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**Report Highlights:**

This report highlights certification requirements for food and agricultural products exported to Canada and supplements the FAIRS Country Report.

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*Disclaimer:* This report was prepared by the Ottawa Office of Agricultural Affairs for exporters of U.S. 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 certificates issued by U.S. government authorities to comply with Canadian import standards and regulations. It is an update to the 2024 Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) Export Certificate Report. This is not intended as a compendium of Canadian import requirements, but rather as a supplement to the most recent FAIRS Country Report. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, this information is provided only as guidance. Requirements may have changed since this report's preparation.

FAS/Canada strongly recommends U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements through the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's [Automated Import Reference System \(AIRS\)](#) that serves as a reference guide on Canadian importing requirements for several commodities. It is good business practice for U.S. companies to consult with their Canadian customers (importers) to ensure products meet the latest Canadian import requirements. Final import 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.

FAS/Canada encourages all U.S. exporters to work closely with their U.S. federal and state inspectors in the issuance of various attestations and certificates. A number of [State Departments of Agriculture](#) maintain inspection programs and cooperative agreements with USDA, such as the [Food Safety and Inspection Services \(FSIS\)](#), to assist with required documentation for exporters. Every effort is made by U.S. inspectors to comply and consult with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) when necessary. Exporters are urged to contact the appropriate authorities well in advance of export.

The USDA's [electronic Trade Document Exchange \(eTDE\)](#) allows for exporters and importers of peanuts, dairy, egg products, seeds, and/or organic products to access trade forms and certificates to be downloaded and completed.

As of June 2022, the [USDA FSIS Public Health Information System \(PHIS\)](#) provides export applications for all meat (including Siluriformes) and poultry exports to Canada. Exporters of such products are encouraged to check the [FSIS export library for Canada](#) often as USDA frequently updates the library.

The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has created the International Animal Product Export Regulations (IREgs) to provide animal-origin product exporters with USDA's best understanding of importing countries requirements. U.S. exporters of such products should review the [IREgs page for Canada](#) often as APHIS publishes important notices and updates.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) also [issues different types of export certification](#) for different food products. Industry may request most types of FDA-issued export certificates for food products through the [CFSAN Export Certification Application and Tracking System \(CFSAN eCATS\)](#). Please [visit this website](#) for step-by-step instructions for applying for FDA export certificates.

## Section I. Export Certificate Table

	Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Purpose/ Attestation	Issuing Authority	Authority Requiring Certificate
A.	All U.S. products seeking “ <a href="#">Certification of Origin</a> ” for preferential treatment under USMCA	<a href="#">Certification of Origin (Template)</a> (There is no requirement for this information to be provided on a specific form. It may be provided on an invoice or any other document.)	Must be provided upon request to CBSA in connection with a claim for preferential tariff treatment	Importer, exporter, or producer can make the certification	Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)
B(i).	Meat and Poultry	FSIS Form 9060-5, Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness  <a href="#">Canada   Food Safety and Inspection Service (usda.gov)</a>  Guideline for completing export certificates for Canada is available <a href="#">here</a>	Certify the product(s) meet FSIS requirements and are eligible for commerce	Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)	Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)
B(ii).	Certain conventional foods, food additives, food contact substances, and infant formula	FDA CFSAN Certificate to a Foreign Government  <a href="#">CFSAN eCATS</a>	This certificate states, among other things, that a product (or products) may be marketed in and legally exported from the United States	FDA	CFIA
B(iii).	Labelling of meat and poultry products	<a href="#">FSIS labelling guidance</a>  Reference: <a href="#">CFIA Labelling Tool</a>	Ensures product labels meet the requirements listed on the <a href="#">CFIA Industry Labelling Tool website</a>	FSIS	CFIA

	Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Purpose/ Attestation	Issuing Authority	Authority Requiring Certificate
B.(iv)	Egg Products	<a href="#">Canada   Food Safety and Inspection Service (usda.gov)</a> Guideline for completing export certificates for Canada is available <a href="#">here</a> Egg Products Export Certificate of Wholesomeness and listing of approved establishments <a href="#">Form 9060-5EP (terms)</a> <a href="#">Form 2630-9, Declaration of Veterinarian</a>	Certify the product(s) meet FSIS requirements and are eligible for commerce	FSIS	CFIA
	Fresh eggs	<a href="#">Letterhead Certificate for Unpasteurized Eggs</a> <a href="#">Letterhead Certificate for Pasteurized Eggs</a>	Veterinary Health Attestation	FSIS	CFIA
	Processed egg and egg products	<a href="#">Processed Egg and Egg Products Export Verification Certificate</a> <a href="#">LPS-234</a>	Processed egg products and hard-cooked eggs meet USDA requirements and are eligible for commerce	Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)	CFIA
C.	Ready-to-eat meat and poultry products	<a href="#">Microbiological Testing of Ready-To-Eat (RTE) Products Destined for Canada</a> <a href="#">FSIS Form 5200-6</a>	Meet microbiological testing criteria to ensure food safety	AMS FSIS	CFIA

	Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Purpose/ Attestation	Issuing Authority	Authority Requiring Certificate
D.	Bison (Buffalo)	<a href="#">USDA Beef Export Verification (EV) Program: Product Conformity Attestation on Shipping Documentation</a>	Demonstrate the ability to produce products in accordance with the EV Program for Canada	AMS	CFIA
E.	Pet food and supplements	<a href="#">Export of pet foods with animal products</a>  <a href="#">Veterinary export certificate</a>	U.S. origin and veterinary health attestations	APHIS	CFIA
F.	Fresh Fruits, Horticulture and Vegetables	<a href="#">Phytosanitary Certificates</a>  <a href="#">U.S. – Canada Greenhouse-Grown Plant Certification Program</a>	Certify the plant or plant product meets the following: 1) Has been inspected per appropriate procedures 2) Is considered to be free from certain pests 3) Conforms to Canada’s current phytosanitary regulations	APHIS	CFIA
F1.	Samples for trade shows	CFIA Applications to be submitted  <a href="#">Office of Registration Variety</a>	Permissions issued by the CFIA to keep Canada's food supply safe, protect environment from invasive diseases and pests, and ensure compliance with various regulatory requirements		CFIA

	Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Purpose/Attestation	Issuing Authority	Authority Requiring Certificate
G.	Live Animals, honeybees, and aquatic animals	<a href="#">Veterinary Export Health Certificate</a>	Animal Health	APHIS	CFIA
H.	Fish and seafood	<a href="#">Canada – Aquaculture Commodities</a> <a href="#">Aquatic Animal Health Export Certificate</a> <a href="#">National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Seafood Inspection Program</a>	Sanitation, Grading, Food Safety, Wholesomeness, Animal Health, Eligibility of Species	NOAA, APHIS, FWS	CFIA, CBSA, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
I.	Selected products, broth, extracts, flavors derived from beef, pork, and poultry.	<a href="#">CFSAN</a>	Meet food safety, production standards that include required heat treatment	FDA	CFIA
J.	Organic equivalency	<a href="#">USDA Agricultural Marketing Service</a> <a href="#">CFIA Organic Equivalency Arrangement</a>	Certify products meet standards, practices, and requirements set by NOP	AMS	CFIA

## Section II. Regulations and Types of Export Certificates

A. To obtain preferential treatment for food products under [the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement \(USMCA\)](#), exporters must certify U.S. goods as compliant with the USMCA rules of origin and Canadian importers must claim the preference to benefit from duty-free treatment. There is no prescribed USMCA form to be completed, but the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Agency does provide a suggested format. To claim preferential treatment, the [following elements](#) need to be stated on the commercial invoice:

- Name and information about the exporter and producer of origin

- Name and information about the importer
- The harmonized tariff code
- Origin criteria
- The period the certification
- Authorized signature and date

In 2020, the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) raised the value of shipments that do not need to provide proof of origin to [CAD\\$3,300](#) /([USD\\$ 2,500](#)).

Harmonized system (HS) codes will be required on commercial invoices. The CBSA has the final say in terms of tariff classification, and FAS/Canada always recommends companies, especially in situations where tariff classification is more complex, to apply with CBSA for an [advance ruling for tariff classification](#). Once issued, these rulings are binding and help remove uncertainty when clearing the customs.

Assistance is available through local [State Departments of Agriculture](#) or through USDA's State Regional Trade Groups (SRTGs) represented [here](#).

## **B. Meat, Poultry and Processed Egg Products**

The USDA's FSIS is responsible for certification of all fresh, frozen, and packaged meat, poultry, and processed egg products. More information on export requirements for Canada are available on the FSIS export library [here](#).

### **B(i). Meat and Poultry**

All meat and poultry items must present a [Meat and Poultry Certificate of Wholesomeness](#). Since 2022, FSIS and CFIA only accept digital signatures as they are generated through PHIS.

Prior to generating the above-mentioned certificates, exporters will need to [set up an e-authentication](#) account on line by going to the non-USDA Federal Login page and hit *need an account*. For further questions on PHIS client enrollment, exporters may call 1-800-473-9135 or email [PHISTechnicalQA@usda.gov](mailto:PHISTechnicalQA@usda.gov).

Only [registered](#) meat and poultry establishments are eligible to export to Canada. Once the establishment is approved by FSIS and designated as a "registered", exporters are urged to check [CFIA's Foreign Establishment Library](#) prior to exporting to ensure both libraries are synchronized. All export requirements can be reviewed in the FSIS Export Library under the header [Canada](#). Detailed information is provided on regulations concerning product eligibility for certification, as well as slaughter, processing, labelling, marking, and all other documentation requirements.

