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**Report Highlights:**

This report contains information on certification requirements for U.S. food and agricultural products exported to The Bahamas. An Export Certificate Matrix as well as samples of select Export Certificates are included as part of this report. More information on export requirements can be found in Post's FAIRS Country Report for The Bahamas.

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This report was prepared by the Caribbean Basin Agricultural Trade Office (CBATO) in Miami, Florida, 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

Since the 2016 establishment of the Bahamas Agricultural Health and Food Safety Authority (BAHFSA) to oversee the administration and enforcement of food safety, animal health, and plant protection legislation passed that same year, The Bahamas has slowly been moving toward greater regulation of imported food and agricultural products. Nonetheless, in keeping with its tradition of placing a large degree of trust in U.S. food safety and animal and plant health regulatory systems, The Bahamas remains trade friendly to the United States, its main source of food and agricultural products.

Standard sanitary and phytosanitary certificates issued by U.S. Federal regulatory authorities are fully accepted by the Government of The Bahamas. Certificates must be originals and must accompany products at the time of entry. It is recommended that U.S. suppliers have their Bahamian buyer verify compliance with all certification requirements prior to shipping any products to The Bahamas. For information on other (non-export certification) requirements, U.S. exporters may refer to Post's Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) Annual Country Report for The Bahamas which can be accessed at on the USDA [Global Agricultural Information Network \(GAIN\)](#).

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

Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
Meat Products / Poultry	Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness (FSIS Form 9060-5)	None - Standard FSIS 9060-5 is acceptable.	Food Safety/Food Quality & Animal Health Protection	Ministry of Agriculture (BAHFSA & Department of Agriculture/Veterinary Services Unit)
Unprocessed Dairy Products	Sanitary Certificate for Exports	None - Standard AMS certificate is acceptable.	Food Safety/Food Quality & Animal Health Protection	Ministry of Agriculture (BAHFSA & Department of Agriculture/Veterinary Services Unit)
Fresh Table Eggs <sup>1</sup>	Shell Egg Grading Certificate (Form LP-210S)	None - Standard AMS certificate is acceptable.	Food Safety/Food Quality	Ministry of Agriculture (BAHFSA & Department of Agriculture/Veterinary Services Unit)
	Disease-Free Certification Statements for Other Countries	None - Standard AMS certificate is acceptable.	Animal Health Protection	
Plants and Unprocessed Plant Products (i.e. fresh fruits and vegetables)	Phytosanitary Certificate (PPQ Form 577)	Exact attestation may vary depending on product and state/region of origin.	Plant Protection	Ministry of Agriculture (BAHFSA)
Sheep & Goats	United States Origin Health Certificate (VS Form 17-140)	See Section II	Animal Health	Ministry of Agriculture (BAHFSA & Department of Agriculture/Veterinary Services Unit)

<sup>1</sup> Please note fresh table eggs, also known as shell eggs, require two certificates for export to The Bahamas: a) Shell Egg Grading Certificate; and b) Disease-Free Certification Statements For Other Countries.

It is worth noting that as BAHFSA continues to bolster its regulatory efforts, it may impose new export certification requirements for different products that may not necessarily be listed in the above export certificate matrix or specified in this report. Therefore, it is especially important that U.S. suppliers have their importing party verify export certification requirements with BAHFSA before shipping products to The Bahamas. Import requirements (including export certification requirements) are usually clearly spelled out in any import permit issued by Bahamian regulatory authorities to the importing party.

## Section II. Specific Attestations Required on Export Certificate(s)

For most certificates, no additional attestations are required. The attestations made on the standard forms of the certificates issued by U.S. regulatory authorities are acceptable. One exception to this may be the Phytosanitary Certificate. The exact attestation required, which will be outlined in the import permit that must be obtained by the importer in advance of the shipment, may vary depending on the nature of the product and phytosanitary conditions in the country of origin. The following sample attestation is meant as a guideline only:

*“The products have been inspected and/or tested according to appropriate official procedures and are considered to be free from pests and diseases and conform to the current phytosanitary requirements of The Bahamas.”*

Another exception is the United States Origin Health Certificate for sheep and goats, which must contain the following attestations:

