

**Required Report:** Required - Public Distribution

**Date:** September 25, 2025

**Report Number:** HO2025-0005

**Report Name:** FAIRS Export Certificate Report Annual

**Country:** Honduras

**Post:** Tegucigalpa

**Report Category:** FAIRS Export Certificate Report

**Prepared By:** Juan Fiallos

**Approved By:** Jason Wrobel

**Report Highlights:**

The National Plant, Animal Health and Food Safety Service (SENASA) is the regulatory agency in Honduras that is responsible for the inspection of all agricultural products that enter the country. The Sanitary Regulation Agency (Agencia de Regulacion Sanitaria -ARSA) oversees product registration, authorizations for import of raw materials, and additives for food processing, surveillance and inspection of food products approved for sale in the retail or wholesale market in Honduras. The certificates requested by these two agencies are described in this report along with recent changes to rules for license permits, sanitary authorizations and import permits.

**Disclaimer:**

This report was prepared by the Foreign Agricultural Service at the U.S. Embassy in Honduras, for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care has been taken in the preparation of this report, the information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since their 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 reach such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. 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.

**All links to Honduran government websites, laws, regulations, and norms will display in Spanish only.**

**Table of Contents**

<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>SECTION I. LIST OF ALL EXPORT CERTIFICATES REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT (MATRIX).....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>PURPOSE OF SPECIFIC EXPORT CERTIFICATES .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>SECTION II. SPECIFIC ATTESTATIONS REQUIRED ON EXPORT CERTIFICATE(S).....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>SECTION III. GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATES LEGAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>SECTION IV. OTHER CERTIFICATION/ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS ...</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>APPENDIX I. ELECTRONIC COPY OR OUTLINE OF EACH EXPORT CERTIFICATE.....</b>	<b>12</b>



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document offers U.S. exporters updated information on the certificates required by Honduran authorities for shipments of U.S. agricultural products to Honduras. It includes details on accreditation requirements, the purpose of specific export certificates, legal entry criteria, and necessary attestations on those certificates.

Since the 2018 FAIRS Certificate Report, there have been no major changes to certification requirements. However, in January 2021, SENASA introduced an online request option for import permits and new requirements for obtaining an ARSA sanitary registration number. Additionally, new sanitary authorizations are now required for imported raw materials and additives used in food processing. The Honduras Secretary of Economic Development (SDE) also requires a license permit for all poultry, rice, and onion imports.

## SECTION I. LIST OF ALL EXPORT CERTIFICATES REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT (MATRIX).

Products	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
Live animals	-Export Certificate for Animal Products: ( <a href="#">APHIS VS form 16-4</a> ) -Certificate of Origin	None	Health Certificate	Agriculture (SENASA)
Bovine meat and processed bovine meat	-Meat and Poultry Export Certificate: ( <a href="#">FSIS Form 9060-5</a> ) -Certificate of Origin	None	Health Certificate	Agriculture (SENASA)
Pork meat and processed pork meat	-Meat and Poultry Export Certificate: ( <a href="#">FSIS Form 9060-5</a> ) -Certificate of Origin	None	Health Certificate	Agriculture (SENASA)

Poultry meat and processed poultry meat	-Meat and Poultry Export Certificate: <a href="#">(FSIS Form 9060-5)</a> -Certificate of Origin	Additional declaration indicating that "All fresh/frozen poultry meat, including mechanically deboned meat (MDM), comes from an area free of high or low pathogenic Avian Influenza"	Health Certificate	Agriculture (SENASA)
Dairy	-Health/Export Certificate: (APHIS) and (FDA) -Certificate of Origin	None	Health Certificate	Agriculture (SENASA)
Fish and Crustaceans	-Health/Export Certificate (NOAA Form 89-807) -Certificate of Origin	None	Health Certificate	Agriculture (SENASA)
Siluriform Fish, including Catfish	-Export Certificate of Wholesomeness <a href="#">(FSIS Form 9060-5S)</a> -Certificate of Origin	None	Health Certificate	Agriculture (SENASA)
Grains (other than Rice)	-Phytosanitary Certificate (APHIS) <a href="#">PPQ Form 577</a> -Certificate of Origin	None	Health Certificate	Agriculture (SENASA)
Fresh fruits and vegetables	-Phytosanitary Certificate: (APHIS) <a href="#">PPQ Form 577</a> -Certificate of Origin	None	Health Certificate	Agriculture (SENASA)
Onions	-Phytosanitary Certificate (APHIS) <a href="#">PPQ Form 577</a> -Certificate of Origin	Free from "Ditylenchus dipsaci"	Health Certificate Origin Registry	Agriculture (SENASA)