**Tip:** Exporters will be provided with a six-digit number on export documentation. Please ensure this number coincides with the number on the stickers adhered to each shipping container. Shipping containers with shipping marks that are missing, illegible or do not

correlate to the OMIC are considered non-compliant. Current [CFIA guidance](#) states shipping containers with missing, incorrect, or illegible shipping marks may be brought into compliance provided an official of the exporting country's government inspection and certification agency oversees the correction of the shipping marks to these containers. The government official can supervise the correction in person or virtually. The importer is responsible for arranging for a government official of the exporting country to oversee the correction of shipping marks.

#### **B(ii). Certain Products of Meat Origins**

Shipments to Canada of several meat and poultry-containing products regulated by the FDA, such as meat and poultry-derived ingredients like broths, extracts, bouillons, flavors, and certain soups and noodles must have an FDA-issued "Certificate to a Foreign Government," (CFG). To obtain the certificate, exporters are to register online at [Export Certificates for Food](#).

#### **B (iii). Meat and Poultry Label Verification**

Exporters are responsible for working with their importers to ensure that their labels meet the requirements listed on the [CFIA Industry Labelling Tool website](#), including bilingual (English and French) requirements, to prevent delays or possible rejection at the border. The [FSIS Export Library](#) also provides thorough labeling guidance.

There are specific Canadian acts and regulations that outline approved nomenclature and standards of identity. Among other purposes, these acts and regulations are intended to enable consumers to make informed food choices based on information that is truthful and not misleading. Information that is provided voluntarily on food labels is often referred to as a claim. This may include any specific claims such as "Product of USA", "Low in fat", or "Fair trade," as well as any other text or wording about specific manufacturing processes, descriptions about certain ingredients or properties of the food, historical references, environmental statements, and so on. It also includes images, pictures or other visual representations, or any combination of these. In general, claims may be made about various aspects of a food, provided they are truthful, not misleading nor likely to create an erroneous impression, and that they are in compliance with any specific requirements that exist for a given type of claim.

#### **B(iv). Table Eggs and Processed Egg Products**

Egg and egg product imports are controlled and subject to a tariff rate quota (TRQs) system in Canada. U.S. exporters must work with a [Canadian importer](#) that has available 'quota' to import egg and egg products. Similar to approved meat establishments, only USDA [approved establishments](#) may export to Canada. It is upon the exporter to verify that their plant is on [CFIA's Foreign Approved Establishments](#) as well. Please take note that requirements for U.S. egg product exports to Canada may vary from state to state, and those establishments restricted from exporting are listed on FSIS page under the tab

[egg products](#). U.S. exporters may review all [requirements on FSIS Export Library](#). Additionally, a certificate of wholesomeness is required (please refer to section B(i)).

Processed egg and egg products are urged to register with the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) and FDA's [Processed Egg and Egg Products Export Verification \(PEEPEV\) Program](#). The list of approved exporters in the Export Verification program can be reviewed [here](#).

For further questions concerning shipments of FSIS-regulated products, exporters can contact FSIS at 1-855-444-9904 or e-mail at: [importexport@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:importexport@fsis.usda.gov).

### **C. Ready-to-Eat products (e.g. , closed-faced sandwiches)**

[AMS has a Microbiological Testing Program](#) as a part of the Export Verification (EV) Program for Ready-To-Eat (RTE) products destined for Canada. The program is designed to verify establishments' control of closed-faced sandwiches destined for Canada. The EV Program may eventually include other RTE products.

Canada requires that closed-faced sandwiches be produced under a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) plan. Under the EV program, the sandwiches will be produced in establishments that are under an [FSIS voluntary reimbursable inspection service](#). For closed-faced sandwiches produced under FSIS voluntary inspection, AMS will conduct a microbiological testing program, on behalf of FSIS, to verify the adequacy of establishment's food safety system in producing RTE products. Only [establishments participating in this program](#) can export closed-faced sandwiches to Canada.

If an establishment would like to participate in the AMS Microbiological Testing Program, please contact Biology Section Supervisor with the National Science Laboratories, at [NationalScienceLaboratories@ams.usda.gov](mailto:NationalScienceLaboratories@ams.usda.gov) or (704) 867-3873 (Main).

### **D. Bison - USDA Export Verification (EV) Program**

U.S. suppliers (slaughter facilities, fabricators, or processors) of bison, bison products, and bison offal items are required to meet the standards outlined in [the AMS EV Program](#) in order to export to Canada. U.S. suppliers that have an approved USDA QSA Program and have demonstrated the ability to produce products in accordance with the EV program for Canada will be listed on the [Official Listing of Eligible Suppliers to the USDA Bovine EV Programs](#).

### **E. Pet Foods**

#### **Thermally Processed Pet Food/Pet Treats/Compound Chews**

Each shipment of U.S. pet food products for the Canadian market must be accompanied by a shipping document (e.g., invoice, bill of lading, manifest, Canada Customs Invoice) and a zoosanitary export certificate issued by USDA APHIS. The shipping document must list the products in the shipment and the amounts and clearly reference the zoosanitary export certificate number.

As of January 21, 2025 the Importer's Statement of Compliance is no longer required for shipments of pet food products (pet food, treats, and supplements) imported from the United States.

