slow and only a few products have so far received EU-wide approval. Until the EU positive list is expanded, national authorizations continue to apply. When the requirements in the Dutch [Warenwetbesluit Doorstraalde Waren](#) are met, it is possible to import irradiated food products from the United States into the Netherlands. The main requirements are that the treatment must have taken place at an EU-approved facility and that each shipment must include the name and address of this approved facility. The competent authority in the Netherlands is the Ministry of Public Health, Welfare, and Sport.

**In English:**

If products treated with ionizing radiation, are sold, the words 'irradiated' or 'treated with ionizing radiation' shall appear on the label.

**In Dutch:**

In the Netherlands the label should mention 'doorstraald,' 'door straling behandeld,' or 'met ioniserende straling behandeld.'

**H. Seafood**

On September 23, 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the European Commission (EC), took important steps to open the market for the sale of molluscan shellfish, including oysters, clams, mussels, and scallops, from both the United States and the EU to their consumers. Initially, certain firms in Washington and Massachusetts will have access to the EU market. U.S. firms in other states soon will have an opportunity to be considered, using a streamlined process established by the FDA and the EC. Background and more detailed information can be found online at: <https://www.fda.gov/food/cfsan-constituent-updates/fda-finalizes-first-food-safety-equivalence-determination-resumption-shellfish-trade-spain-and>.

Detailed information on shipping seafood and fish products to the EU is provided online at:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/seafood-commerce-certification/export-certification-european-union>.

**J. Vegetarian and Vegan Foods, and Plant-Based Meat and/or Dairy Alternatives**

The [Food Information to Consumers \(FIC\) regulation 1169/2011](#) requires the European Commission to set out rules for the voluntary labeling of foods as "suitable for vegetarians and vegans." To date, the Commission has not adopted an EU-harmonized definition of the terms "vegetarian" and "vegan." In the absence of EU-harmonized rules, many food companies have started using the "European V-label," a labeling scheme launched by umbrella organization the European Vegetarian Union (EVU). For more information see EVU's website at <http://v-label.eu/about-v-label>.

In July 2017, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruled that plant-based products cannot be labeled with dairy names such as "cheese," "butter" or "milk". The ECJ based [its ruling](#) on [Regulation 1308/2013](#) setting out definitions and designations that may only be used for the marketing of dairy products. A list of exceptions for non-dairy products that may be labeled with reserved dairy names was established by [Commission Decision 2010/791](#). For more information, please see GAIN Report "[European Court Prohibits Use of Dairy Names for Non-Dairy Products](#)."

**Section VIII. Trademarks, Brand Names, and Intellectual Property Rights****A. Trademarks**

The Netherlands' Office for Intellectual Property is the official government body responsible for granting patents, designs, trademarks, and copyright. Exporters wanting to register trademarks/brand names are advised to contact:

The Office for Intellectual Property  
P.O. Box 90404, 2509 LK The Hague, the Netherlands  
Phone: +31-70-349-1111

Website: <https://www.boip.int/en>

More detailed information on trademarks can be found [here](#).

## Section IX. Import Procedures

U.S. companies interested in sending samples to the Netherlands should consider contacting USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service in the Netherlands for guidance by sending an email to [agthehague@usda.gov](mailto:agthehague@usda.gov).

Animal and plant products are brought in from countries all over the world into the EU. To prevent the introduction of animal diseases and pests, and to protect the market from public health risks, the European Commission set out detailed regulations. On this basis, the Dutch NVWA performs checks on:

**Live Animals** (such as horses, chickens, and ornamental fish) and products of animal origin (such as meat, fish, wildlife, and animal feed): More detailed information on the import procedures for animals and products of animal origin can be found on the following websites: <https://english.nvwa.nl/topics/themes/animal-health> and <https://www.nvwa.nl/onderwerpen/import-van-dieren-en-producten-van-dierlijke-oorsprong>.

**Food Stuff**s (such as vegetables, dried fruits, spices, nuts, and seeds): More detailed information on the import procedures for food stuffs can be found on the following websites: <https://english.nvwa.nl/topics/themes/food-safety> and <https://www.nvwa.nl/onderwerpen/import-van-levensmiddelen-en-consumentenproducten>.

