

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

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Global Agricultural Information Network

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Sweden

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification

FAIRS Export Certificate Report

Approved By:

Paul Spencer

Prepared By:

Asa Wideback

Report Highlights:

Sections updated: I, II and III. As a member of the European Union (EU), Sweden fully applies EU regulations on export certificates. In addition to certificates required by the EU, there are specific sanitary certificate requirements with regard to salmonella for imports of fresh meat, meat preparations and eggs into Sweden.

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

Being a member of the European Union (EU), Sweden fully applies EU export certificate regulations. For a list of EU-required export certificates and the products they cover, please refer to the U.S. Mission to the European Union's FAIRS Export Certificate GAIN report available at: www.fas.usda.gov/posthome/useu/ as well as at www.fas.usda.gov.

In addition to those certificates required by the EU, Sweden also has specific salmonella import certificate and testing requirements for fresh meat, meat preparations or minced meat (with the exception of heat-treated meats) and eggs. These requirements are regulated in Regulation (EC) No 1688/2005. According to EU Decision 2008/752, a declaration on the veterinary certificate for meat products is enough to certify that the salmonella tests have been conducted according to 1688/2005 [1]. With regard to eggs and egg products, the specific salmonella requirements only apply to fresh eggs. Heat treated egg products may be imported without salmonella certification. There are, however, no establishments in the US approved for exports of fresh eggs to the EU. Finland is currently the only country that fulfills Sweden's zero tolerance for salmonella and imports of fresh eggs from other countries are practically impossible.

^[1]The model certificates in this regulation are intended for internal trade within the EU but were previously also used for external trade with third countries. After the implementation of EU Decision 2008/752, however, a declaration on the veterinary certificate for meat products is enough to certify that the salmonella tests have been conducted according to EU Regulation 1688/2005.

Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

Salmonella Guarantees

The purpose of the salmonella guarantee is to provide consumer protection. In its EU accession, Sweden and Finland received a derogation allowing them to apply stricter salmonella controls than other EU member countries. Sweden and Finland were granted additional salmonella guarantees covering trade in fresh meat from bovines and hogs, fresh poultry meat and table eggs, which were extended to minced meat. All consignments containing fresh meat, meat preparations or minced meat (with the exception of heat-treated meats) are subject to salmonella control.

Salmonella regulations are stipulated in Commission Regulation (EC) No 1688/2005 and the National Food Administration regulations (LIVSFS 2005:22). These regulations do not apply to imports from Norway and Finland, since these countries have the same salmonella status as Sweden.

New Methods Approved for Salmonella Testing

The EU Commission has approved new testing methods for salmonella in fresh meat (beef, pork and poultry) imported from another EU country. Commission Decision 2003/470/EG approves alternative analytical methods for salmonella testing than those referred to in Decisions 95/409/EG and 95/411/EG. Importers who wish to use other test methods for salmonella are required to provide documentation to the National Food Administration demonstrating that the method used is valid and in accordance with Decision 2003/470/EC. Questions regarding testing methods may be addressed to the National Food Administration (Tel: +4618-17 55 00).

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

Salmonella – Meat

The specific declaration (attestation) required on the veterinary certificate certifies that the product to be imported into Sweden fulfils the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1688/2005, implementing Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards special guarantees concerning salmonella for consignments to Finland and Sweden of certain meat and eggs.

Section IV. Government Certificate's Legal Entry Requirements

Salmonella Meat

- Does the original certificate need to accompany the product at the time of entry?

Yes. Sweden accepts certificates in Swedish and English.

- Can the certificate be applied to multiple shipments?

No. The Certificate follows the individual consignment.

- Will Sweden accept a Supplier's or Manufacturer's Export Declaration as proof of compliance?

Yes, this is acceptable for meats.

- Will Sweden accept a U.S. State issued export certificate?

Yes, provided that it includes the specific declaration (attestation) that the product to be imported into Sweden fulfils the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1688/2005.

- Will Sweden derogate export certificates?

The EU has a bilateral mutual equivalency veterinary trade agreement with the United States facilitating import procedures. However, the certificate requirements must be respected.

Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements

Foods of animal origin (meat, fish, milk, eggs and products thereof) must come from an EU-approved establishment in the country of origin and be accompanied by a veterinary/health certificate as described in Section I. The list of approved U.S. export facilities can be found on the website of the Foreign Agricultural Service U.S. Mission to the European Union at:

www.fas.usda.gov/posthome/useu/

Author Defined:

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