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

Country: Russian Federation

Post: Moscow


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Report Highlights:

This report highlights export certification requirements for Russia. Please note that certification requirements have and will continue to undergo changes as Russia reforms its regulations to meet Eurasian Economic Union and WTO commitments. Exporters are advised to verify export certification requirements with their importer before shipment.
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Disclaimer

This report was prepared by the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) office in Russia, for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care has been 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 PRODUCTS IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY’S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

Executive Summary

This report highlights export certification requirements for Russia. In general, Russia does not accept generic veterinary certificates issued by the competent U.S. authorities, which certify products are in compliance with U.S. standards. Rather, Russia requires veterinary certificates to provide several specific attestations in addition to a catch-all “meets Eurasian Economic Union requirements” (previously “meets Russian/Customs Union requirements”). The Eurasian Economic Union requirements present challenges to exporters, as they cover a wide range of goods of animal and plant origin, are extremely prescriptive, and, in certain instances, are based on neither risk assessments nor international standards.

In order to export to Russia considerable documentation is required from both governments and it must be provided in Russian. Cargo can be detained for certification errors, so particular attention should be paid to ensuring the accuracy of the information contained therein. Exporters who have the most success in Russia, particularly those new to the market, often choose to work with experienced brokers or importers. While this report does not provide detailed information on export health certificates issued by U.S. government agencies, up-to-date information is available from the relevant agencies on their websites (links are provided later in this report).

In August 2014, Russia introduced a ban on a list of products from the United States, Canada, European Union, Australia, and Norway in retaliation to economic sanctions against Russia due to events in the region. The ban, initially announced for one calendar year, has been repeatedly extended and remains in effect until the end of 2020. The list of agricultural products currently includes swine, some beef, pork and by-products, poultry, fruits, vegetables, fish, seafood, cheese, milk, and a variety of other products. For a full list of banned items in English please see GAIN report RS1907 Russia Extended Food Import Ban through End 2020.

Transition Period

Russia remains in a transition period as it reforms its regulations both to meet WTO commitments and integrate further with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) partners.

1 Current members are Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia.
The final and transitional provisions of the Eurasian Economic Union’s “Uniform Requirements for Products under Veterinary Control” allowed for the importation of products accompanied by a pre-existing U.S.-Russia bilateral veterinary certificate, initialed before July 1, 2010, and which differed from the “Uniform Requirements,” to remain in use until January 1, 2013. However, because the United States requested to renegotiate these certificates with the EAEU Member States, their validity was extended beyond January 1, 2013, pursuant to the provisions of the EAEU Decrees, until negotiations on new certificates are concluded.

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

The following export certificates are currently issued and/or remain valid in order to facilitate U.S. exports to Russia. Exporters should consult with their importers to determine which certificates are needed for goods they intend to ship. Note: existence of a valid certificate does not indicate market access. Please check for any additional import restrictions and requirements before shipping.

Health Certificates – Sanitary (Veterinary)

USDA/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Veterinary Services/Animal