- a. Animal(s) was/were born, raised, and continuously resident in the COUNTRY of origin and have not been in contact with animal(s) of lesser health status.
- b. The flock(s) originate from a country, zone, or compartment that has been free from Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia, Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), Vesicular Stomatitis, and Amblyomma variegatum tick for at least 24 months prior to export; and free from Scrapie on the premises of origin for at least 3 years prior to export.
- c. The flock(s) show no clinical signs of FMD, Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia, Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), Vesicular Stomatitis, Scrapie, Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (CAE), Leptospirosis, Brucellosis, Listeriosis, Maedi-Visna (Ovine Progressive Pneumonia), Tuberculosis, or any other notifiable disease at the time of shipment; and are not progeny of animals known to be affected by Scrapie any other prescribed or infectious and contagious disease.
- d. The animal(s) was/were held in approved pre-export isolation for a minimum of 15 days immediately prior to export, during which, they showed no clinical signs of infectious disease.
- e. During or prior to isolation, the animal(s) was/were tested using internationally approved antigens within 30 days of export and were found negative for the following diseases:
  - Tuberculosis: Intradermal test using Bovine PPD tuberculin.
  - Brucellosis: Serum agglutination test (e.g. Card test) at a VS-certified laboratory or B.abortus complement fixation test (cold) at a 1:10 dilution.
  - Leptospirosis: Microagglutination test at a 1:100 dilutions for serovars canicola, grippityhosa, icterohaemorrhagiae and pomona.
  - Maedi-Visna (Ovine Progressive Pneumonia): Agar-gel immunodiffusion test or ELISA test.
- f. Animal(s) was/were inspected and found free of fresh or healing wounds and clinical signs of screwworm.
- g. Animal(s) originate from and have not transited through a zone under screwworm control in the last 60 days.

h. Animal(s) was/were treated as follows:

- For external parasites with an approved ectoparasiticide within 7 days prior to export.
- For internal parasites with a broad-spectrum anthelmintic within 7 days prior to export.
- No other therapeutic or immunogenic treatments were administered within 14 days prior to export.

### **Section III. Government Certificate's Legal Entry Requirements**

As a general rule, the Government of The Bahamas requires that all certificates be issued by a U.S. Federal Agency. The Government will not accept U.S. State-issued certificates or manufacturer/supplier's export declarations as proof of compliance. Customs Officials will accept the certificates for the indicated shipment only, and an original certificate must accompany the products at the time of entry.

The Bahamas accepts electronic export certificates issued by USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) for meat and poultry shipped from the United States. Similarly, The Bahamas also accepts electronic phytosanitary certificates (ePhyto) issued by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) for plants and plant products shipped from the United States.

For imports of sheep and goats, the United States Origin Health Certificate must be issued and signed by a Government Veterinary Officer. The certificate must also include:

- a. Name and address of importer/exporter.
- b. Species, breed, identification, sex, age, and number of animals.
- c. Details of all treatments and tests in tabular format, including:
  - Date of administration/sampling;
  - Name of product or vaccine;
  - Manufacturer & expiry date;
  - Type of test and result; and
  - Animal ID.

In addition to the above:

- No additional animals, genetic material (semen, embryos), animal products, or equipment are allowed in the shipment unless explicitly listed on the import permit.
- BAHFSA must receive formal notification of the shipment at least seven (7) days prior to the schedule date of arrival in The Bahamas.
- Animal(s) arriving with incomplete or non-compliant documentation or showing any evidence of communicable disease(s) or ectoparasites at the Port of Entry, shall be refused entry and may be subject to immediate destruction of the animal(s) at the importer's expense.

#### **Section IV. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements to Ensure Market Entry**

U.S. suppliers should work closely with their Bahamian importer to ensure that they are in full compliance with the latest certification requirements and other specified conditions of entry. As mentioned earlier, information on additional Bahamian import requirements can be found in the 2025 FAIRS Annual Country Report for The Bahamas, which can be accessed on GAIN: <https://gain.fas.usda.gov>.

## Appendix I. Direct Hyperlink, Electronic Copy, Scanned Copy, or Outline of Each Export Certificate

The following sample certificates are intended for illustrative purposes only (not for commercial use) and they may or may not represent the latest version of these certificates.

### Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness (FSIS Form 9060-5)

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not 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 0583-0153. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 25 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instruction, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE		A knowingly false entry or false alteration of any entry on this certificate may result in a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than 5 years or both (18 U.S.C.1001). Additional penalties exist under the Federal Meat Inspection Act [21 U.S.C. 611(b) (1), (2); and (5), 21 U.S.C. 461] for an unauthorized or false alteration or misuse of this certificate.				
<b>Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness</b>		5. CERTIFICATE NUMBER <b>MPM-</b>	6. CERTIFICATE TYPE <input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL <input type="checkbox"/> REPLACEMENT			
1. COUNTRY OF DESTINATION	2. ISO CODE	PRODUCT EXPORTED FROM:				
3. CONSIGNOR/EXPORTER (Applicant's name and address)		7. EXPORT EST. NO. (Name and address)				
4. CONSIGNEE/IMPORTER (Name and address)		8. TOTAL NET WEIGHT		9. TOTAL NO. OF PACKAGES		
10. DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCT (Name of product)	11. NET WEIGHT OF LOT <sup>1</sup>	12. SPECIES	13. NUMBER OF PACKAGES IN LOT <sup>1</sup>	14. TYPE OF PACKAGES IN LOT <sup>1</sup>	15. SHIPPING/ IDENTIFICATION MARKS <sup>1</sup>	16. EST. NO. ON PRODUCT
<sup>1</sup> As stated by applicant or contractor						
17. REMARKS						

SAMPLE  
This sample is not to be used.

18. I CERTIFY that the meat, meat food product or meat byproduct specified hereon is from animals that received both antemortem and postmortem inspection and were found sound and healthy and that it has been inspected and passed as provided by law and regulations of the Department and is sound and wholesome.
19. I CERTIFY that the poultry, poultry products or poultry food products specified above came from birds that were officially given an antemortem and postmortem inspection and passed in accordance with applicable laws and regulations of the United States Department of Agriculture and are wholesome and fit for human consumption.

NOT VALID UNLESS SIGNED BY A CERTIFYING OFFICIAL OF MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION PROGRAM

By order of the Secretary of Agriculture		20. CERTIFYING OFFICIAL'S NAME AND TITLE <b>BRYAN SEIDEL</b> c- US, o- U.S. Government, ou=Department of Agriculture, cn=BRYAN SEIDEL, 0.9.2342.19200300.100.1.1=12001 002108044	21. DATE SIGNED (MM/DD/YYYY)
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This certificate is receivable in all courts of the United States as prima facie evidence of the truth of the statements therein contained.  
This certificate does not excuse failure to comply with any of the regulatory laws enforced by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Sanitary Certificate for Export (for Dairy Products)



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
SANITARY CERTIFICATE FOR EXPORTS



Country of Origin: USA  
Certification Authority: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service  
Reference Number of this Certificate: [ CertNo ]

I. Exporter (Name and Address)

[ ExportName ]  
[ ExportAddr ]  
[ ExportCitySt ]

II. Identification of the Dairy Products (Information Supplied by the Manufacturer or Exporter)

Product Description: [ Description ]  
Condition or Kind of Treatment: [ Condition ]  
Type of Packaging: [ PkgType ]  
Number of Packages: [ NumPkgs ]  
Total Net Weight: [ NetWt ]  
Required Temperature, Storage and Transportation: [ ReqTemp ]  
Validity Date (Shelf Life): [ ShelfLife ]

III. Origin of the Products: (Information Supplied by the Manufacturer or Exporter)

[ OriginName ]  
[ OriginCity ]  
Plant Number: [ OriginNo ]

IV. Product Destination: (Information Supplied by the Manufacturer or Exporter)

Origin: [ DestName ]  
[ DestAddr ]  
Destination: [ Destination ]  
Method of Transport: [ Transport ]

V. Sanitary Certification

- (1) The United States of America is free from Foot & Mouth Disease and Rinderpest
- (2) The product was manufactured in facilities inspected and approved by the competent authority and subjected to regular audits or inspections aimed at ensuring that the processing is properly and hygienically carried out, to produce a product that is fit for human consumption.
- (3) The product was manufactured from milk or milk products that received a pasteurization treatment or adequate safeguards have been taken with the aim of avoiding public health hazards arising from pathogenic organisms associated with milk.
- (4) To the best of our knowledge, the product contains no harmful levels of contaminants.