There will be a 3-month transition period until April 21, 2025, where shipments will still be accepted with the Importer's Statement of Compliance. By the end of the transition period all shipments must be accompanied by a shipping document which includes the certificate number. The Importer's Statement of Compliance will no longer be available after this date.

Questions may be directed to the import team for animal products and by-products at: [APABPImport@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:APABPImport@inspection.gc.ca)

#### **F. Fresh Fruit, Horticulture, and Vegetable - Inspection Certificate**

APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) Division is responsible for issuing the [phytosanitary certificate attesting that](#) exported plants or plant products are free from pests and diseases. APHIS offers an [Export Manual Guide](#) on-line which outlines the various commodities in their scope.

CFIA requires a [Phytosanitary Certificate for most produce products](#). Exporters are urged to go on to the [Automated Import Reference System \(AIRS\)](#) to determine if the certificate is required.

Apples, onions and potatoes are subject to specific grading, labelling, and quality standards, as noted in Canada's [Safe Food for Canadian Regulations](#) (Division 6).

The importation of leafy green vegetables from California and Arizona are limited to those growers and suppliers that have met the Leafy Green Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) food safety guidelines and are a signatory to the [California Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement](#) and the [Arizona Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement](#). Guidelines on import requirements for leafy greens from Arizona and California are found on the [CFIA webpage](#).

Horticultural exporters are asked to review the [list of permissible plants](#) for import into Canada prior to securing paperwork. Plants with soil can only be imported from the continental United States. Those plants that are part of the [Canadian Growing Media Program \(CGMP\)](#) may be considered for exports into Canada.

Import of greenhouse-grown plants from Canada is simplified by the revised [U.S.-Canada Greenhouse Certification Program \(GCP\)](#). A cooperative greenhouse certification program has been in place between the United States (as the USCGP) and Canada (as the CGCP) since 1996. The program facilitates the trade of greenhouse-grown plants between the United States and

Canada by allowing authorized facilities to use an Export Certification Label (ECL, also called a “GCP Sticker”) in lieu of a phytosanitary certificate.

## **G. Live Animals and Live Reproductive Organisms - Animal Health Export Certificate**

APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) issues health certificates certifying the herd and animal health status for live animals and live reproductive organisms exported from the United States. In addition, export health certificates are needed for aquatic animals to Canada. Depending on the type of animal, additional tests and vaccinations may be required.

Visit the [APHIS Export of Live Animals to Canada](#) with a complete summary of requirements for embryos, horses, cattle, goats, and other live animal exports to Canada. A list of accredited veterinarians can be found [here](#).

### **Travelling with and Shipment of Pets to Canada**

If you are travelling with a pet or planning to import an animal to Canada, you will need the right paperwork at the border to meet Canada's import requirements. If you don't, you risk experiencing delays at the border and your animal may not be allowed into Canada. Canada has specific import requirements in place to avoid introducing animal diseases to protect its people, plants and animals. The latest information related to pets entering Canada is on [the CFIA webpage](#).

As of August 1, 2024 dogs vaccinated in the U.S., but living in Canada and returning into the U.S., may be required to complete additional requirements as outlined by the [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#).

## **H. Fresh, Frozen Fish and Seafood**

The [U.S. Department of Commerce \(USDC\), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - Seafood Inspection Program \(NOAA - SIP\)](#) advises its U.S. exporters that wild marine fish and seafood products for human consumption destined to Canada must originate from the U.S. or a country that is approved to export that product directly to Canada, as identified in the [Automated Import Reference System \(AIRS\)](#). These [instructions](#) establish and implement a procedure that will assure national uniformity when completing and issuing aquatic animal health certificates for products shipped from the U.S. to Canada. U.S. Exporters are advised to check AIRS to determine if the seafood product requires an aquatic animal health certification with the import permit and, if the originating country is approved for export to Canada.

Aquatic animals listed as [susceptible to regulated diseases](#) require an import permit to enter Canada. This measure is aimed at protecting Canada's aquatic animal resources.

The three U.S. federal agencies that function as Competent Authorities for exported aquatic animals ([USDA-APHIS](#); NOAA Fisheries; and Fish and Wildlife Services [FWS]) have worked with the CFIA on specific export requirements that will facilitate continued U.S. trade in aquatic animals and products with Canada. In many cases, regionalization has been established and

animals can move without a health/zoosanitary certificate from the origin. All products must meet the [Safe Food for Canadian Regulations](#). Certain Fish and Seafood products must meet standards of identity and grades.

### **Section III. Specific Attestations Required on Export Certificates**

See matrix above for required attestations.

### **Section IV. Government Certificates Legal Entry Requirements**

#### **Business Registrations and Food Licenses on Imported Food into Canada**

Every shipment clearing the border (no matter the commodity) must have an [importer of record](#). Those exporters responsible for clearing their own products at the border and/or shipping it to a distribution center in Canada are deemed as the importer of record and must apply for [Safe Food For Canadian import license](#) (SFC) under the [Safe Food for Canadians Regulations](#). One of the purposes of the SFC license is to ensure proper safety controls are in place and should there be any product recalls, the producer/supplier can be identified. These regulations do not apply to producers shipping directly to a distribution center in the U.S. for a Canadian buyer.