- Veterinary certificate for breeding cattle exported from the United States to the Russian Federation (approved March 31, 2008)
- Veterinary certificate for breeding sheep and goats exported from the United States to the Russian Federation (approved December 8, 2009)
- Veterinary certificate for breeding pigs exported from the United States to the Russian Federation (approved March 31, 2008)
- Veterinary certificate for slaughter pigs exported from the United States to the Russian Federation (approved March 31, 2008)
- Veterinary certificate for fattening pigs exported from the United States to the Russian Federation (approved March 31, 2008)
- Veterinary certificate for breeding, usage and sport horses exported from the United States to the Russian Federation (approved March 31, 2008)
- Veterinary certificate for temporary admission of horses from the United States to the Russian Federation for participation in international competitions for a period of no more than 90 days (approved March 31, 2008)
- Veterinary certificate for mink exported from the United States to the Russian Federation (approved March 16, 2007)
- Veterinary certificate for bovine semen exported to the Russian Federation (approved March 31, 2008)
- Veterinary certificate for bovine embryos from the United States to the Russian Federation (approved March 31, 2008)
- Veterinary certificate for day-old chicks, turkey poults, ducklings, goslings, ostrich chicks and hatching eggs of these species exported from the United States of America to the Customs Union (approved March 5, 2013)
- Veterinary certificate for live fish, invertebrates and other poikilothermic aquatic animals, their fertilized roe, semen, larvae destined for productive cultivation, breeding and other uses exported to the customs territory of Eurasian Economic Union (December 8, 2015)
- Veterinary certificate for laboratory animals (mice, gerbils, rats, Guinea pigs, rabbits, hamsters, cats, dogs, nonhuman primates, birds) and their fertilized eggs (zygotes) and embryos exported into the customs territory of the Eurasian Economic Union (December 8, 2015)
- Veterinary certificate for pet dogs and cats exported to the Eurasian Economic Union (July 9, 2019)
- Veterinary certificate for canine semen exported to the customs territory of the Eurasian Economic Union (May 30, 2017)
- Veterinary certificate for live earthworms (suborder Lumbricina) and cocoons thereof exported to the customs territory of the Eurasian Economic Union (December 8, 2015)
- Veterinary certificate for rabbit semen exported to the customs territory of the Eurasian Economic Union (December 18, 2019)
- Veterinary certificate for reindeer exported to the customs territory of the Eurasian Economic Union (December 8, 2015)

For more information, visit APHIS - Summary of Requirements for Exporting Animals to Russia and VPSS List of Current Veterinary Certificates for Products Imported from Third Countries.

USDA/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Veterinary Services/Animal Products
- Veterinary certificate for hides, horn and hoof, furs, sheep pelt, lambskin, wool and goat fluff, bristle, horse hair, down and feather of chicken, duck, goose and other poultry, and technical gelatin exported from the United States to the Russian Federation (approved June 30, 2009)
- Veterinary certificate for fresh-dry raw material for fur production exported from the United States to the Russian Federation (approved October 24, 2005)
- Veterinary certificate for non-edible (technical) animal protein-free rendered fats exported to the Russian Federation (approved November 23, 2004)
- Veterinary certificate for import of fodder and fodder supplements of animal origin (approved July 15, 2004; modified in December 2013 to allow the use of dairy proteins)
- Veterinary certificate for dog and cat feeds exported from the United States to the Russian Federation (approved June 2, 2010)
- Veterinary certificate for feed and feed additives for non-productive⁴ animals, not containing components of animal origin exported from the United States to the Russian Federation (approved July 8, 2010)
  [Note: Although this certificate remains on Rosselkhoznadzor’s website, for more details please see GAIN report RS1261 Russia No Longer Requires Veterinary Certificates for Key Imported Feeds of Plant Origin Including Soybean Meal, Grains for Feeds and DDGs]
- Veterinary certificate for feed for aquarium and decorative fishes exported from the United States to the Russian Federation (approved July 6, 2010)

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⁴ According to Russian standards, non-productive animals are animals that are not used for the production of livestock products. These include pets, wild, exotic, decorative, laboratory, experimental, circus and any other legally obtained and kept animals that are not used for obtaining livestock products.
- Veterinary certificate for livestock raw materials, that are not derived from ruminants, and meant for pet food manufacturing, exported to the Russian Federation (approved February 16, 2006)
- Veterinary certificate for heat-treated milk products received from cattle, sheep, and goats, exported from the United States to the territories of the Customs Union (approved March 28, 2014)
- Veterinary certificate for disinfected partially treated (but not fully finished) game trophies, exported from the United States to the territories of the Customs Union (December 8, 2015)

For more information, visit APHIS - Requirements for Exporting Animal Products to Russia and VPSS List of Current Veterinary Certificates for Products Imported from Third Countries.

