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GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Bulgaria

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification

FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:

This report focuses on Bulgarian certification requirements when they may differ or are in addition to EU-harmonized certification. This report should be read in conjunction with the [EU FAIRS Export Certificate report](#) prepared by the FAS Office in the U.S. Mission to the European Commission (USEU).

Disclaimer: This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Sofia, Bulgaria 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 confirm requirements with local authorities, before any goods are shipped.

FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

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

Being an EU member since 2007, Bulgaria applies EU harmonized regulations on export certificates for plant or animal products whether or not they are intended for human consumption. However, in the absence of an EU-harmonized certificate, Bulgaria may require certain specific health certificates and occasionally the lack of specific details in the governing regulation also provides significant leeway for border inspectors to interpret.

Competent authority on certificates the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency (BFSA) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Foods. The Agency is responsible both for agricultural products for human consumption as well as for those for non-human consumption.

Agricultural products are examined when they enter Bulgaria by the Bulgaria Border Inspection Posts. There are 8 border inspections points in Bulgaria. TRACES software system is not applied yet but the BFSA plans are to introduce the system in the first quarter of 2014.

Bulgaria has derogation for updating all BIPs to execute both veterinary and phyto-sanitary control until August 2014. Currently, four BIPs have this ability and the other 4 should be upgraded in the first half of 2014.

EU legislation related to veterinary border inspection procedures

http://www.nvms-gvc.com/Border_veter.-Legislation.htm

Regulation about Requirements to Border Inspection Points and Border Inspection Veterinary Control (last revision January 2007)

http://babh.government.bg/uploads/File/Dokumenti_naredbi/naredba_47_granichen_kontrol.pdf

Order for phyto-sanitary inspections at BIPs (May 2011)

http://babh.government.bg/uploads/File/Zapovedi_Granichen_k_l/Zapoved.pdf

In addition to 8 approved by the EC border inspections posts /BIP/ for veterinary control, entry points

are added as follows: Vrashka Chuca, Strazimirovtsi, Logodaj, Lesovo, Malko Tarnovo, Oltomantsi:
<http://www.nvms-gvc.com/granichnipunktove.htm>

Designated point of entry (DPE) in accordance with Regulation 284/2012 EC;

Designated point of entry (DPE) in accordance with Commission Decision 2008/298/ EC

http://babh.government.bg/uploads/File/Aktualno_Border_controls/DPE%20284_2012%20and%20DPE%202008_289.pdf

First points of entry (FPE) in accordance with Regulation 1151/2009 EU

[http://babh.government.bg/uploads/File/Aktualno_Border_controls/FPE%20reg.1151\(1\).pdf](http://babh.government.bg/uploads/File/Aktualno_Border_controls/FPE%20reg.1151(1).pdf)

Designates point of entry (DPE) for import of food of non-animal origin in the EU according to Regulation (EC) № 1152/2009

http://babh.government.bg/uploads/File/Laboratorni_deynosti/13-0351-5-Reg-1152.pdf

Section II. List of All Export Certificates Required By Bulgaria (Matrix):

All models of Import Certificates that are required by the BFSA and are harmonized at the EU level can be found on the links below.

Documents required for border control on imports (certificates) for food products for human and non-human consumption including lists of BIPs, relevant EU legislation and regulations, list of third countries with special import conditions/certificates and list of approved establishments can be found here:

<http://www.nvms-gvc.com/>

Certificates for imports of food products:

<http://www.nvms-gvc.com/Sert.Products.htm>

Certificates for imports of live animals:

<http://www.nvms-gvc.com/animals.htm>

Certificates for imports of biological materials (semen, embryos etc.)

<http://www.nvms-gvc.com/Cert.Semen.htm>

Certificates for imports of by-products:

http://www.nvms-gvc.com/Sertificates_By-Products.htm

Certificates for transit shipments:

http://www.nvms-gvc.com/Transit_Certificates.htm

Certificates for imports of products for personal consumption:

http://www.nvms-gvc.com/produkti-c_netarg..htm

Documents required for border control for imports (certificates) for feed and feed products

<http://www.nvms-gvc.com/Furaj.htm>

Documents required for border phyto-sanitary control for imports (certificates)

<http://www.nvms-gvc.com/Fito-control.htm>

The above listed Veterinary Certificates require the signature of an Official Veterinarian.