For those U.S. exporters with no physical address in Canada but opting to import their own product, they will need to apply as a [Non-Resident Importer \(NRI\)](#). The process for an NRI to obtain a SFC license is done in two steps. The first step is to apply for a nine-digit [Business Number \(BN\)](#) with the Canada Revenue Agency. Once the BN is obtained then the second step is to apply on-line for the [import license through CFIA](#). This process may take approximately two to six weeks.

CFIA in coordination with [Canada Border Services Agency](#) has established a [Pre-arrival Review System](#) (PARS) allowing importers, NRIs, and [custom brokers](#) to submit, review, and process all required digital documentation.<sup>1</sup> Submission are made to CFIA-PARS with minimum of four hours to a maximum of 30 days' notice. It is recommended those products such as fresh, frozen, and live animals be submitted early allowing for the maximum days of review. Once approved, the importer or customs broker will be notified. All approvals are listed on CBSA's [Release Notification System](#). To obtain more information contact the [National Import Service Centre \(NISC\)](#) at 1-800-835-4486.

#### **Food Irradiation and Attesting to the Radioactivity of Imported Food**

Food irradiation is the treatment of food with a type of radiation energy known as ionizing radiation. Ionizing radiation may be used for various reasons depending on the food: it may be used to kill microorganisms that can cause human illness or cause food to spoil; to control insect or parasite infestation; or to slow the ripening or sprouting of fresh fruits and vegetables. The permitted amounts of ionizing radiation are too low to negatively affect the nutritional quality of food and they are too low to cause radioactivity in food.

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<sup>1</sup> Documentation includes, commercial invoice, all required certificates, declarations, cargo numbr requirements.



In Canada, [food irradiation is strictly regulated](#) under the Food and Drug Regulations. Division 26 (Part B) of these Regulations includes a table that lists the foods that may be irradiated and sold in Canada. The table identifies the permitted types and sources of ionizing radiation, the purpose of treatment, and the permitted absorbed dose of ionizing radiation. Labelling requirements for irradiated foods are set out in Division 1 (Part B) of the Regulations.

Only the following irradiated foods: (1) potatoes, (2) onions, (3) wheat, flour, whole wheat flour, (4) whole or ground spices and dehydrated seasoning preparations, and (5) ground beef (fresh and frozen) are currently permitted for sale in Canada.

Canada does not require a Certification in Relation to Radioactivity for food and/or beverage items exported from the United States.

### **All Products: USMCA Certification of Origin**

As mentioned above in Section II, the [commercial invoice](#) is sufficient in providing the name of the producer, location, and the origin of the goods of the producer. Shipping papers may be submitted to CBSA through a customs broker. Shipments with an estimated duty value of CAD\$3,300 (USD\$ 2,500) do not need a certification of origin but is recommended, particularly for food samples.

#### **A. Meat, Poultry and Processed Egg Products**

In addition to the export certificates mentioned in Section II (B), the [CFIA has specific labelling requirements on meat and poultry products](#). Attention should be made to the differences in nutritional labelling formats, grade names, levels of water retention, and required bilingual labelling for both retail and food service products and other components.

#### **C. Ready-to-Eat Meat and Poultry Products**

Health Canada remains vigilant on the control measures for *Listeria Monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat foods. U.S. exporters are urged to review the [2023 Overview](#) to maintain compliancy.

#### **D. Bison – USDA Export Verification (EV) Program**

Shipping documentation (bills of lading, shipping manifests, or letters of guarantee) must contain the following information:

- Clearly identified product type and quantity
- One of the following applicable statements:
  1. “Product Meets EV Program Requirements for Canada” for finished products eligible for export.
  2. “Product Meets EV Program Requirements for Canada excluding final fabrication requirements” for products that must be further fabricated to meet all requirements prior to being eligible to export.

## E. Pet Foods

### i. **Veterinary Export Certificate for Heat-Processed, Shelf-Stable Pet Foods, Treats, and Compound Chews**

As the APHIS Veterinary Certificate for Heat-Processed, Shelf-Stable Pet Foods, Treats, and Compound Chews can cover multiple shipments within a 30-day window, original copies of the export certificate are not required upon entry. Every shipment should be accompanied by a copy of the endorsed export certificate. Each shipment imported into Canada with a USA Multiple Shipment Export Certificates must be accompanied by an [Importer's Statement of Compliance](#) containing the shipment specific information. Import conditions and the information required on the Importer's Statement of Compliance can be found in the CFIA's [Import Policy for Pet food and Treats Containing Animal Products and By- Products](#).