USDA/Food Safety Inspection Service
- FSIS Form 9450-3 (04/21/2010) Veterinary certificate for frozen pork meat and pork by-products exported from the United States to the Russian Federation (approved March 2, 2010)
- FSIS Form 9450-4 (03/03/2011) Veterinary certificate for export of poultry meat to the Russian Federation (approved March 10, 2006)
  - Letterhead Certificate for Pathogen Reduction Treatment Used for Poultry and Poultry Products Exported to the Russian Federation (approved September 2, 2010)
- FSIS Form 9450-5 (05/25/2010) Veterinary certificate for beef and beef by-products exported from the United States to the Russian Federation (approved November 2, 2006)
- FSIS Form 9450-6 (7/95) Veterinary certificate for pork intestine raw material, exported into the Russian Federation (approved June 23, 1995)
  - FSIS Form 9060-7 (8/13/2008) Animal Casings Export Certificate for Countries Requiring Ante-mortem, Post-mortem, and Fit-for-Human-Food Statements
- FSIS Form 9450-7 (7/95) Veterinary certificate for prepared meat products exported into the Russian Federation (approved June 23, 1995)
- FSIS Form 9450-11 (03/04/1999) Veterinary certificate for horse meat exported into the Russian Federation (approved April 20, 1999)

For more information, visit FSIS Export Requirements for Russia and VPSS List of Current Veterinary Certificates for Products Imported from Third Countries.

U.S. Department of Commerce/National Marine Fisheries Service
- Veterinary certificate for live fish and sea products and products of their processing subjected to thermal treatment, exported to the Russian Federation (approved in 2005)

For more information, visit NOAA Export Requirements for Russia and VPSS List of Current Veterinary Certificates for Products Imported from Third Countries.

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3 The USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is the agency responsible for endorsement of the certificate.
Health Certificates – Phytosanitary

USDA/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Plant Protection and Quarantine

In June 2013, USDA-APHIS changed seals/logos on its phytosanitary certificate forms and notified the national phytosanitary authorities through the WTO of these changes. The new forms are available online at: [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/importexport](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/importexport).

On December 4, 2013, Russia was additionally notified of these changes and that pre-existing forms would be valid until the supply of forms was exhausted (during which time both versions of the forms (pre-existing and new) were valid). Rosselkhoznadzor currently has both versions of the form on its website and has samples of the following forms:

- PPQ Form 577 (old) Phytosanitary Certificate
- PPQ Form 577 (June 2013) Phytosanitary Certificate
- PPQ Form 579 (June 2013) Phytosanitary Certificate for Reexport
- PPQ Form 578 (June 2013) Phytosanitary Certificate for Processed Plant Products

For more information, see [APHIS Information for Importers and Exporters](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/importexport) or [VPSS Requirements for Imports from the United States](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/importexport).

USDA/ Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)

Russia requires phytosanitary certificates for rice to be accompanied by an official USDA letter including test results from one of the private laboratories that were approved under the LibertyLink Proficiency Program. For details please see GAIN report [RS8029 Russia Lifts Ban on U.S. Rice Imports](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/importexport). The requirement for a letter with test results from a LibertyLink Proficiency Program-approved lab remains in effect although the Program itself ended in 2014. Successor requirements reflecting the end of the Program have not been finalized.

Other Certificates

Private

- Certificate of Origin
- Certificate of Quality (and Safety)

U.S. Department of the Interior/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service


For more information, visit [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Importers and Exporters](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/importexport)
A Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) certificate is required for exporting paddlefish and sturgeon caviar, and sturgeon meat to the EAEU. To ensure the species’ continued survival, all species of sturgeon and paddlefish are listed in the CITES Appendices.

For more information on exporting paddlefish and sturgeon caviar and meat, please visit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s sturgeon and paddlefish Permits page.

Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

Health Certificates

Export certificates are required and verified for consistency with the EAEU regulations at the external border of the Eurasian Economic Union to protect public and animal health (veterinary certificates) as well as the environment (phytosanitary certificates). Health certificates are also used to determine product origin.