Plants and plant products	-Phytosanitary Certificate (APHIS) <a href="#">PPQ Form 577</a> -Certificate of Origin	Some products require an additional declaration. The import authorization will indicate which requirement is needed	Health Certificate	Agriculture (SENASA)
Planting seeds	-Phytosanitary Certificate (APHIS) <a href="#">PPQ Form 577</a> -Certificate of Origin -Quality Certificate	Some products require an additional declaration. The import authorization will indicate which requirement is needed	Health Certificate	Agriculture (SENASA)
Potatoes seed	-Phytosanitary Certificate (APHIS) <a href="#">PPQ Form 577</a> -Certificate of Origin	-Free from dirt, dirt and sand clods -Free of the following Nematodes: -Globodera rostochiensis -Ditylenchus dipsaci -Ditylenchus destructor -Aphelenchoides fragariae -Meloidogyne chitwoodi	Health Certificate	Agriculture (SENASA)
Potatoes for consumption	-Phytosanitary Certificate (APHIS) <a href="#">PPQ Form 577</a> -Certificate of Origin	-Free from dirt, dirt and sand clods -Anti-sprouting treatment -Free of the following Nematodes: -Globodera rostochiensis -Ditylenchus dipsaci -Ditylenchus destructor -Meloidogyne chitwoodi	Health Certificate	Agriculture (SENASA)

Processed foods and beverages	-Certificate of Free Sale (FDA or State) -Certificate of Origin -Product's Specification Report	None	Food Safety	ARSA
Sugar	-Certificate of Free Sale -Certificate of Origin	Must have vitamin "A" added	Health Certificate	ARSA
Salt	-Certificate of Free Sale -Certificate of Origin	Must have iodine added	Health Certificate	ARSA
Honey	-Health /Export Certificate -Certificate of Origin	Must indicate the bee species	Health Certificate	Agriculture (SENASA)
Bottled water	-Certificate of Free Sale -Certificate of Origin -Product's Specification Report	Physical, chemical, biological and microbiological laboratory analysis	Health Certificate	ARSA

## PURPOSE OF SPECIFIC EXPORT CERTIFICATES

Under the Dominican Republic–Central America–United States Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR), Honduras recognizes U.S. inspection services as equivalent. This means U.S. plants do not need additional certification from Honduran authorities to export to Honduras.

For imports, the Government of Honduras (GOH) requires that all certificates and shipping documents be consistent and complete. They must clearly include the importer's and exporter's names, product description, quantities, origin, shipping point, and the name, date, and signature of the issuing official.

The purpose of the most widely used certificates is as follows:

### 1. Certificate of Origin

Products made in the United States and shipped from any port must list a U.S. address on the Certificate of Origin, showing the United States as the country of origin. The certificate can be issued by the U.S. producer or exporter, or by the Honduran importer. In the past, certificates with multiple or non-U.S. addresses, or inconsistent signatures, have created confusion and delays.

The Certificate of Origin must also include the Harmonized Tariff Code of the goods and is the document that allows U.S. products to qualify for preferential tariff treatment under CAFTA-DR. Additional guidance is available in the GAIN Report [Exporter Guide for Honduras](#).

For products not produced in the United States but distributed by U.S. companies, a Certificate of Origin may be issued by a U.S. Chamber of Commerce to indicate the actual country of origin. However, these certificates do not qualify products for CAFTA-DR tariff preferences.

For animal products and by-products, SENASA requires the Certificate of Origin to list the establishment where the product was processed and to provide the original country-of-origin certificate. For example, tilapia fillets with a certificate of origin from the People's Republic of China are currently prohibited from entering Honduras.

SENASA also reports frequent importer confusion between “country of origin” and “point of shipping,” which often leads to errors in import documentation.

When similar products come from multiple countries, importers must either:

- a. Submit separate Certificates of Origin from each country of production, or
- b. Provide a single Certificate of Origin that specifies the product, quantity, and the name of the establishment where each product originated.

## **2. Phyto or Zoosanitary Export Certificates**

The purpose of the certificate is to protect the sanitary conditions of the importing country by confirming that plant or animal products are free from pests and diseases. For U.S. exports, SENASA requires that certificates be issued by the relevant federal authority responsible for inspecting the facility where the product was produced or processed. Depending on the product, this may include USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), or the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Certificates must be completed in full, with consistent information across all documents, including importer and exporter names, product description, quantities, origin, shipping point, and the issuing official's name, date, and signature. SENASA has reported and investigated several cases of forged USDA export certificates in 2023 and 2024, underscoring the importance of accuracy and authenticity.

## **3. Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness**

This certificate officially states that the meat or meat food product is derived from animals that received both ante mortem and postmortem inspections and were found sound and healthy. It also states that the product passed the inspection in compliance with applicable laws and regulations and is wholesome and fit for human consumption. The certificate is issued by FSIS (FSIS form 9060-5). The certificate is required by SENASA.