**Plant Products:** Veterinary checks are applicable to some plant products, especially hay and straw. These products may only be imported from certain countries. More detailed information on the import procedures for plant products can be found on the following websites: <https://english.nvwa.nl/topics/themes/plant-health> and <https://www.nvwa.nl/onderwerpen/import-planten-groenten-fruit-plantaardige-producten>.

The [CITES regulations](#) (CITES: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild flora and fauna) are, in addition to the national and EU legislation, applicable on the import of live animals, animal products, food, and plant products into the Netherlands.

## Section X. Trade Facilitation

### A. Advance Ruling

In the Netherlands, it is possible to obtain Binding Tariff Information (BTI) by contacting the Tax Office and completing the [application form](#) (in Dutch). This service is especially advisable for more complex food products, as it involves closer consideration of the product's composite ingredients and is legally binding. The BTI is valid for three years. With a BTI, both the U.S. exporter and the Dutch importer know how the goods are classified and what documentation is required. As of October 1, 2019, business operators shall introduce all new applications electronically. More information is available online on the [EC's website](#).

Tax Office  
Belastingdienst Douane Breda  
Team Bindende Tariefinlichtingen  
Phone: +31-88-153-4414

### **C. Electronic Certificates**

The Official Controls Regulation (OCR - Regulation (EU) 2017/625) provides the legal basis for the general EU acceptance of electronic certificates using the EU's Integrated Management System for Official Controls (IMSOC). The United States issues electronic certificates for some product groups, e.g. almonds and organic products.

### **E. Average Release Time for Products - Common Delays**

An overview of checks that can be performed at the Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) in the Netherlands can be found online at: <https://www.nvwa.nl/onderwerpen/import-van-levensmiddelen-en-consumentenproducten/documenten/import/diversen/nvwa-import-levensm-diervoeder-productveiligheid/2016m/aangewezen-controle-locaties>.

**Documentary Check:** This is an examination of the original required documents that accompany the consignment based on model certificates according to EU legislation. The documentary check is carried out by Customs, based on an agreement between the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature, and Food Quality and the Ministry of Finance.

**Identity Check:** This is to ascertain that the products correspond to the information given in the accompanying certificates or documents. All veterinary goods undergo an identity check and this check is conducted by comparing the seal number of the container with the seal number mentioned on the Health Certificate. If no seal number is mentioned on the Health Certificate, the veterinary authorities will need to open the shipment to conduct the identity check.

**Physical Check:** This is a check on the product itself, to verify compliance with the food or feed law.

If the NVWA decides to detain a shipment, it will produce an [official notification](#) which will be sent to the freight forwarder. This notification will mention the reason why this shipment was detained and what needs to be done in order to release it. If the NVWA **plans to reject** a shipment, it will draw up this [notification](#); if the NVWA **has decided to reject** a shipment it will draw up this [notification](#). Additional information on the Border Inspection Post (BIP) procedure can be found online [here](#).

## **Appendix I. Government Regulatory Key Agency Contacts**

Ministry of Agriculture, Nature, and Food Quality  
P.O. Box 20401, 2500 EK The Hague, the Netherlands  
Phone: +31-70-379-8911

Website: <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/ministeries/ministerie-van-landbouw-natuur-en-voedselkwaliteit>

Ministry of Finance  
P.O. Box 20201, 2500 EE The Hague, the Netherlands  
Phone: +31-88-442-8000

Website: <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/ministeries/ministerie-van-financien>

Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport  
Department for Nutrition, Health Protection and Prevention  
Team Food Safety

P.O. Box 20350  
2500 EJ The Hague, the Netherlands  
Phone: +31-70-340-6957

E-mail: [dienstpostbusVGP-secretariaat@minvws.nl](mailto:dienstpostbusVGP-secretariaat@minvws.nl)

Website: <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/ministeries/ministerie-van-volksgezondheid-welzijn-en-sport>

The Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA)  
PO Box 43006, 3540 AA Utrecht, the Netherlands  
Phone: +31-88-223-2233  
Email: [info@nvwa.nl](mailto:info@nvwa.nl)  
Website: <https://english.nvwa.nl/>

## **Appendix II. Other Import Specialist Contacts**

There are no other import specialist contacts.

### **Attachments:**

No Attachments