The Russian Ministry of Agriculture’s Federal Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance Service (Rosselkhoznadzor, or VPSS) is responsible for veterinary and phytosanitary control in Russia as well as on Russia’s external border of the Eurasian Economic Union. The Federal Service for Consumer Rights Protection and Human Welfare (Rospotrebnadzor) is responsible for setting standards and sanitary-epidemiological control in Russia. In practice, Rosselkhoznadzor enforces sanitary-epidemiological control over products at the border when those products are also subject to sanitary-veterinary control. Based on EAEU regulations, for product transiting Kazakhstan or Belarus and destined for Russia, sanitary and phytosanitary control, including the verification of valid certificates to enter Russia, is performed at their respective external borders of the Eurasian Economic Union.

Veterinary Certificates

According to the uniform procedure for veterinary control at the customs border of the Customs Union, products contained in the uniform list of products under veterinary control require a veterinary certificate (except veterinary drugs and feed additives of chemical and microbiological synthesis). Veterinary certificates should be consistent with the uniform requirements for products under veterinary control.

Veterinary certificates are also used to enforce the uniform sanitary-epidemiological and hygienic requirements (in Russian) for products contained in the uniform list of products under sanitary-epidemiological control at the customs border and in the customs territory of the Customs Union.

Phytosanitary Certificates

According to the EAEU regulations, products defined as “high phytosanitary risk” in the list of products under phytosanitary control require a phytosanitary certificate.

In late 2016, the EAEU adopted three key documents, Unified EAEU List of Quarantine Pests, Unified EAEU Phytosanitary Requirements, and Unified Rules and Norms to Ensure Plant Quarantine on the
*EAEU Territory*, finally introducing unified phytosanitary requirements for all Member States as of July 1, 2017. For details please see GAIN reports RS1721 WTO Notifications on the EAEU Common List of Pests, RS1722 WTO Notifications on EAEU Phytosanitary Requirements, and RS1723 WTO Notification on EAEU Common Phytosanitary Rules.

Initially, the **Unified EAEU List of Quarantine Pests** replaced the national lists of quarantine objects (pests) of the individual EAEU member states, including that of Russia, as of July 1, 2017. However, on July 21, 2017, Rosselkhoznadzor released a notification that the EAEU List of Quarantine Pests does not contain 57 pests that are of quarantine concern specifically for the Russian Federation, and that Rosselkhoznadzor considers it necessary to add controls for these quarantine pests. This Rosselkhoznadzor requirement came to force on July 24, 2017; since that date, all regulated products that are imported to or transit the territory of the Russian Federation are checked and controlled for the presence of quarantine pests that are in the Unified EAEU List of Quarantine Pests plus the 57 quarantine pests from the list added by Rosselkhoznadzor and later notified to the WTO “as a temporary measure”. For details please see GAIN report RS1744 VPSS Adds to its List of Quarantine Pests for Russia.

In 2018, both the Unified EAEU List of Quarantine Pests and the Unified EAEU Phytosanitary Requirements were amended to incorporate additional quarantine objects (pests) into the Unified List from the National Lists of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan. For details please see GAIN report RS1830 Eurasian Economic Union Ag Times No. 2 of 2018. As a result, 46 of the 57 pests from the Rosselkhoznadzor’s July 2017 notification above are now covered by the Unified EAEU List and the Phytosanitary Requirements. However, the remaining eleven additional pests that are relevant for Russia but not covered by the Unified EAEU Phytosanitary Requirements and Russia’s related “temporary measure” are still in effect.

Additionally, Russia’s Federal Law on Plant Quarantine (please see GAIN report RS1451 Russian New Federal Law on Plant Quarantine) continues to apply to the extent it does not contradict the unified EAEU phytosanitary requirements. According to the Law, each batch of imported regulated products with high as well as with low phytosanitary risk is subject to quarantine and phytosanitary control at the border. The Russian phytosanitary requirements for imported regulated products are grouped by countries and by pests (for more information on the Russian phytosanitary requirements for imported products please see Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Annual Country Report).