### ii. **Veterinary Sanitary Certificate for Export of Unprocessed (Raw) Pet Foods from a Bovine Approved Facility to Canada**

For APHIS Veterinary Services to certify U.S.-origin pet foods using the Veterinary Sanitary Certificate for Export of Unprocessed (Raw) Pet Foods from a Bovine Approved Facility to Canada:

- The exporter must present a valid and current [import permit](#) issued by CFIA ( see Section V, business registrations);
- If the exporter is not the approved manufacturing facility, the exporter must provide documentation to show that the pet food products were manufactured in facilities approved by APHIS/VS; and
- The VS Area Office must verify that the manufacturing facility(ies) has/have been approved by VS and are listed in the APHIS internal database as being approved to export the pertinent product to Canada with a last validated inspection date in the previous 365 days.

### iii. **Labelling**

The Competition Bureau of the Canadian government provides guidelines on [labelling and advertising of prepackaged pet food](#) for dogs and cats (but does not apply to pet treats nor other food for other pets).

## F. **Fresh Fruit, Horticultural and Vegetable – Phytosanitary Certificates**

APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) Division is responsible for issuing the [phytosanitary certificate attesting that](#) plants or plant products ensuring they are free from pests and diseases. This may include produce, seeds, grains, cotton, lumber, and other specialty crops. APHIS offers an [Export Manual Guide](#) on- line which outlines the various commodities in their scope.

All rooted produce requires a APHIS-issued [Phytosanitary Certificate](#). Exporters are urged to go on to the [Automated Import Reference System \(AIRS\)](#) to determine if a certificate is required.

Apples, onions and potatoes are specific grading, labelling, and quality standards that must be met for sale in Canada as noted in Canada's [Safe Food for Canadian Regulations](#) (Division 6).

On occasion CFIA will provide [ministerial exemptions](#) on fruits and vegetables if there is a shortage of domestic supply. In most instances, these are bulk shipments exceeding over 50 pounds (mixed grades are not allowed).

The importation of leafy green vegetables from California and Arizona are limited to those growers and suppliers that have met the Leafy Green Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) food safety guidelines and are a signatory to the [California Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement](#) and the [Arizona Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement](#). Guidelines on import requirements for leafy greens from Arizona and California are found on the [CFIA webpage](#).

#### **G. Live Animals and Live Reproductive Organisms - Animal Health Export Certificate**

For all commodities other than Aquaculture / Aquatic Animals to Canada, USDA Accredited Veterinarians may issue health certificates electronically through the online Veterinary Export Health Certification System (VEHCS). APHIS-endorsed, printed paper copies of appropriate export certificates and required additional forms must accompany the shipment at port of entry. For certain animals, a specific port of entry may need to be used to process documentation. For animal-specific requirements, exporters are encouraged to consult the [APHIS IRegs website](#).

### **Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements and Business Registrations**

#### **H. Fish and Seafood**

In addition to the zoosanitary certificate mentioned above under Section II(H), [The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#) maintains an inspection program offering inspection services and export certificates which cover sanitation inspection, grading system and process audits, and other services.

In recent years, particularly in the fish and seafood industry, consumers have taken notice of sustainable fishing practices. These certifications are conducted by third party organizations and are strictly voluntary, such as the Marine Stewardship Council, Aquaculture Stewardship Council, and others.<sup>2</sup>

#### **I. Products Regulated by the 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 (FDA). FDA may provide this certification in a form the agency determines appropriate. 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 go to FDA's website for [Food Export Certificates](#). Export Certificates include Certificate to a Foreign Government, Certificate of Exportability, Certificate of Free Sale, Certificate for Cosmetics, and health certificates for collagen and gelatin for products intended for export to the European Union.

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<sup>2</sup> USDA does not endorse any one third party certification body.

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 go to FDA's website for [Food Export Lists](#).

For more information, contact [export certification offices](#) within CFSAN and visit the [FDA Food Export Certificates webpage](#).

## **J. Organic**

The United States and Canada maintains an [organic equivalence arrangement](#). The equivalence arrangement allows products to bear either the USDA Organic seal and/or the Canadian organic logo on the food product and will be recognized and accepted in both countries. Those organic product shipments are to be accompanied by the organic certificate issued by an AMS [U.S. accredited certifying agent](#). The certificate will need the following attestation statement: "Certified in compliance with the terms of the US-Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement."

U.S. firms are reminded that the import and sale of organic food products in Canada are governed by the same rules and regulations that apply to non-organic food products. No distinction is made between organic and non-organic food regarding import requirements. Currently, all Canadian packaging and labeling, grade, and inspection regulations apply equally to organic and non-organic foods.

