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Report Highlights:

This report provides Germany specific information that complements the EU-27 FAIRS Export Certificate Annual Report, which covers the harmonized EU certificate requirements.

Disclaimer

This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Berlin, Germany 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.

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Executive Summary

This report outlines specific German export certificates. The export certification requirements for most products destined for the European Union (EU) market have been harmonized. Germany, as a member of the EU, conforms to all EU regulations and directives. It is therefore recommended that this report is read in conjunction with the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) export certificate report produced by the U.S. Mission to the EU in Brussels, Belgium which you can find in the public [FAS GAIN database](#). The report was written in March 2024. Information on ministries responsible for food safety and border inspection and information on import derogations for product samples and trade fairs was updated.

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

Germany is a Member State of the European Union (EU) and adheres to all food import and certification requirements that are harmonized throughout the EU. We therefore recommend that this report on the certification requirements for exports to Germany is read in conjunction with the EU Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) Export Certificate Report, which references all existing certificates that are valid for export to all 27 countries of the European Union. In addition, it provides links to U.S. agencies or organizations which issue certificates. The [EU-27 FAIRS Export Certificate Report](#) is produced by the U.S. Mission to the European Union in Brussels, Belgium. It is also available at the FAS GAIN Report Database at <https://gain.fas.usda.gov/#/search>.

The few products not yet harmonized are subject to German national regulations. Examples of such products include but are not limited to research materials or materials containing epizootic pathogens. The competent German authority needs to be consulted on a case-by-case basis to address requirements for non-harmonized products. There are no standardized certificates for non-harmonized products.

Imported products must meet existing EU and member state (MS) requirements and products must be accompanied by the proper certification at port of arrival. 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. It should be noted, however, that model certificates may not be available for products that have never been exported to the EU before or if the relevant U.S. authority is not in a position to provide the guarantees as required by the EU. In this case, a tailored certificate must be negotiated with the German and U.S. respective competent authorities. References to the EU legislation that forms the basis for the health certificate are also provided in the [EU-27 FAIRS Report](#).

While certification requirements are developed at the EU level, the member state inspection services are responsible for the enforcement of EU legislation through inspection of imported goods and the corresponding certificates. In Germany, food safety is primarily the responsibility of the 16 federal states (*Bundesländer*). Official surveillance is coordinated by the respective state ministries or, in city-states, by the respective senate administration department. The different states have issued authority for food safety to different ministries (see table below).

List of State Ministries Responsible for Food Safety and Border Inspection

State	Ministry	English Translation
Baden-Württemberg	Ministerium für Ernährung, Ländlichen Raum und Verbraucherschutz (MLR) https://mlr.baden-wuerttemberg.de	Ministry of Food, Rural Areas, and Consumer Protection
Bavaria	Bayerische Staatsministerium für Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz (StMUV) https://www.stmuv.bayern.de	Bavarian State Ministry for the Environment and Consumer Protection

