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**Report Highlights:**

This report outlines the certificates required by the Government of Kenya for U.S. food and agricultural exports. It complements the information found in the FAIRS Annual Country Report for Kenya. The Kenya Trade Network Agency provides a single online platform for importers and exporters to electronically submit certificates and receive approvals from relevant trade regulatory agencies.

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**Questions about this report?**

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 Nairobi, Kenya



## Executive Summary

Multiple specialized government agencies regulate the import of food and agricultural products into Kenya. Depending on the specific commodity, shipment approval falls under the jurisdiction of several distinct authorities. These include the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) for plant materials and the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS) for animal products. Additionally, the Kenya Dairy Board (KDB) manages dairy items, while the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) enforces overall quality metrics. Finally, the National Biosafety Authority (NBA) oversees genetically modified products, and the Department of Public Health (DPH) ensures general food safety compliance.

The regulatory agencies are linked to a single [online](#) export-import approval platform that serves as a single-entry point for all parties involved in international trade. The platform enables electronic lodging of documents, import, export approvals, and payment of fees, levies, duties and taxes due to the government. All certification requests must be submitted through the platform.

## Section I. Export Certificates Required

Products	Title of certificate	Attestation required on certificate	Purpose	Requesting Authority
<b>Eligible imported food products</b>	Local certificate of conformity ( <a href="https://www.sgs.com/en/public-sector/product-conformity-assessment-pca/kenya-pvoc-program">Verification of Conformity</a> ) <a href="https://www.sgs.com/en/public-sector/product-conformity-assessment-pca/kenya-pvoc-program">https://www.sgs.com/en/public-sector/product-conformity-assessment-pca/kenya-pvoc-program</a>	That an imported product conforms to Kenyan standards.	Destination inspection compliance	KEBS
<b>All plant materials</b>	Phytosanitary certificate ( <a href="#">APHIS PPQ Form 577</a> )	That plants and plant products are free from pests and diseases	Protection of plant health and to facilitate safe transboundary movement	KEPHIS
	Plant import permit (available at <a href="#">KEPHIS</a> )	That the export product is free from pests and diseases	Plant health	KEPHIS
<b>Bull semen</b>	Permit to import bull semen	Product conforms to veterinary requirements of Kenya	Animal health	DVS

<b>Products</b>	<b>Title of certificate</b>	<b>Attestation required on certificate</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Requesting Authority</b>
<b>Meat and poultry products, and by-products</b>	Letter of no objection	Market need, and accuracy of import documents	Import control	DVS
	FSIS Export Certificate of Wholesomeness ( <a href="#">FSIS 9060-5</a> )	Product was inspected and deemed wholesome for human consumption	Food safety	DVS
<b>Milk and milk products</b>	Letter of no objection	Market needs, and the accuracy and authenticity of import documents and declarations.	Import control	KDB
	Sanitary Certificate	Product was produced in inspected facilities subject to regular audits	Food safety	DVS and KDB
<b>Products containing genetically engineered materials</b>	Import permit for products containing GE material	Product conforms to Kenya's <a href="#">biosafety regulations</a>	Control of GE product imports	NBA

## **Section II: Specific Attestations Required on Export Certificates**

### **Certificate of Conformity**

Kenya requires Certificate of Conformity (CoC) for imported food and agriculture products, with some [exemptions](#). The certificate contains attestations that a product has been inspected by KEBS at the point of entry and conforms to Kenyan standards for quality, safety, and environmental protection. Since February 2026, KEBS has not contracted any pre-export inspection agent in the United States, and eligible U.S. exports to Kenya are subject to destination inspection at Kenya's ports of entry. Specific products standards can be purchased [online](#).

### **Phytosanitary Certificate**

The certificate confirms that plants, plant products or other regulated articles have been inspected and/or tested according to appropriate official procedures and are free from the quarantine pests, specified by the importing contracting. In the case of exports from the United States, the Phytosanitary Certificate is issued by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

### **Export Certificate of Wholesomeness**

Kenya accepts the standard FSIS 9060-5 Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness with no additional letterhead certificate. The certificate confirms that the product was produced from animals under anti and postmortem inspection, that the final product passed inspection, and that the product is sound and wholesome.