**Other Certificates**

**Certificates of Quality (and Safety)**
The manufacturer’s certificate of quality (and safety) is used to determine whether the product conforms to product specifications of the contract and quality requirements of the Eurasian Economic Union and Russia. It is not a substitute for the applicable U.S. government-issued health certificates. It is, rather, a document used by the importer to obtain a declaration of conformity, which attests to compliance with the requirements of the relevant technical regulations. For details on the declaration of conformity please see Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Annual Country Report.
Certificates of Origin
Russian Customs officials use certificates of origin as proof to determine import tariffs and eligibility for import tariff preferences (e.g. for least developed countries) or exemptions from restrictive measures (e.g. trade remedies).

CITES Certificates
CITES control is guided by Appendices I, II, and III.

- The export of Appendix-I and –II specimens requires an export permit. Such a permit may be granted when the export will not be detrimental to the species’ survival and specimens were legally acquired.

- For Appendix-III species originating from the country that listed it, an export permit is required. An export permit may be granted when the Management Authority (i.e. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) determines that the specimens were not obtained in contravention of that country’s laws for the protection of animals and plants.

- A re-export certificate is required for the export of CITES-listed specimens that were previously imported, including items subsequently converted to manufactured goods. A certificate may be issued when evidence of legal import has been provided. If you were the original importer of the wildlife or plant, you need to provide a copy of the canceled CITES permit that accompanied the shipment into the United States and, for animal specimens, the cleared Declaration for Importation (Form 3-177) for that shipment. If you were not the importer, you must provide copies of the importer’s documents, as well as documents that show you purchased the wildlife or plant from the original importer, or a record of sequential transactions.

- If a species meets the criteria for bred-in-captivity or artificially propagated as outlined in CITES resolutions, the exporting country may issue an exemption certificate (bred-in-captivity facts sheet is available). For Appendix-I specimens, no CITES import permit is required.

- For Appendix-III specimens that originated from a country other than the listing country, a certificate of origin is needed to export the specimen. A certificate can be issued if the specimen was legally obtained within the exporting country.

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

All certificates must be in Russian.

For products under veterinary control, please consult the importer’s import (veterinary) permit for specific conditions.

For products under sanitary-epidemiological control, the Eurasian Economic Union typically requires the corresponding veterinary certificates to contain the following two attestations:

- “Microbiological, chemical and toxicological, and radiological indicators of [commodity] comply with the veterinary and sanitary requirements of the Eurasian Economic Union.”

- “Package and packaging material are used only once and comply with the requirements of the Eurasian Economic Union.”
For phytosanitary certificates, please consult APHIS’ APHIS Export Certificate Forms.

Section IV. Government Certificate Legal Entry Requirements

Eurasian Economic Union regulations require export certificates to accompany their cargo.

Eurasian Economic Union regulations also require that veterinary health certificates be issued before the product is exported. As of November 2014, the relevant EAEU regulations allow the correction of technical errors and amendments to the name and address of the consignor/consignee, type of transport, country (countries) of transit, and the entry point, as well as the use of replacement phytosanitary certificates under condition that the authorized agencies of exporting countries guarantee safety and wholesomeness of regulated products from the moment of its out-loading to the moment of the entry to the customs territory of the Eurasian Economic Union. For details please see GAIN Report RS1389 Amended CU Regulations Allow Replacement Phytosanitary Certificates. However, Rosselkhoznadzor refuses to accept replacement and in-lieu-of certificates issued after the date of export.

Rosselkhoznadzor enforces a zero-tolerance policy for certificate errors and such instances commonly arise from inaccurate information provided to the federal authority issuing the certificate (e.g., wrong container numbers, mistyped establishment numbers). Errors commonly result in significant demurrage costs and can lead to a shipment being denied entry. Exporters wishing to obtain either a replacement or in-lieu-of certificate for purposes of correcting errors or redirecting cargo to Russia should work with their importer.