Section III. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s):

According to official statements of BFSA, Bulgaria does not apply any exception or any specific requirements for imports of food and agricultural products into Bulgaria and thus no products are subject to special certification other than that of the European Union. European Union legislation calls for many health and supervisory requirements that are meant to guarantee that imports meet the standards of production in Member States.

Bulgaria, as an EU Member State, follows all rules and regulations that govern food legislation, including certification, within the European Union. While certification requirements are developed at the EU level, Bulgarian authorities are responsible for the enforcement of the regulations.

It is important to note that when EU-wide legislation is incomplete, not harmonized or absent, Bulgaria might require certain specific health certificates although to date no such specific certificates have been identified. Additionally, sometimes applicable regulations provide significant leeway for border inspectors to interpret.

Certification requirements are developed at the EU level. However, Member State inspection services are responsible for enforcement. Bulgaria is among the most vigilant of EU Member States with respect to enforcement of the import requirements. There is little if any tolerance policy assumed for mistakes that affect the identity and traceability of the shipment (e.g. wrong establishment number).

According to General Principles for Certification, the certificate must be issued before the consignment to which it relates leaves the control of the competent authority of the country of dispatch.

For additional information on EU-Harmonized Certification Requirements, please consult the [EU FAIRS Export Certificate Report](#). Under this report, you may find information on the U.S. competent authority that is authorized to issue the food and agricultural import certificates required by the EU. This report can also be accessed through the [FAS website](#). An overview of legally required certificates in the EU and references to the U.S. authority issuing these certificates is available at in the [USEU website](#).

For more information on food standards and regulations, please consult the [Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standard Report for the EU](#) and BU1364 - Bulgaria - Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Report.

Special Import Permits

Samples without Commercial value to Bulgaria

For sanitary reasons, food products imported into the EU, even if they are not intended for commercial

sale, must meet certain requirements on food hygiene and animal health.

The same rules to commercial shipments apply to samples without commercial value regarding the Common Entry Document (CED published as [Annex II to Regulation 669/2009](#)).

Responsible Authorities for Health and Veterinary Certificates

Bulgaria has a centralized system for controlling the feed and food chain. The central government has total oversight over the control carried out in customs, imports, and on monitoring and sampling plans throughout the food and feed chain.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Foods controls agricultural product imports intended for human consumption, through Bulgarian Food Safety Agency (BFSA). It also controls imports of animal feed/ingredients and live animals not intended for direct human consumption.

The BFSA is relatively young institution. It was established in early 2011 through a major reform by uniting 3 executive agencies – Plant Protection and Phyto-Sanitary Agency and Veterinary Medical Service, both under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture, and Food Hygiene Agency, part of the Ministry of Health.

The BFSA is the competent authority on official control on all food imports, exports and manufacturing with the exception of bottled water (mineral, spring, and table water) (Art.28/Food Law)

Law on the establishment of Bulgarian Food Safety Agency – published in Official Gazette #8/January 25, 2011.

http://babh.government.bg/uploads/File/Dokumenti_zakoni/ZAKON_za_Bylgarskata_agenciq_po_bezo_pasnost_na_hranite.pdf

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Website: <http://www.babh.government.bg/en/>

The USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service Office for Bulgaria located in Sofia, can also assist U.S. exporters in obtaining specific national legislation on all food product directives. You may contact us at the following address:

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

See Section II. For additional information, please consult the EU FAIRS Export Certificate Report available in [FAS website](#).

Section IV. Government Certificate's Legal Entry Requirements:

See Section II. For additional information, please consult the EU FAIRS Export Certificate Report available in [FAS website](#).

Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements:

The use of special required certification may also affect the control regime upon import. For instance, Almonds must be accompanied by a Voluntary Aflatoxin Sampling Program – VASP certificate issued by laboratories approved for the VASP program. The presence of such certificate determines the percentage of shipments tested upon entry in the EU.

See Section II. For additional information, please consult the latest EU FAIRS Export Certificate Report available in [FAS website](#)

Appendix I. Electronic Copy or Outline of Each Export Certificate

See Sections I and II.