State	Ministry	English Translation
Berlin	Senatsverwaltung für Justiz und Verbraucherschutz <i>Abteilung VI – Verbraucherschutz; Referat VI A – Gesundheitlicher Verbraucherschutz - Veterinärwesen</i> https://www.berlin.de/sen/verbraucherschutz/	Senate Administration for Justice and Consumer Protection
Brandenburg	Ministerium für Soziales, Gesundheit, Integration und Verbraucherschutz des Landes Brandenburg (MSGIV) https://msgiv.brandenburg.de/msgiv/de/	Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Integration, and Consumer Protection
Bremen	Freie Hansestadt Bremen Senatorin für Gesundheit, Frauen und Verbraucherschutz <i>Referat - Verbraucherschutz, Veterinärwesen und Pflanzenschutz</i> https://www.gesundheit.bremen.de/	The Senator for Health, Women and Consumer Protection
Hamburg	Freie und Hansestadt Hamburg Behörde für Justiz und Verbraucherschutz (BJV) <i>Abteilung Lebensmittelsicherheit und Veterinärwesen</i> https://www.hamburg.de/bjv/	Administration for Justice and Consumer Protection
Hesse	Hessisches Ministerium für Landwirtschaft und Umwelt, Weinbau, Forsten, Jagd und Heimat (HMLUWFJH) <i>Referat V6 "Veterinärhygienische Angelegenheiten bei der Ein-, Durch- und Ausfuhr, Tierarzneimittel, Tierärztliche Berufsangelegenheiten"</i> https://umwelt.hessen.de/verbraucherschutz/lebensmittelsicherheit	Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, Viticulture, Forestry, Hunting and the Community of the State of Hesse
Lower Saxony	Niedersächsisches Ministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz https://www.ml.niedersachsen.de/startseite/	Ministry for Food, Agriculture, and Consumer Protection
Mecklenburg- Western Pomerania	Ministerium für Klimaschutz, Landwirtschaft, ländliche Räume und Umwelt <i>Referat VI-520 - Veterinärwesen</i> https://www.regierung-mv.de/Landesregierung/lm	Ministry for Climate Protection, Agriculture, Rural Areas, and the Environment
North Rhine- Westphalia	Ministerium für Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen https://www.mlv.nrw.de/	Ministry for Agriculture and Consumer-Protection
Rhineland- Palatinate	Ministerium für Klimaschutz, Umwelt, Energie und Mobilität Rheinland-Pfalz https://mkuem.rlp.de/de/startseite/	Ministry for Climate, Environment, Energy, and Mobility
Saarland	Ministerium für Umwelt, Klima, Mobilität, Agrar und Verbraucherschutz <i>Referat C2 – Veterinärwesen, Tierschutz</i> https://www.saarland.de/mukmav/DE/home/home_node.html	Ministry for the Environment, Climate, Mobility, Agriculture, and Consumer Protection
Saxony	Sächsische Staatsministerium für Soziales und Gesellschaftlichen Zusammenhalt (SMS) <i>Referat 24 – Veterinärwesen, Tierschutz</i> https://www.sms.sachsen.de/	Saxonian State Ministry for Social Affairs and Social Cohesion

State	Ministry	English Translation
Saxony-Anhalt	Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Tourismus, Landwirtschaft und Forsten des Landes Sachsen-Anhalt https://mw1.sachsen-anhalt.de/ministerium/	Ministry of Economy, Tourism, Agriculture and Forestry
Schleswig-Holstein	Ministerium für Landwirtschaft, ländliche Räume, Europa und Verbraucherschutz des Landes Schleswig-Holstein <i>Referat Veterinärwesen</i> https://www.schleswig-holstein.de/DE/landesregierung/ministerien-behoerden/IX/IX_node.html	Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Areas, European Affairs, and Consumer Protection
Thuringia	Ministerium für Arbeit, Soziales, Gesundheit, Frauen und Familie <i>Referat 51 – Tierseuchenschutz, Tiergesundheit, Tierkörperbeseitigung</i> https://www.tmasgff.de/	Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Health, Women, and Family Affairs

Matrix of Export Certificates Required by the EU and its Member States

This matrix lists the type of certificates the EU requires. For details and links to model certificates please refer to Appendix I of the [EU-27 FAIRS Export Certificate Report](#)

Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
Products of animal origin	Health Certificates	Attestation is dependent on the product. Models of the new certificates for food of animal origin were published in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 2020/2235, in its latest consolidated version of January 2024.	Food Safety	Competent authority in the state of point of entry – see list above. Enforcement through respective Border Control Point (BCP).
Composite products	Health Certificate/ Private Attestation	Whether a health certificate or a private attestation is needed, is dependent on the product. Please see EU-27 FAIRS Export Certificate Report See Appendix II - Composite products for comprehensive information.	Food Safety	Competent authority in the state of point of entry – see list above. Enforcement through respective BCP
Plant products that can introduce pests	Phytosanitary Certificate	APHIS inspectors, attest to specific requirements of EU legislation by making additional declarations in the	Plant Health	Competent authority in the state of point of entry – see list

Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
		<p>relevant phytosanitary certificate boxes. These declarations are specific for different plant species, and they are subject to change, thus the shipper needs to check for the most recent change before export.</p> <p>For details, please refer to Appendix I section K of the EU-27 FAIRS Export Certificate Report</p>		<p>above.</p> <p>Enforcement through respective BCP.</p>
Various plant products	<p>Other than Phytosanitary Certificate</p> <p>For details see the EU-27 FAIRS Export Certificate Report</p>	<p>Aflatoxin levels in almonds:</p> <p>Use of the Pre-Export Checklist Program Certificate (PEC Certificate) is not mandatory, but the EU regulation mandates that consignments with this certificate are controlled for aflatoxin levels at less than 1%.</p> <p>USDA/AMS is the competent authority for the PEC program.</p>	Food Safety and Quality	<p>Competent authority in the state of point of entry – see list above.</p> <p>Enforcement through respective BCP.</p>
Organic Products	Certificate of Inspection (COI)	<p>Attestation is dependent on the product. A template of the current certificate of inspection (COI) can be found in the Annex to Regulation (EU) 2021/2306.</p>	Proof of Organic Production Method	Competent authority in the state of point of entry – see link below.

A list of competent authorities of the Federal States of Germany for the control of the COI can be accessed here: <https://oekolandbau.de/service/adressen/fachbehoerden-oeko-importe/>

Common Certification Issues

Certification issues are often at the basis for the detention of shipments in German BCPs and are no different than the problems reported by FAS posts in other EU countries. Below you can find a list with common mistakes that should be avoided:

- The certificate was issued after the date of departure.
- There were typographical errors.
- EU plant approval number mentioned on the certificate did not match the approval number on the product label or on the list of EU approved establishments. Please note that the approval number must be identical on the certificate, label, and the EU list. German BCPs will not accept small inconsistencies such as the addition of a letter to FSIS establishments which is commonly accepted in the United States.
- The shipper used the wrong/old certificate model.
- A certificate was absent.
- The certificate was lacking one or more of the required pages.
- A certificate was not provided for every animal origin ingredient in the final product.
- The copy of the certificate is not the original.
- Incorrect strikeouts of standard text in certificates or strikeouts were not accompanied by initials.
- The stamp was unclear, or the stamp is not original.

Additionally, for organic products:

- The certificate of inspection (COI) for organic products was uploaded into TRACES NT after the product left the United States.
- The HS/CN code in field 13 of the COI is incorrect.

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

Please refer to the [EU-27 FAIRS Export Certificate Annual Report](#). Germany does not require any additional attestation when EU certificates are used. Specific attestation requirements for non-harmonized products depend on the product and will be communicated by the competent German authority upon request.

The import of special products like materials destined for research or material containing epizootic pathogens must be approved by the competent authority of the respective federal state. Usually, the importer¹ applies to the authority with all relevant details. There is no set form for this kind of application.

Import Derogations for Product Samples

Under EU legislation, food samples sent to Germany with the intention to be consumed are considered foods for human consumption and are subject to the same listing and certification requirements as regular commercial shipments.

Sample shipments of food products that are intended for machine testing and/or contain meat, poultry, or cheese from plants that are not approved for export to the EU require a derogation (special import permit) from the (state) veterinary authority at the place of destination. Please see *List of State Ministries Responsible for Food Safety and Border Inspection* to determine the ministry responsible for issuing the permit.

The request for derogation can be made informally by e-mail stating:

- the quantity,
- country of origin,
- production plant,
- composition (e.g., raw or cooked meat) of the product,
- the intended purpose (e.g., machinery testing, trade show display, product competition),
- undergone treatment (e.g., heating) if applicable,
- registration number of recipient company.

Based on this information the veterinary office will issue an import permit that specifies the veterinary certificates required in that particular case.

The import permit is in German and the veterinary office charges a small fee. Because of language and time difference, it is recommended that the German recipient of the product handles the application for

¹ Theoretically, the exporter can also apply for the import permit. However, due to the language barrier and time difference we recommend leaving the application to the importer.

the import permit, wherever feasible. Please feel free to contact FAS Berlin for information on the responsible veterinary office.

Import Derogations for Trade Fairs

Typically, products of animal origin and most composite products can only be imported with a regular health certificate from a *listed* establishment of a listed third country. Some border control post (BCP) have however decided to exempt risk-reduced foodstuffs destined for trade fairs from this rule (e.g. for ANUGA 2023 or ISM 2024).