### **Sanitary Certificate**

Kenya accepts the AMS Sanitary Certificate for dairy exports. That certificate confirms that the product was manufactured in facilities inspected and approved by a competent authority, and is subject to regular audits and inspection.

### **The Diamond Standardization Mark**

The Diamond Standardization Mark certification is a voluntary program that is implemented by KEBS, for manufacturers who have demonstrated consistency in product manufacturing and quality. The holders of the certification can export their products without any pre-export verification. The permit to use the mark is valid for a period of four years subject to satisfactory quality performance. Products that are ineligible under this program include:

- Sugar
- Cereals and pulses
- Animal and fishery products
- Dairy products
- Fresh horticultural products

### **Section III: Government Certificates and Legal Entry Requirements**

Kenyan authorities do not recognize U.S. states' certificates, nor do they require Certificates of Free Sale for import clearance. The table below provides legal-entry information on certificates listed in Section I.

<b>Title of the certificate</b>	<b>Is the certificate required at entry?</b>	<b>How long is the certificate valid?</b>	<b>Can the certificate be applied for multiple shipments?</b>	<b>Does Kenya accept a supplier's or manufacturer's export declaration as proof of compliance?</b>
<b>Certificate of conformity</b>	Yes	Three months	No	No
<b>Phytosanitary Certificate</b>	Yes	No specific time limit, covers shipment period	No	No
<b>Plant import permit</b>	Yes	No specific time limit, covers shipment period	No	No
<b>Permit to import bull semen</b>	Yes	No specific time limit, covers shipment period	No	No

<b>No objection permit to import meat and meat products</b>	Yes	Three months	No	No
<b>No objection permit to import milk and milk products</b>	Yes	Three months	No	No
<b>Import permit for GE products</b>	Yes	No specific time limit, covers shipment period	No	No

**Section IV: Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements**

**Other certifications**

In addition to the certificates listed in Section IV, and depending on the product/commodity, Kenya requires the following:

- Fumigation Certificate
- Noxious Weed Certificate
- Free from Karnal Bunt Certificate

**Radiation Certificate**

The Kenya Nuclear Regulatory Authority (KNRA) regulates all radioactive materials and issues a radiation certificate to ascertain that commodities imported into Kenya through the port of entry are free of radioactive elements. The certificate is processed by KNRA through the Kenya Trade Network Agency’s online [platform](#).

**Export Certificates by U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)**


Firms exporting products from the United States are often asked by foreign customers or foreign governments to supply a written export certification for products regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. For food products, FDA provides written certification for exports in the form of certificates and lists of eligible exporters for specific products or destinations. For more information on FDA-Issued Export Certificates please visit FDA’s [website](#). Export Certificates include the Certificate to a Foreign Government, the Certificate of Exportability, the Certificate of Free Sale, the Certificate for Cosmetics, and health certificates for collagen and gelatin for products. For certain exported food products, some foreign food safety authorities require certification in the form of publicly available lists of establishments eligible for export. For more information on FDA Food Export Lists please visit FDA’s [website](#).

## Appendix I: Electronic Copy or Outline of Export Certificates

Electronic copies and links for most Kenya certificates are not available. Below are examples of text from Kenya certifications including attestations required. Contact information of relevant ministries is also provided.

### A. PERMIT TO IMPORT BULL SEMEN

#### MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES STATE DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK

Telegrams: "VETLAB", Kabete Telephone: 020 – 2067641 and 020-2700705 Fax: 020-2026212 E-mail: <a href="mailto:cvfokabete@yahoo.com">cvfokabete@yahoo.com</a> , <a href="mailto:director@dvsKabete.go.ke">director@dvsKabete.go.ke</a>		DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY SERVICES, VETERINARY RESEARCH LABORATORIES, PRIVATE BAG, 00625 KANGEMI
When replying, please quote:  All correspondences should be addressed to: The Director of Veterinary Services Parcel by rail: Nairobi Station		

### Veterinary requirements

#### 1. Certification

The consignment must be accompanied by a permit and certificate signed by a veterinary surgeon of the government of the exporting country to the effect that:

- i. The district or area from which the semen is derived is free from any disease of cattle that is notifiable by law to the ministry responsible for veterinary administration.
- ii. The bull from which the semen was collected was healthy and free from diseases which are transmitted via semen.
- iii. The semen was collected at an approved artificial insemination (A.I.) center, which is under the sanitary supervision and control of a veterinary surgeon.
- iv. The center is under overall supervision of a veterinary administration that is responsible for routine visits to check the health and welfare of the bulls and the procedures and records at the Center at least once every six months.
- v. Adequate and approved measures have been taken against the introduction of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy in accordance with Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the O.I.E.