# Appendix I. Electronic Copy of Selected Export Certificates Examples

## Example of USMCA Certification of Origin

UNITED STATES MEXICO CANADA AGREEMENT (USMCA) CERTIFICATION OF ORIGIN						
1. CERTIFIER TYPE (INDICATE "X")					BLANKET PERIOD (MM/DD/YYYY)	FROM:
	IMPORTER		EXPORTER			PRODUCER
2. CERTIFIER NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE, AND EMAIL NAME ADDRESS COUNTRY PHONE EMAIL TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER			3. EXPORTER NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE, AND EMAIL NAME ADDRESS COUNTRY PHONE EMAIL TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER			
4. PRODUCER NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE, AND EMAIL NAME ADDRESS COUNTRY PHONE EMAIL TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER			5. IMPORTER NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE, AND EMAIL NAME ADDRESS COUNTRY PHONE EMAIL TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER			
6. DESCRIPTION OF GOOD(S)	7. HTS	8. ORIGIN CRITERION	9. PRODUCER (YES/NO)	10. METHOD OF QUALIFICATION	11. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	
SEE ATTACHED CONTINUATION SHEET(S)						
I CERTIFY THAT THE GOODS DESCRIBED IN THIS DOCUMENT QUALIFY AS ORIGINATING AND THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT IS TRUE AND ACCURATE. I ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROVING SUCH REPRESENTATIONS AND AGREE TO MAINTAIN AND PRESENT UPON REQUEST OR TO MAKE AVAILABLE DURING A VERIFICATION VISIT, DOCUMENTATION NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THIS CERTIFICATION.						
THIS CERTIFICATE CONSISTS OF <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 10px;"> </span> PAGES, INCLUDING ALL ATTACHMENTS.						
12.	12a. AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE			12b. COMPANY		
	12c. NAME			12d. TITLE		
	12e. DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)		12f. TELEPHONE NUMBER	12g. EMAIL		



**Example: Pet Food ,Thermally Processed Pet Food/Treats/Compound Chews (1 of 3)**

**VETERINARY EXPORT CERTIFICATE FOR THERMALLY PROCESSED<sup>1</sup> PET FOOD/PET TREATS/COMPOUND CHEWS CONTAINING ANIMAL PRODUCTS AND BY-PRODUCTS EXPORTED FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO CANADA**

Consignor (Name and Address):	Consignee (Name and Address):
Processing Plant (Name and Address) and USDA-APHIS approval number if applicable <sup>2</sup> :	Description of product(s): <input type="checkbox"/> Pet foods and/or pet treats with no bovine-origin ingredients except exempt ingredients (e.g., milk or milk products, hide-derived gelatin or collagen, and tallow with a maximum level of insoluble impurities of 0.15% by weight). <input type="checkbox"/> Pet foods and/or pet treats with non-exempt bovine-origin ingredients.
Intended end use :	RESALE
Port of Entry:	Any Canadian Port of entry
Date of Endorsement: mm/dd/yyyy	Date of Certificate Expiration <sup>3</sup> : mm/dd/yyyy
Means of transportation:	<input type="checkbox"/> Truck <input type="checkbox"/> Rail

## Example: Pet Food and Treats Certificate (2 of 3)

Health Certificate Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Page \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_

I, the undersigned Official Veterinarian of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), certify that this office has on file a valid APHIS approval(s) of the manufacturing facility(ies) to verify the accuracy of the statements below:

1. The certified pet food and/or pet treats were processed in a facility or facilities located in the USA or Canada and authorized by the official competent veterinary authority in the country of origin to manufacture pet food containing animal products and by-products.<sup>2</sup>
  2. The certified pet foods and/or pet treats in the shipment may include the following [check all that apply]:
    - Pet foods and/or pet treats with no bovine-origin ingredients except exempt ingredients (e.g., milk or milk products, hide-derived gelatin or collagen, and tallow with a maximum level of insoluble impurities of 0.15% by weight).
    - Pet foods and/or pet treats with non-exempt bovine-origin ingredients.
  3. In the case of pet foods or pet treats containing tallow, the tallow used is protein-free with a maximum level of insoluble impurities of 0.15% by weight.
  4. In the case of pet foods or pet treats containing bovine meat, offal, or any bovine ingredients other than exempt ingredients, they meet the following requirements:
    - a. Bovine-origin raw materials [meat/offals]:
      - i. were harvested in the United States from U.S.-origin bovine or legally imported bovine that:
        - were presented live for slaughter AND
        - were not subjected to a stunning process prior to slaughter, with a device injecting compressed air or gas into the cranial cavity, or to a pithing process, and were humanely rendered unconscious prior to being bled
    - AND/OR [check all that apply]:
      - ii. Were legally imported from a country or countries recognized by the CFIA to be of:
        - Negligible BSE Risk Status<sup>4</sup> OR
        - Controlled BSE Risk Status [Insert name of country or countries]:  
\_\_\_\_\_ and that:
          - do not contain AND
          - have not been contaminated with bovine specified risk materials (SRMs)<sup>5</sup>.
    - b. All bovine-origin rendered protein materials<sup>6</sup> originate only from countries of Negligible BSE Risk Status.
5. The certified pet foods and/or pet treats were sufficiently heat processed to ensure the destruction of pathogens that represent a risk to public or animal health.
6. Precautions were taken to prevent cross-contamination of the finished products with any animal origin product or by-product derived from animals of a lesser zoonosantary status.

