

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: FAIRS Export Certificate Report

Country: Greece

Post: Rome

Report Category: Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification

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Report Highlights:

Greece, as a member of the European Union, follows EU directives and regulations. For information on EU export certifications, please see the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards – Certification Report prepared by the United States Mission to the EU in Brussels. For non-harmonized products, the competent Greek authority should be consulted as many issues are addressed on a case-by-case basis.

DISCLAIMER: This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Rome, Italy for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products interested in the Greek market. 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 regarding 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 CUSTOMS CLEARANCE 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

Greece, as a member of the European Union, follows the EU's directives and regulations: [FAIRS Export Certificate Report Annual](#). Ports in Greece function as the major entry point for agricultural exports to Southeastern Europe. FAS Rome regularly assists in releasing shipments from the United States. Most of the certificates required by Greece and the EU as a condition for entry are issued by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection service (APHIS), the Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS), the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). After April 2021, the EU will implement [new rules of the certification of composite products](#).

Section I. List of All Export Certificates Required by the Government:

Greece, as a member of the European Union, follows the EU's directives and regulations: [FAIRS Export Certificate Report Annual](#). While certification requirements are developed at the EU level, the Greek inspection services are responsible for enforcement of EU legislation through inspection of imported goods and the corresponding certificates.

In the cases in which the EU law may be incomplete or absent, the Greek law applies. The competent Greek authority needs to be consulted on a case-by-case basis to address requirements for non-harmonized products. The Greek authorities to be consulted if there is a certificate needed are the following: [Customs Office](#) and [OPEKEPE](#) (Greek Payment Authority of Common Agricultural Policy Aid Schemes). A list of the Designated Points of Imports (DPIs) in Greece can be found here: [List of Greek DPIs](#).

Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

This report outlines the applicable legislation regarding the export of U.S. food products to Greece, particularly those rules that differ from EU legislation or regulation. While most certification requirements are developed at EU level, the Greek inspection services are responsible for enforcement of both the EU and national requirements. In this aspect, Greek authorities implement EU rules (directives and regulations) for food and agriculture through country specific laws and decrees.

For more info on additional harmonized regulations adopted by the Greek authorities please visit:

<http://www.minagric.gr/index.php/en/farmer-menu-2/imports-export/importsodfeed-menu>

In Greece, food safety is the primary responsibility of the Greek Ministry of Rural Development and Food in cooperation with the General Chemical State Laboratory of Greece and the Ministry of Citizen Protection. Occasionally, the Greek Ministry for Development and Commerce may play a role. The Hellenic Food Safety Authority (EFET) is responsible for enforcing the regulations and collecting samples from selling points to check compliance with food legislation, both to ensure food safety and protect consumer health in accordance with EU Directive 89/397.

Responsible Greek Authorities for Approval of Certificates - Food and Animal Products:

Ministry of Rural Development and Food

Directorate of Plant Production
Phytosanitary and Plant Protection Division
150, Sygrou Avenue
17671 Athens, Greece
Phone: +30 210 9287232; +30 210 9287233
Fax: +30 210 9287234
Website: <http://www.minagric.gr/index.php/en/>
E-mail: syg059@minagric.gr; syg042@minagric.gr

Veterinary Products:

Ministry of Rural Development and Food

Directorate General of Veterinary Services
Animal Health Directorate
6, Kapnokoptiriou str.
10176 Athens, Greece
Phone: +30 210 88 36 030
Fax: +30 210 82 52 673
Website: <http://www.minagric.gr/index.php/en/>
E-mail: syg059@minagric.gr

General Customs and Excise Department

10, Kar. Serbias
10184 Athens, Greece
Tel: +30 210 3375 000; 210 3375 714; 210 3375 715
Fax: +30 210 3375 034
E-mail: gdcustom@otenet.gr
Website: <https://portal.gsis.gr/portal/page/portal/ICISnet/authority/customsOffices>

**Payment and Control Agency for Guidance and Guarantee
Community Aid (OPEKEPE)**

241, Acharnon str.

10446 Athens, Greece

Tel: +30 210 212 49 03

Fax: +30 210 867 0503

Website: <http://www.opekepe.gr>

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

At the EU level, [Regulation \(EC\) 178/2002](#) sets out general principles and objectives in food law. In Greece, the EU Regulations (EC) [852/2004](#) and [853/2004](#) are being applied through the National Law [KYA 15523/2006](#) published in August 2006, which outlines the basic Greek food and feed regulations based in the Regulation (EC) 178/2002. This law sets out each organization's responsibility for applying the EU Regulations and the coordination mechanisms between the different public administrations with responsibilities in official food control.