Suppliers’ and manufacturers’ export declarations are not accepted as an export health certificate.

Derogations of export certification requirements are approved on a case-by-case basis. Exporters seeking derogations should work with their importer.

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

Certificates

All other certificates required by the Russian government are the responsibility of the importer.

Accredited Supplier Lists

In general, products subject to veterinary control are required to come from establishments identified on approved supplier lists. Rosselkhoznadzor often issues conditions to source from approved establishments in the import (veterinary) permit. As a result, non-exempt commodities without a list of approved establishments (e.g., dairy) are routinely blocked from entry. Contrary to Russia’s WTO commitment to trim back the listing requirement to exclude select processed products of animal origin, Rosselkhoznadzor continues to de facto enforce the listing requirement on all such products.
At the time of this report’s publication, Rosselkhoznadzor maintains lists for the following U.S. commodities:

- **Feed and Feed Additives**
- **Feed and Feed Additives: Feed for Non-Productive Animals, Bird, Fish**
- **Feed and Feed Additives: Feed Additives**
- **Feed and Feed Additives: Fishmeal**
- **Meat and Meat Products** (NOTE: *This list includes cold storage facilities approved for all types of meats produced by approved establishments*)
  - **Meat and Meat Products: Beef**
  - **Meat and Meat Products: Poultry**
  - **Meat and Meat Products: Pork**
  - **Meat and Meat Products: Sub-products and Fat of Beef**
  - **Meat and Meat Products: Sub-products and Fat of Poultry**
  - **Meat and Meat Products: Sub-products and Fat of Pork**
- **Non-Edible Products: Raw Intestines (Casings)**
- **Food Products: Finished Mutton Products**
- **Food Products: Finished Beef Products**
- **Food Products: Finished Horse Meat Products**
- **Food Products: Finished Poultry Products**
- **Food Products: Finished Pork Products**
- **Food Products: Prepared Meat Products**
- **Products Not Requiring a Permit: Feed and Feed Additives** (*This list includes all establishments that ship feeds in retail packaging, for which import permits are not required. The list was created by Rosselkhoznadzor primarily for the convenience of the EAEU customs officials at the border.*)
  - **Fish and Seafood**

The final and transitional provisions of the Unified Procedure for veterinary control at the customs border of the Eurasian Economic Union exempts the following products from the listing requirement on an undefined, “temporary” basis:

- Animals and genetic material;
- Bee products;
- Raw materials of animal origin (skin, hair, raw fur skins, feathers, etc.);
- Animal feed of vegetable origin;
- Food additives of animal origin;
- Composite (containing animal origin components) products; and,
- Gelatin, etc.
APPENDIX I. Electronic Copy of Each Export Certificate

Attachments:
RS2020-0048 - Beef.pdf
RS2020-0048 - Bovine Embryos.pdf
RS2020-0048 - Bovine Semen.pdf
RS2020-0048 - Breeding Cattle.pdf
RS2020-0048 - Breeding Horses.pdf
RS2020-0048 - Breeding Pigs.pdf
RS2020-0048 - Breeding Sheep and Goats.pdf
RS2020-0048 - Canine Semen.pdf
RS2020-0048 - Cats Dogs.pdf
RS2020-0048 - Dog and Cat Feeds.pdf
RS2020-0048 - Earthworms.pdf
RS2020-0048 - Fattening Pigs.pdf
RS2020-0048 - Feed for Aquarium Fishes.pdf
RS2020-0048 - Fish and Fish Products.pdf
RS2020-0048 - Fresh Dried Hides.pdf
RS2020-0048 - Game Trophies.pdf
RS2020-0048 - Hatching Eggs.pdf
RS2020-0048 - Heat-Treated Milk Products.pdf
RS2020-0048 - Hides.pdf
RS2020-0048 - Horse Meat.pdf
RS2020-0048 - Lab Animals.pdf
RS2020-0048 - Live Fish.pdf