#### 2. Bull requirements

- i. Bulls must continuously reside at the A.I. Center for the period of semen collection and in that time must not be used for natural mating.
- ii. Bulls must be subjected to a virus identification test for blue tongue disease according to the terrestrial manual on blood samples collected at commencement and conclusion of, and at least

every 7 days (for a virus isolation test) or at least every 28 days (for a PCR test) during semen collection for this semen consignment with negative results.

- iii. Bulls must be tested and have no *Campylobacter* infections on both immunofluorescent and culture examination of semen and preputial washings before entry into an approved A.I. Station.
- iv. Bulls must be tested serologically, with negative results to *Leptospira* serotype prevalent in cattle in the exporting country. Alternatively, bulls may be injected twice with an approved drug for the treatment of leptospirosis according to the manufacturers' directions within three months prior to collection of this semen batch.
- v. Bulls must be tested for tuberculosis with negative results within twelve months prior to semen collection if the exporting country is not free from Bovine Tuberculosis.
- vi. Bulls must be examined for IPV/IBR virus with negative results.

### **3. Other requirements**

Bulls must be progeny tested with positive results. A copy of pedigree and progeny test values must be attached to a veterinary health certificate.

- i. Bulls must have no genetic defects or carry the CVM gene.
- ii. The semen exporter must include two doses of semen for a motility check using a stereomicroscope at 40x magnification.

### **4. Semen packaging and transportation**

- i. Each semen straw must be identified with the name and identification number of the donor bull and the date of collection.
- ii. Semen must be packed hygienically and under adequate liquid nitrogen in containers which were cleaned and disinfected under a veterinary surgeon's supervision.
- iii. Semen must be consigned by air and through the fastest route possible to The Director of Veterinary Services, Private Bag Kabete, Code: 00625, Kangemi, Nairobi, Kenya. Details of the arrival of the consignment must be communicated to the Director of Veterinary Services in good time.
- iv. On arrival the consignment will be detained by the Director of Veterinary Services until documents and semen are inspected by the chief veterinarian in the Artificial Insemination Division. If the Director of Veterinary Services is not satisfied with the fulfillment of the requirements, the semen may be reexported or destroyed at the expense of the importer.


No semen shall be distributed or sold except under the authority of a license issued by the Director of Veterinary Services and in accordance with such conditions as may be attached thereto.

Any person who imports, distributes, or sells bull semen without having first obtained a license to do so or who imports, distributes, or sells bull semen in breach of any condition attached to his/her license is guilty of an offense.

An original copy of this permit must accompany the consignment to Kenya and be presented to an officer of this department at the airport.

## **B. NO OBJECTION PERMIT TO IMPORT MEAT, MEAT PRODUCTS AND MEAT BY-PRODUCTS**

### **MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES STATE DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK**

Telegrams: "VETLAB", Kabete Telephone: 020 – 2067641 and 020-2700705 Fax: 020-2026212 E-mail: <a href="mailto:cvfokabete@yahoo.com">cvfokabete@yahoo.com</a> , <a href="mailto:director@dvsKabete.go.ke">director@dvsKabete.go.ke</a>		DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY SERVICES, VETERINARY RESEARCH LABORATORIES, PRIVATE BAG, 00625 KANGEMI
When replying, please quote  All correspondences should be addressed to: The Director of Veterinary Services Parcel by rail: Nairobi Station		