[ Date ]

[ Name ]  
[ Title ]  
USDA, Dairy Grading

Date Signed



**Disease Free Certification Statements for Other Countries**



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Agricultural  
Marketing  
Service

1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Room 3935-S, STOP 0258  
Washington, DC 20250-0258

**Disease Free Certification Statements for Other Countries**

Shell Egg Grading Certificate No. SEA - \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

“The U. S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services certifies that:

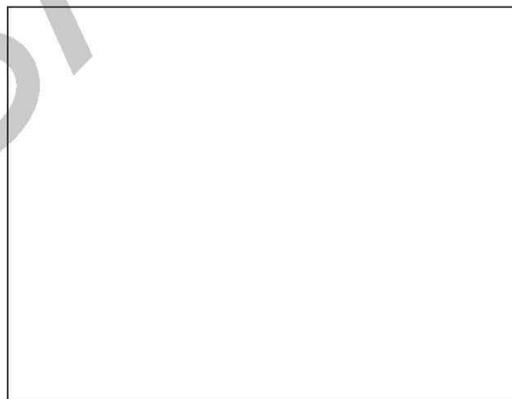
The shell eggs were produced in a zone that was free of HPAI for 21 days prior to lay;

No cases of velogenic Newcastle disease (VND) have been reported in commercial laying chicken flocks in the county(ies) of origin where the eggs originated from. These eggs were produced in the county(ies) in the state of ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) identified below:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The shell eggs covered by this certificate were produced by birds originating from breeding flocks classified Salmonella enteritidis (SE) Clean, which have not been identified within 90 days before shipment by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, as being infected with SE, including SE phage type 4.”

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Grader



Stamp Impression

**Phytosanitary Certificate (PPQ Form 577)**

No phytosanitary certificate can be issued until an application is completed (7 CFR 353)

FORM APPROVED OMB  
NO. 0579-0052, 0579-0055

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE  <b>PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE</b>  TO: THE PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATION(S) OF <b>SAMPLE</b>	FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY		
	PLACE OF ISSUE		<b>SAMPLE</b>
	NO.		<b>FPC XXXXXXX</b>
	DATE INSPECTED		

**CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that the plants, plant product or other regulated articles described herein have been inspected and/or tested according to appropriate official procedures and are considered to be free from the quarantine pests, specified by the importing contracting party and to conform with the current phytosanitary requirements of the importing contracting party including those for regulated non-quarantine pests.

**DISINFESTATION AND/OR DISINFECTIION TREATMENT**

1. DATE	2. TREATMENT
3. CHEMICAL (active ingredient)	4. DURATION AND TEMPERATURE
5. CONCENTRATION	6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSIGNMENT**

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF EXPORTER <b>SAMPLE</b>	8. DECLARED NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE CONSIGNEE <b>SAMPLE</b>
9. NAME OF PRODUCE AND QUANTITY DECLARED <b>SAMPLE</b>	10. BOTANICAL NAME OF PLANTS <b>SAMPLE</b>
11. NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION OF PACKAGES <b>SAMPLE</b>	12. DISTINGUISHING MARKS <b>SAMPLE</b>
13. PLACE OF ORIGIN <b>SAMPLE</b>	14. DECLARED MEANS OF CONVEYANCE <b>SAMPLE</b>
	15. DECLARED POINT OF ENTRY

**WARNING:** Any alteration, forgery, or unauthorized use of this phytosanitary certificate is subject to civil penalties of up to \$250,000 (7 U.S.C. Section 7734(b)) or punishable by a fine of not more than \$10,000, or imprisonment of not more than 5 years, or both (18 U.S.C. Section 1001).

**ADDITIONAL DECLARATION**

<b>SAMPLE</b>	 <b>NAPPO</b>	<b>SAMPLE</b>
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16. DATE ISSUED	17. NAME OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER (Type or Print)	18. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER
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No liability shall attach to the United States Department of Agriculture or to any officer or representative of the Department with respect to this certificate.

