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FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:

This report lists Nicaraguan import requirements for export certificates and import permits for agrochemicals, veterinary products, feedstuffs and processed food products.

General Information:

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DISCLAIMER: This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Managua, Nicaragua 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.

Section I. List of All Export Certificates Required by Government of Nicaragua (Matrix)

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAGFOR) and the Ministry of Health (MINSA) in Nicaragua require registration of imported products prior to issuing import permits. MAGFOR regulates imports of agrochemicals, veterinary products and feedstuffs. MINSA regulates imports of food products.

Table 1. Export Certificate Matrix

Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
Agrochemicals, Veterinary Products	Certificate of Origin, Certificate of Free Sale, Certificate of Qualitative-Quantitative Analysis	Certificates must be issued by a competent government authority	Traceability	MAGFOR

Feedstuffs	Certificate of Free Sale, Certificate of Origin, Certificate Chemical of Analysis (issued by the manufacturer), SPS certificate	Certificates must be issued by a competent government authority except for the certificate of chemical analysis.	Traceability	MAGFOR
Plant Products and Sub-products	SPS certificate, Certificate of Chemical Treatment (when applicable)	Certificates must be issued by a competent government authority	Traceability	MAGFOR
Animal Products and Sub-products	SPS Certificate	Certificate must be issued by a competent government authority	Traceability	MAGFOR
Processed Food Products	Certificate of Free Sale, Certificate of Chemical Analysis	Certificates must be issued by a competent government authority	Traceability	MINSA

Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

MAGFOR, through the Direction of Agricultural Services (DISAG - Ing. Rolando García, Head of Agrochemical Branch rgarcia@dgpsa.gob.ni) a subdivision of the General Direction for Animal and Plant Health Protection (DGPSA), maintains the following requirements for the importation of agrochemicals, veterinary products and feedstuffs.

Products imported into Nicaragua must be already registered in the country of origin. DISAG maintains an individual product registry file that must contain the following certificates issued by a competent government authority: origin, free sale, qualitative-quantitative analysis and chemical analysis. Please see table 1 for specific certificates applicable to each group of products.

In addition to these certificates, DISAG also requires a sanitary or phytosanitary (SPS) certificate for products and by-products of animal or plant origin. These certificates must be presented for registration one time prior to the first importation. Subsequent

importations of the same product do not require the certificate indicated above. Product registration at MAGFOR is valid for ten years. MAGFOR requires annual renewal of product registration.

Plant Products and Sub-products are regulated by the Plant Health Direction (Lic. Marlene Vargas, Plant Quarantine Director mvargas@dgpsa.gob.ni) at DGPSA. This direction requires a SPS certificate, a certificate of chemical treatment (when applicable) to issue an import permit. Please see attached Technical Norm 11 005-08 for additional information on import requirements applied to imports of plant products, plant sub-products and living modified organisms. Animal Products and Sub-products are regulated by the Animal Health Direction (Dr. Edgar Nicaragua, Animal Quarantine Director enicaragua@dgpsa.gob.ni) at DGPSA. This direction requires a SPS certificate to issue an import permit. Please see APHIS' [import and export matrix](#) for a list of plant or animal export protocols already negotiated between USDA and MAGFOR. Furthermore, please see the following MAGFOR websites for additional import information on: [agrochemicals and veterinary products](#), [feedstuffs](#) and a list of official [technical norms](#).

Processed food products are regulated by the MINSA through the Direction of Food Control (Lic. Edgardo Pérez, Food Regulation Director, alimento@minsa.gob.ni and Lic. Mayling Centeno, Sanitary Registration Chief, registro-sanitario@minsa.gob.ni). The Direction of Food Control requires a certificate of free sale and a certificate of chemical analysis. To register food products, the petitioner must present a certificate of free sale issued in the country of origin by competent government sanitary authorities. Food products must have a current sanitary registry in the country of origin. The Direction of Food Control has the following requirements to register food products:

- Request for sanitary registry
- Updated copy of Nicaraguan sanitary registration
- Technical specifications of the product
- Certificate of free sale issued by a competent government authority
- Three samples of 500 g from the same lot in its original package. For liquids three samples of one liter
- Cashier receipt for laboratory analysis
- Two labels of the product. If the label is not in Spanish an additional label with Spanish translation must be attached
- Cashier receipt for certification (500 *córdobas*) approximately \$24

Registration is valid for five years and can be renewed thirty days prior to expiration date by presenting all the requirements listed above. All documents presented in English must be translated into Spanish. Once MINSA registers a product, it will issue a certificate of free sale for mass distribution in Nicaragua. The registration process takes on average twenty-one days when all the required documents are presented. For additional import regulations on processed food products please visit [MINSA's Direction of Food Control](#) website.

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

A competent government authority from the exporting country has to issue all required certificates. MAGFOR must compile a product file prior to issuing an import permit. This product file must include the product origin, commercial name, manufacturer, formula and SPS status for products of animal or plant origin. The chemist of the manufacturing company must sign the certificate of qualitative-quantitative analysis.

The certificate of free sale required by MINSA must state that the product is of free sale in the country of origin and that the product is apt for human consumption. MAGFOR requires specific attestations when an animal or plant health condition is developed in the exporting country. In such cases MAGFOR will provide importers with a detailed outline of the attestation for the export/SPS certificates.

Section IV. Government Certificate's Legal Entry Requirements

MAGFOR or MINSA must issue an import permit prior to each importation. The importer requests the import permit with supporting information including of a copy of a SPS certificate, certificate of origin and a commercial invoice. Consistent information such as amount, description, origin and point of shipping must be stated in the request form. MINSA requires that processed food products be registered in Nicaragua prior to importation. Food samples for showcasing are allowed one entry without registration but they must be accompanied by certificate of free sale.

SPS technical officers review the supporting documents (original import permit, original SPS certificate or certificate of origin and a copy of the commercial invoice) and inspect a product at the time of entry.

An import permit is valid for one shipment. If the import permit is not used within thirty days, the importer may request government of Nicaragua authorities to renew it. MAGFOR and MINSA will accept only certificates issued by competent government authorities of the exporting country.

When shipment of products does not meet Government of Nicaragua import requirements, products are normally detained at the port of entry for sampling. Samples are subject to laboratory analysis to determine its physical and chemical characteristics. A product may be confiscated for destruction, re-exported, depending on its condition, as determined by government authorities.

Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements

At the time this report was written, there are no additional import requirements that apply or are associated with plant, animal or processed food products being certified in conformance with Nicaragua's laws.

Appendix I.

Please see attached the following documents:

1. Technical Norm 11 005-08 Import Requirements for Plant Products, Plant sub-products and Living Modified Organisms
2. SPS Import Permit Format for Plant and Animal Products
3. SPS Import Permit Format for Veterinary Products and Feed Stuffs
4. Sanitary Registration Certificate Format
5. Sanitary Registration Request format
6. Authorization Form for Import of Processed Food Products
7. Import Permit Request Form for Processed Food Products
8. Sanitary Registration Request Form for Processed Food Products