#### **Requirements for meat, meat products and meat by-products (issued under meat control regulations of 1997)**


1. The slaughterhouse where meat animals were slaughtered must be approved and designated as an export slaughterhouse by the highest veterinary authorities of the country of origin. It must also have a control/establishment number and be under constant supervision by the same authorities.
2. The processing plants where the meat and meat products are packed, labelled, and loaded, and which are outside the export slaughterhouses must be designated as export plants by the highest veterinary authorities of the country of origin, must have a control establishment number, and must be under constant supervision by the competent authority.
3. The slaughtering, dressing, handling, packing, and loading of the meat must be done under the most proper hygiene conditions in accordance with the basic sanitary rules and regulations of the Recommended International Code of Hygienic practices of fresh meat CAC/RCP 11-1976, Rev.1 (1993) in Codex Alimentarius Vol. (1994).
4. Meat and meat products must not contain foreign substances or chemical residues in concentrations injurious to human health.
5. The animals from which meat was derived must come from regions or farms known to be free for at least six months from all infectious and contagious diseases particularly foot and mouth disease, anthrax, rabies, brucellosis, scrapie, swine fever, and atrophic rhinitis.
6. The animals from which the meat was derived must be subject to thorough ante mortem and postmortem inspection by an official veterinarian and found to be free from symptoms of all contagious and infectious diseases and lesions, particularly symptoms associated with diseases referred to in paragraph 5. Animals must be deemed sound, wholesome and fit for human consumption.

7. Meat inspection procedures and hygiene practices must be in accordance with the “code of practice for the ante mortem judgment of slaughter animals and meat” as described in FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission ALINORM 85/32.
8. The animals from which the meat, meat products, and meat by-products were derived must originate from the country of origin.
9. The meat/meat products shall be transported directly from the country of origin to Kenya without any trans-shipment.
10. The meat/meat products shall be transported from the country of origin to the importers’ cold stores by means that conform to the meat control rules and regulations of Kenya.
11. Every consignment must be accompanied by a veterinary health certificate indicating the identification number of the associated export slaughterhouse or processing plant.
12. Permits are valid for one consignment only and must be presented to the veterinary officer at the port of entry into Kenya.

The process can only be started by an application from the importer. Issue of a no-objection permit is on a case-by-case basis. When more conditions such as risk analysis are considered, the same shall be required.

**C. NO OBJECTION PERMIT TO IMPORT MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS**

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES  
STATE DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK**

Telegrams: “VETLAB”, Kabete Telephone: 020 – 2067641 and 020-2700705 Fax: 020-2026212 E-mail: <a href="mailto:cvfokabete@yahoo.com">cvfokabete@yahoo.com</a> , <a href="mailto:director@dvs-kabete.go.ke">director@dvs-kabete.go.ke</a>		DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY SERVICES, VETERINARY RESEARCH LABORATORIES, PRIVATE BAG, 00625 KANGEMI
When replying, please quote:  All correspondences should be addressed to: The Director of Veterinary Services Parcel by rail: Nairobi Station		

**Requirements for milk and milk products**

1. The area within a 10-kilometer (6.2 mile) radius of the farm of origin must be free from any disease to which cattle are susceptible, and which are notifiable to the veterinary authorities of the country of origin for the previous three months.
2. There must be no outbreak of foot and mouth disease, lumpy skin or contagious bovine pleuropneumonia within 50 kilometers (31 miles) of the farm of origin in the previous three months.
3. There must be no foot and mouth disease of types SAT1, SAT3 or ASIA 1 or rinderpest or vesicular stomatitis recorded in the country of origin within the previous four years.
4. Milk or milk products must originate from animals that have passed the following tests within 30 days prior to export:

