Report Name: Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Export Certificate Report

Country: Croatia

Post: Zagreb


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Approved By: Charles Rush

Report Highlights:

This report provides information on the export certificates required by the Government of Croatia. This is an annual report that was updated in October 2021.
Disclaimer

This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the U.S. Foreign Agricultural Service in Zagreb, Croatia, for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, the 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 PRODUCTS IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY’S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

Executive Summary

All sections of the previous FAIRS Export Certificate Report have been updated to reflect EU certification requirements at the time this report was written. For the most recent update, also check the referenced website of the agencies issuing the certificates.

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

Croatia as a member of the European Union follows EU directives and regulations. It is therefore recommended that this report be read in conjunction with the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) Export Certificate Report produced by the U.S. Mission to the European Union in Brussels, Belgium:
The document requirements for exporting animals, plants, and food to the EU are extensive. The EU-27 FAIRS Export Certificate Report gives an overview of the required EU health certificates for products imported into or transiting through 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. 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 (MS) inspection services are responsible for the enforcement of EU legislation through inspection of imported goods and the corresponding certificates.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product(s)</th>
<th>Title of Certificate</th>
<th>Attestation Required on Certificate</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Requesting Ministry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Products of animal origin</td>
<td>Health Certificates</td>
<td>Attestation is dependent on the product. Detailed attestation can be found in the model certificates available at EUR-Lex under the relevant regulations (e.g. dairy products, pork, beef, etc.) – accepted until March 15, 2022. Models of the new certificates for food of animal origin were published in Commission Implementing</td>
<td>Food Safety</td>
<td>Ministries of Agriculture and Health through State Inspectorate’s Veterinary and Sanitary Inspections.</td>
</tr>
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<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plant products that can introduce pests</td>
<td>Phytosanitary Certificate</td>
<td>APHIS inspectors, attest to specific requirements of EU legislation by making additional declarations in the 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.</td>
<td>Plant Health</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture through State Inspectorate’s Phytosanitary Inspection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various plant products</td>
<td>Other than Phytosanitary Certificate.</td>
<td>e.g. aflatoxin levels in almonds: Use of the Pre-Export Checklist Program Certificate (the PEC Certificate) is not mandatory but</td>
<td>Food Safety and Quality</td>
<td>Ministries of Agriculture and Health through State Inspectorate’s Phytosanitary and Sanitary Inspections.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Import requirements for animals and animal products are harmonized across the EU. The EU must recognize a country as eligible to export a particular animal or animal product. The EU has lists of approved establishments based on submissions from U.S. government agencies. Only those products processed at approved establishments may enter the EU. The U.S. agencies involved in developing official establishment lists are the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Approved establishments may be subject to EU inspection. All EU-approved establishment lists are available at Third Country Establishments and the links for the U.S. agencies can be found in Section V. under the Competent Authorities. The EU imposes several general requirements for all veterinary certificates. The U.S. regulatory agencies which issue health certificates (FSIS, APHIS, and Agricultural Market Service - AMS) have all included pertinent requirements in their export libraries. Lastly, animal or public health certificates based on the model certificates published by the European Union and signed by U.S. officials must accompany all shipments.

The EU import requirements for plants and plant products also have been harmonized and are published in a single directive. Unlike veterinary products, there is only one model certificate for all plant products per international regulations following the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (see: IPPC_Publications and IPPC_Export Certification). Phytosanitary certificates are issued by APHIS inspectors, who attest to specific requirements of EU legislation by making additional declarations in the relevant boxes.

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 cheesecakes, high protein food supplements, pizza, and lasagnas. U.S. exports of “composite products” continue to be restricted due to 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

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<td></td>
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<td>the EU regulation mandates that consignments with this certificate are controlled for aflatoxin levels at less than 1%. USDA/AMS is the competent authority for the PEC program.</td>
<td></td>
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**Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)**

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 cheesecakes, high protein food supplements, pizza, and lasagnas. U.S. exports of “composite products” continue to be restricted due to 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
Exporters should be aware that in parallel with the aforementioned changes to the composite product certificate that was triggered by an update of the EU’s Animal Health Law, 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, and goes into effect on January 15, 2022. It 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.