Please reach out to FAS Berlin to check if this exemption also applies for the trade fair(s) you are planning to attend and the products you want to ship, as rules and competences regularly change.

Section III. Government Certificate's Legal Entry Requirements

Please refer to the EU-27 FAIRS Export Certificate Report. Export certificates must be in the official language of Germany, which is German. Certified translations of the certificates into German may be used.

Section IV. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements

Please refer to the EU-27 FAIRS Export Certificate Report. The German government does not impose additional certification/accreditation requirements. However, importers may request certification according to private industry standards, for example *GLOBALG.A.P.* and *QS* for fresh food. For details, please refer to section VI. of the FAIRS country report for Germany. Additionally, for oilseeds and vegetable oils sustainability certification according to the EU renewable energy directive is not formally required for importation of these products but may be requested by the importer if the products are destined for biofuel production.

U.S. Radiation Monitoring

In Germany, dried aromatic herbs and spices may be offered or sold that were irradiated in accordance with the Food Irradiation Ordinance (*Lebensmittelbestrahlungsverordnung - LMBestV²*) and EU Directives [1999/2/EC](#) and [1999/3/EC](#). Other foodstuffs that have undergone radiation treatment may only be offered for sale in Germany if a corresponding general ruling has been issued by the *Bundesamt für Verbraucherschutz und Lebensmittelsicherheit* (BVL). There is currently only a corresponding general ruling for irradiated frozen frogs' legs.

² https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/lmbestrv_2000/index.html (German language only)

Additionally, irradiation may not be used in conjunction with a chemical treatment that serves the same purpose as the irradiation. In order to ensure proper irradiation treatment, foodstuffs may only be treated in irradiation facilities that are approved for this purpose in an EU Member State or by the EU in third countries. As of March 2024, there is no U.S. irradiation facility on EU-approved facility list.³

Throughout the EU, irradiated foods must be labeled to enable consumers to choose between irradiated and non-irradiated foods at the point of purchase. Even if a product contains only a small amount of irradiated ingredients that would otherwise not be indicated on the label (for example irradiated pepper in a spice mix on an otherwise non-irradiated pizza) this must be indicated in the list of ingredients next to the name of this ingredient by stating "irradiated" or "treated with ionizing radiation". Detailed information on labelling requirements in Germany can be found in §3 of the Food Irradiation Ordinance (*Lebensmittelbestrahlungsverordnung - LMBestV*⁴).

In Germany, several thousand food samples are officially tested for radiation treatment every year.⁵ Special import regulations (e.g. certificates or letters that confirm that products are not radioactively contaminated) only apply in certain cases (e.g. after reactor accidents).

Appendix I. Electronic Copy or Outline of Each Export Certificate

Please refer to the EU-27 FAIRS Export Certificate Report. There are no additional German certificates (other than EU certificates) for food products derived from plants and animals for the time being. Import of products that are not harmonized in the EU must be approved by the competent authority of the respective German state of entry on a case-by-case basis.

Appendix II. Instructions for Exporters of FDA Regulated Products Certified by Other Agencies

Composite Products to the EU

The EU defines a composite product as a food product containing both processed products of animal origin (dairy, egg, fishery products, or meat products) and products of plant origin. [USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service \(FSIS\) will issue EU composite product certificates](#) for composite products produced at FSIS-regulated facilities and bearing the USDA mark of inspection. AMS Dairy Program will issue

³ List of EU-approved irradiation facilities of foods in third countries: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02002D0840-20220128#M5-1>

⁴ https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/lmbestrv_2000/index.html (German language only)

⁵ [BVL - Bestrahlung von Lebensmitteln \(bund.de\)](https://www.bvl.bund.de/Content/NavigationPages/BVL-Bestrahlung-von-Lebensmitteln.aspx) (German language only)

the EU composite product certificates for composite products NOT produced in an FSIS-regulated facility and not bearing the USDA mark of inspection, regardless of whether dairy is an ingredient in the composite product.