- i. Single comparative intra-dermal tuberculin test for tuberculosis applied and interpreted according to the standards of WHO/OIE/FAO
  - ii. Serum agglutination test for brucellosis interpreted with regard to any previous vaccination according to the standards of WHO/OIE/FAO,
  - iii. Complement fixation test for Johne's disease (Paratuberculosis).
5. Milk or milk products must not constitute any danger of introducing infectious or contagious diseases such as vibriosis, leptospirosis, trichomoniasis, brucellosis, Johne's disease and bovine leucosis. For brucellosis, herds must be free for 2 years and for Bovine Leukosis and Johne's disease herds must be free for 5 years.
6. Milk products must be prepared from raw milk derived from animals not showing clinical signs of a disease that can be transmitted through milk/milk products and raw milk must be produced, handled and kept hygienically.
7. Milk products must be found to be of good quality prior to processing through qualitative testing such as resazurin tests, adulteration tests, and organoleptic tests, among others.
8. Milk products must be manufactured in establishments approved for the purpose of processing milk or milk products for export by a competent health or veterinary authority. These establishments must be under constant supervision by the same authority.
9. Milk products must be subjected to an initial treatment having an effect at least equivalent to that achieved by pasteurization at a temperature of at least 72 degrees Celsius (161.6 degrees Fahrenheit) for at least 15 seconds to produce a negative reaction to the phosphatase test. These treatments must be followed by:
  - i. a second heat treatment involving high temperature pasteurization, UHT or sterilization, to produce a negative reaction to the peroxidase test.  
or
  - ii. in case of milk powder or a dry milk-based product, a second heat treatment having an effect at least equivalent to that achieved by the first treatment to produce a negative reaction to a phosphatase test, followed by a drying process.  
or
  - iii. an acidification process such that the pH value is lowered and kept at below 6 for at least one hour.
10. The products must not contain any harmful additives and must be unconditionally safe and fit for human consumption.
11. The products must not contain foreign substances including toxins (microbial or otherwise) or chemical residues in concentrations injurious to health.
12. The products must not be exposed to radioactive contamination and must not have a radioactivity level exceeding 21 Bq per kg (2.205 lbs) calculated on CS 137.
13. The products must be processed, handled, packed, stored, and transported hygienically and all necessary precautions must be taken to prevent contamination prior to dispatch.
14. The products must be subject to necessary quality controls including laboratory tests and must be found to be of good quality and free from pathogenic organisms including coliforms, listeria etc.

15. The products must be manufactured from milk derived from animals reared within the country of origin.
16. The products must not be of inferior quality than otherwise specified under Kenyan standards. Milk and milk products must be consigned directly to Kenya without trans-shipment.
17. The original copy of the import permit with a certificate indicating compliance together with other required certificates shall be presented to all relevant authorities (port, health, customs, and veterinary officials) at the point of entry.
18. At the direction of the health/veterinary officials at entry point, samples of imported milk/milk products may be taken and subjected to various tests as may be deemed necessary at the expense of the importer.

Note that the process can only be started by an application from the importer. The issue of a no-objection permit with these requirements is on a case-by-case basis. When more conditions such as risk analysis are considered, the same shall be required.

#### **D. IMPORT PERMIT FOR GE-CONTAINING PRODUCTS**

##### **NATIONAL BIO-SAFETY AUTHORITY Application Form for Import, Export and Transit of Genetically Modified Organisms**

1. Name, address ( <i>including physical address</i> ) and contact details of the importer/exporter  Applicant:	Type of application ( <i>Tick as appropriate</i> )  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Import</li> <li>• Export</li> <li>• Transit</li> </ul>
2. Contact details of the competent authority as applicable.	2.1 Importing /Destination country
	2.2 Exporting country
3. Name, address and contact details of the supplier.	4. Country of origin
	5. Expected date of import/export/ transit
6. Common name, scientific name, commercial name or unique identifier code of the genetically modified organism.	7. Port: 7.1 Entry into Kenya  7.2 Exit from Kenya

8. Evidence of approval of the genetically modified organism from the exporting country (Attach)	9. Consent for import from the destination country (in case of export or transit).
10. The intended use of the genetically modified organism in Kenya and what it was used for in the exporting country	11. The quantity of the genetically modified organism to be imported into Kenya
12. A summary of the risk assessment report	
13. Methods and plans for safe handling, storage, transport, and use, including packaging, labelling, documentation, disposal and contingency procedures.	
14. Describe the emergency response plan in Kenya in the event of an accident with the genetically modified organisms	

Declaration by applicant

I hereby declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief the particulars given in this application are true and correct.

Declared by

\_\_\_\_\_

Declarant

Date, Nairobi

*Note: Kenya currently maintains an import ban on genetically engineered (GE) agricultural and food products.*

**Attachments:**

No Attachments