For shelf stable products not containing meat, no certificates signed by the U.S. Government are required. For these products, the representative of the importer must declare that the goods meet the relevant EU requirements, using the “Private Attestation” model form.

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

The EU imposes several general requirements for all veterinary certificates. Of these, Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235, has repeatedly caused rejections of shipments at EU borders. In accordance with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235, certificates must be issued before the consignments to which they relate leave the control of the competent authority. The U.S. regulatory agencies that issue health certificates (FSIS, APHIS, AMS, and NOAA) have all included this requirement in their export libraries.

Models of the new certificates for foods of animal origin were published in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235, as amended by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1471. The transitional provisions of Regulation 2020/2235 allow for the continued use of the old certificates until March 15, 2022, provided that the certificates are signed before Jan 15, 2022. At the time of writing, U.S. Government agencies have 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.

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

Section IV. Government Certificate’s Legal Entry Requirements

The original version of the certificate must accompany consignments at the point of entry into the EU. Each shipment should be accompanied by an original certificate; that is, certificates cannot apply to multiple shipments. Certificates must normally be drawn up in the language of the country of dispatch (English for the United States) and the Member State (MS) in which the border inspection takes place.
and the final destination. Member States may agree to accept certificates in another official EU language other than their own.

For the Croatian market and border crossings, certificates must be in the official language of the Republic of Croatia, which is Croatian, as well as the MS where the border inspection occurs, if the product is not exported directly to the Republic of Croatia.

All certificates can be found in Croatian on the EU Official Journal website (EUR-Lex) under the relevant regulation.

Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements to Ensure Market Entry

There are no additional Croatian certificates (other than EU certificates) for food products derived from plants and animals.

U.S. Competent Authorities

The following is a list of U.S. agencies that issue certificates along with a link to the relevant pages on their websites:

- AMS: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

AMS certification and verification programs support American exporters by ensuring that products meet specific export requirements for countries around the world, including in the European Union (dairy, eggs, honey, etc.).

European Union Dairy Health Certification Program
https://www.ams.usda.gov/content/european-union-health-certification-program
Certification for Eggs and Egg Products
Certification for Honey
https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/imports-exports/honey
Certification for Seeds for Sprouting
https://www.ams.usda.gov/content/usda-announces-seed-sprouting-export-certification-program
European Union Dairy Health Certification Program
https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/imports-exports/dairy-exports/eu-dairy-exports

- APHIS: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA

APHIS provides certification relating to animal and plant health diseases and pests.

International Animal Export Regulations:
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/

International Animal Products Export Regulations:
Plant Export Services:  

- FDA: Food and Drug Administration

FDA provides export certificates for food and food additives. FDA issues all EU export certificates for gelatin and collagen for human consumption and will only issue certificates to exporters that have been included in the EU approved list of collagen and gelatin establishments.  https://www.fda.gov/food/exporting-food-products-united-states/food-export-certificates

- FSIS: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA

FSIS provides certification for products of animal origin (meat, poultry, and eggs).  
https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs/exporting-products/export-library-requirements-by-country/European-Union

- NOAA: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The NOAA Seafood Inspection Program is the competent authority within the U.S. Government for issuance of certain certificates required for the export of fish and fish products to the European Union (EU). However, establishments wishing to export fish and fishery products to the EU still need to apply to FDA for inclusion on the EU export certificate list. 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. 
https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/content/export-certification

**Croatian Competent Authorities**

- **Croatian State Inspectorate (all inspection services, e.g. veterinary, sanitary, phytosanitary)**

Šubićeva 29,  
10 000 Zagreb  
Croatia  
Tel: +385 1 23 75 100  
e-mail: pisarnica.dirh@dirh.hr  
https://inspektorat.gov.hr/

- **Government of the Republic of Croatia, Ministry of Agriculture**

Grada Vukovara 78  
10000 Zagreb  
Tel. +385 1 6106 111  
Fax. +385 1 6109 201
Appendix I. Direct Hyperlink, Electronic Copy, Scanned Copy or Outline of Each Export Certificate

There are no additional Croatian certificates (Other than EU certificates) for food products derived from plants and animals for the time being.
Attachments:

No Attachments