The new EU requirements for composite products will impact stakeholders who have not been required to obtain an export certificate from the AMS Dairy Program in the past. Prior to requesting a certificate from the AMS Dairy Program, a new customer will need to establish a USDA level 2 e-authentication account. [Go to How to Apply for an AMS Dairy or Composite Product Export Certificate for more information.](#)

Dairy to the EU

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is the certifying agency for [EU export certificates for dairy products](#) regulated by FDA. For more information, contact DairyExportsQuestions@usda.gov. In order to obtain an EU Health Certificate, the manufacturers must have their final production, blending, and/or packing facility listed on the [List of EU approved facilities maintained on the European Commission website](#). Exporters should check whether the manufacturing facility for exported products have been included on this list. Exporters may apply for inclusion on these lists through the FDA Export Listing Module (ELM). Please visit [Online Applications for Export Lists](#) for a link to this electronic system and step-by-step instructions.

Dairy to Other Export Markets

The Agricultural Marketing Service's Dairy Program is responsible for issuing dairy export certificates accepted by most countries. Information on these certificates can be [obtained through this website](#).

Eggs and Egg Products:

In the egg sector, USDA's Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) is the certifying agency for export certificates for egg products regulated by FDA. The AMS Livestock, Poultry and Seed Division is responsible for the EU export certificates for the food products containing eggs or egg products that are regulated by FDA. In addition to shell eggs, FDA-regulated egg products include hard boiled eggs, cooked omelets, frozen egg patties, imitation egg products, egg substitutes, noodles, cake mixes, freeze-dried products, dietary foods, dried no-bake custard mixes, egg-nog mixes, acidic dressings, mayonnaise, milk and egg dip, foods containing egg extracts, French toast, sandwiches containing eggs or egg products, and balut and other similar ethnic delicacies. For more information on jurisdiction overlap for commercial products regulated by either or both FDA and USDA, please refer to the [FDA/USDA jurisdictional chart](#) (Exhibit 3-1). U.S. exports of eggs and egg products to the EU are subject to establishment listing requirements as a precondition for market access. Establishments may apply for inclusion on these lists via the Export Listing Module (ELM). Please visit [Online Applications for Export Lists](#) for a link to this electronic system and step-by-step instructions. [List of EU approved facilities maintained on the European Commission website](#).

Seafood

The EU export health certificate is required by the EU Directorate-General for Health and Consumer Protection and attests to the safety of fish and fishery -- both wild and aquaculture -- products shipped to the EU. U.S. exports of seafood products to the EU are subject to establishment listing requirements as a precondition for market access. Establishments may apply for inclusion on these lists via the [Export Listing Module \(ELM\)](#). Please visit [Online Applications for Export Lists](#) for a link to this electronic system and step-by-step instructions. Please note that the EU will only accept export certificates signed after an establishment has been added to the list published on the [EC website](#) and the list has entered into force. Once listed, U.S. establishments may contact National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Seafood Inspection Program to request export certificates for U.S. seafood exports to the EU. Prior to exporting, industry should consult the EC's EU List of Approved Establishments External Link Disclaimer to verify that the establishment from which they intend to export is listed. These certificates must be requested and issued prior to shipment of the product. [Follow this link to submit a request online.](#)

Honey to the EU

The European Union (EU) has listed the United States as a country eligible to export honey to the European Union provided honey producers meet their program requirements. Under the program, domestic U.S. companies must adhere to specific requirements for each shipment destined to an EU member country. The [USDA Agricultural Marketing Service outlines specific requirements for U.S. honey shipped to EU markets](#) related to Hazardous Analysis and Critical Control Point (HAACP) planning, recordkeeping, testing, sampling, as well as labeling requirements in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 and that the product(s) have been handled and where appropriate, prepared, packaged, and stored in a hygienic manner in accordance with the requirements of Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 ([these regulations can be downloaded from the following link](#)).

Seeds for Sprouting to the EU

USDA's Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) is the certifying agency for seeds for sprouting regulated by FDA. See: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/content/usda-announces-seed-sprouting-export-certification-program>

USDA/FAS Contact in Berlin, Germany:

Foreign Agricultural Service
U.S. Embassy
Clayallee 170
14191 Berlin
Germany
E-mail: [agberlin\(at\)usda.gov](mailto:agberlin(at)usda.gov)
Tel: (+49) (30) 8305 1150

Attachments:

No Attachments