## Example: Pet Food and Treats Certificate (3 of 3)

Health Certificate Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Page \_\_\_ of \_\_\_

Official Seal	_____
	Signature of Official Veterinarian
	_____
	Name of Signatory (in capital letters)
	_____
	Title of Signatory (in capital letters)
	_____

### Notes:

- 1: "Processed" includes only heat treated and shelf-stable products.
- 2: In the case of multiple pet food manufacturing facilities, please attach addendum with complete list of names and either addresses OR USDA-APHIS approval numbers (if applicable).
- 3: This certificate will be valid for 30 days after veterinary endorsement. Shipments of thermally processed pet food/chews/treats certified under this protocol must arrive at the Canadian port prior to the expiration date.
- 4: The CFIA follows the OIE categorization of countries for BSE Risk Status
- 5: The term SRM refers to Specified Risk Materials of bovine animals originating from countries other than Negligible BSE Risk Status. SRMs include: the skull, brain, trigeminal ganglia, eyes, spinal cord and vertebral column (excluding the vertebrae of the tail, the transverse processes of the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae and the wings of the sacrum), the palatine tonsils from bovine animals aged 30 months and older and the distal ileum from bovine animals of all ages.
- 6: Bovine-origin animal proteins /processed proteins include those bovine-origin products produced in rendering facilities, including animal origin meals such as rendered meals, protein digests, hydrolysates, etc.



# Example: PPQ Form 572 - Application for Inspection and Certification of Domestic Plants and Plant Products for Export

No Phytosanitary Export Certificate can be issued until an application is completed (7 CFR 355).  
FORM APPROVED OMB NO. 0579-0052

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0579-0052. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average .25 minutes/hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE <b>APPLICATION FOR INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION OF DOMESTIC PLANTS AND PLANT PRODUCTS FOR EXPORT</b>		INSTRUCTIONS: APPLICANT - Forward original to the Officer in Charge where inspections, treatment, and certification will be given (Item 4). Complete Items 1 thru 11. OFFICER - Complete Items 12 thru 17.	
1. NAME AND ADDRESS OF EXPORTER		3. NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT (or exporters agent)	
2. NAME AND ADDRESS OF FOREIGN CONSIGNEE		AREA CODE AND PHONE NO.	
		4. PLACE WHERE ARTICLES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AND/OR TREATMENT AND CERTIFICATION (Port and location)	
		5. APPROX. DATE OF DEPARTURE	6. PORT OF EXPORT
7. DESCRIPTION OF ARTICLES TO BE CERTIFIED			
3. QUANTITY AND NAME OF PRODUCE AND BOTANICAL NAME			
d. NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION OF PACKAGES			
c. DISTINGUISHING MARKS			
d. CERTIFIED ORIGIN			
8. DECLARED MEANS OF CONVEYANCE		I certify that the origin (place where grown) of the articles listed is as represented.	
9. DECLARED POINT OF ENTRY		10. SIGNATURE (applicant or exporters agents)	11. DATE
EXPORT INSPECTION DATA - (To be filled in by Plant Protection and Quarantine Officer)			
12. LOCATION OF ARTICLES		13. % OF MATERIALS EXAMINED	14. % OF MATERIALS INFESTED
15. FINDINGS AND/OR TREATMENT GIVEN (Use reverse if necessary)			
16. SIGNATURE		17. DATE AND TIME INSPECTED	

## **Glossary of Acronyms**

AMS – Agricultural Marketing Service of USDA  
AIRS – Automated Import Reference System  
APHIS – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of USDA  
BN – Business Number (Canada)  
CBP – Bureau of Customs and Border Protection  
CBSA – Canada Border Service Agency  
CDC -Center for Disease Control  
CGMP – Canada Growing Media Program  
CFIA – Canadian Food Inspection Agency  
CFG – Certificate to a Foreign Government  
CFSAN – Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition  
CFSAN eCATS – CFSAN Export Certification Application and Tracking System  
COPR – Canada Organic Products Regulations  
EV – Export Verification  
FDA – Food and Drug Administration  
FSIS – Food Safety and Inspection Service  
FWS – Fish and Wildlife Service Export Program  
GCP – U.S.-Canada Greenhouse Certification Program  
HACCP – Hazard Analysis and Critical Control  
NOAA – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NOP – National Organic Program  
NRI – Non-Resident Importer  
PARS – Pre-Arrival Review System  
PEEPEV – Processed Egg and Egg Products Export Verification  
PHIS – Public Health Information System  
PPQ – Plant Protection and Quarantine  
RTE – Ready-To-Eat  
SFCA – Safe Food for Canadians Act  
SFCR – Safe Food for Canadians Regulations SRTG – State Regional Trade Groups  
USCOEA – United States-Canada Organic Equivalence Arrangement  
USMCA – United States-Mexico-Canada Free Trade Agreement

## **Attachments:**

No Attachments

**Attachments:**

No Attachments