Greece has some specific labeling and ingredient rules for select food products (i.e. [re-frozen meat products](#), [prepared fishery products](#), and [allergen foods](#)) which are described in detail in the Greek Food Code (hereafter referred to as the Food Code) published by the General Chemical State Laboratory (GCSL). There is no electronic version of the Food Code. However, a hard copy can be obtained in Greek from the GCSL.

General Chemical State Laboratory

Directorate of Foods

16, A. Tsoha Str.

11521 Ambelokipi, Athens, Greece

Tel.: +30 210 6479 221

Fax: +30 210 6468 272

Email: alcohol_food@gcsl.gr

Website: http://www.gcsl.gr/index.asp?a_id=136

GCSL is the Greek agency responsible for the documentary inspection upon arrival, labeling and product ingredient review, and the analysis of laboratory tests to grant import approvals for foodstuffs in cooperation with the Greek Ministry of Rural Development and the individual Port Authorities. It is essential for U.S. exporters to work with a Greek agent who has a suitable background and is able to manage customs procedures involving more than two authorities.

In order to have a more harmonized Member State application of EU legislation, Commission Decision 2007/275/EC lists the animals and animal products that are subject to veterinary checks. Products subject to veterinary checks typically need to be accompanied by a veterinary certificate, issued by the competent authority in the United States. This regulation also provides clarification on which composite products are subject to veterinary checks. Composite products are defined 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 cheesecakes, high protein food supplements, pizza, and lasagnas.

While the U.S. is eligible to ship hormone-free meat, dairy products, egg products, and fishery products separately, it is often no longer possible to ship the composite products that combine these eligible ingredients. All composite products containing a processed meat product are subject to a veterinary check.

Certificates for plants and plant products are issued by APHIS inspectors, who attest to the specific requirements of EU legislation with the necessary declarations in the space provided on the phytosanitary certificate.

A link to the required format in the Official Journal of each export certificate is provided (if available) in Appendix 1 of the EU FAIRS Export Certificate report prepared by the FAS Office in the U.S. Mission to the European Commission (USEU) which can be found at <https://www.fas.usda.gov/data/european-union-fairs-export-certificate-report-0>

Section IV. Government Certificate's Legal Entry Requirements

On December 4, 2013, Greece applied obligatory electronic forms to be submitted to the Customs office, through the platform ICIS net – [Greek Customs](#). Import certificates must be in the official language of Greece, which is Greek.

All products must be accompanied by the proper certification at port of arrival. Import licenses are required for all agricultural commodities, processed food products, and ingredients. Special licenses and phytosanitary certification are required for imports from third countries where certain plant and animal diseases occur. Special import licenses are required for goods, including plant propagation material, textiles, meat products, pet foods and wood products. A number of products are under surveillance according to EU quotas (i.e., beef).

Some products may also take additional certificates, as in the case of organic products where the [US-EU Organic Equivalency Arrangement](#) applies. There are voluntary certificates that may help reduce the level of import controls, for example the [tree nuts and peanuts aflatoxin certification](#). Following the publication of [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2017/1269](#) on July 14, 2017, the U.S. pre-export program for peanuts is no longer recognized by the EU. There is no restriction on the export of U.S. peanuts; however, shipments are no longer benefitting from the reduced testing level for aflatoxin upon entry in the EU.

Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements

Please note that imports of red meat, meat products, pet food, farmed and wild game meat, all dairy products, seafood, bovine embryos and semen, porcine and equine semen, and animal byproducts to the EU from the United States may originate only from EU approved U.S. establishments. In alignment with EU requirements, Greece requires certificates in some cases of imports of cereals, rice, sugar, dairy, bovine meat, poultry meat, garlic, apples, bananas, ethanol, canned mushrooms, manioc starch, and sweet potato. In order to clarify if a certificate is required, the exporter should contact the Greek Customs Office and OPEKEPE.

For further information about Greek import requirements for U.S. exports please contact the Greek specialist in USDA's Office in the U.S. Embassy-Rome:

Office of Agricultural Affairs,

Foreign Agricultural Service,

American Embassy, Via Veneto 119a

Rome, 00187, Italy

Webpage: <https://gr.usembassy.gov/business/foreign-agricultural-service/>

E-mail: AgRome@fas.usda.gov

Tel: +39 06 4674 2396

Fax: +39 06 4788 7008

Attachments:

No Attachments.