## **4. Export Certificate for Animal Products**

This certificate provides the names of the animal diseases that do not exist in the United



States. It also declares that live animals are healthy with no pests or diseases. The certificate complies with the health regulations of Honduras for the import of live animals and animal products. The certificate is issued by the APHIS (VS form 16-4). The certificate is required by SENASA.

For additional information, see USDA's [International Regulations \(IREgs\) for Animal Product Exports](#), [Export Animal Products to Honduras | Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service \(usda.gov\)](#), and VS Form 16-4 for submission to VS. Exporters.

## **5. Export Health Certificate**

This certificate confirms that the product was inspected and found to follow the applicable regulations. It also certifies that the product was found to be wholesome, edible, and fit for human consumption. In the case of fish and crustacean exports from the United States, the certificate is issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA form 89-807). The certificate is required by SENASA.

## **6. Certificate of Free Sale (CFS)**

The certificate indicates that the exporter has a permit to produce, manufacture, distribute and pack food products for human consumption. It states that the products are freely sold and consumed in the United States, as well as exported. ARSA reviews that the information in the CFS, such as the product's name, trademark, manufacturer and country of origin, is the same information provided in the request for sanitary registration and on the label. The certificate is issued by the official federal (FDA), [state-level authorities](#) or Chambers of Commerce. The certificate is requested to obtain product registration of processed foods and beverages with ARSA.

As of October 1, 2018, FDA issues the following two new certificates: the Certificate to a Foreign Government and the Certificate of Exportability (for export-only food products) to U.S. manufacturers and exporters who choose to use them. For additional information, please visit FDA's food guidance regulations at the following address:

[Food Export Certificates | FDA](#) or email: [CFSANexportcertification@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:CFSANexportcertification@fda.hhs.gov)

## **7. Quality Certificate**

This certificate is issued by the Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA), an organization made up of official state, federal, and university seed laboratories across the United States. SENASA requires that the certificate show the seed has a germination rate of at least 85 percent and that the analysis was conducted within the past six months.

For additional information contact: <https://analyzeseeds.com/about-us/>

## SECTION II. SPECIFIC ATTESTATIONS REQUIRED ON EXPORT CERTIFICATE(S)

The certificates and attestation (declaration) listed in Section II above provide information needed by SENASA to comply with the import requirements of Honduras. Some specific attestations, however, will be requested when the animal or plant health conditions of the exporter country change. SENASA indicates that it is the responsibility of both the importer and exporter to stay up to date on any animal or plant pests or diseases outbreaks. A detailed outline of the content of export certificates is provided in Appendix I of this report.

In addition, SENASA has asked USDA to include an Additional Declaration (AD) on the FSIS Certificate (Form 9060-5) for U.S. poultry exports, fresh, frozen, or cooked. The AD must state: “All fresh/frozen poultry meat, including mechanically deboned meat (MDM), comes from an area free of high or low pathogenic Avian Influenza.” While the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and APHIS share regular outbreak updates with SENASA by state, the agency emphasizes that it is ultimately the responsibility of exporters and importers to stay informed and certify the Avian Influenza status of the product’s area of origin.

Further information can be found at:

[Avian Influenza | Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service](https://www.fsis.usda.gov/inspection/import-export/import-export-library/honduras)  
<https://www.fsis.usda.gov/inspection/import-export/import-export-library/honduras>

## SECTION III. GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATES LEGAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Honduran institutions involved in the import of food and agricultural products include the National Plant, Animal Health, and Food Safety Service (SENASA) and the Sanitary Regulation Agency (ARSA). SENASA issues import permits and regulates the inspection of all food and agricultural products. At present there is no attestation of radioactivity required or radiation monitoring for imports into Honduras.

SDE requires an import registry procedure, and an import license permit for all poultry, rice, and onion imports into Honduras. Detailed information can be found at the respective decrees and agreements for these products at Executive [Decree 020-2023](#) for rice, Executive [Decree 021-2023](#) for poultry, and Ministerial Agreement [071-2024](#) for onions. More information can also be found at USDA’s International Regulations (IREgs) for Animal Product Exports.

FAS Tegucigalpa suggests that stakeholders closely monitor the regulating agencies’ official websites for policy updates that may impact their operations at <https://arsa.gob.hn/> and <https://www.senasa.gob.hn/>. Post will provide timely reports on revised and newly issued regulations with potential significant impacts on trade that enter Honduras. ARSA oversees the product registration, sanitary license and inspection of food and beverages approved to be sold at the retail and wholesale level. Starting October 2020, ARSA also issues a sanitary authorization for imported raw materials and additives for processed food and beverage manufacturing. Honduran Customs Administration (ADUANAS) officials review that the invoice complies with the GOH’s revenue tariff.

SENASA issues import permits for plant, animal, processed, consumer ready food products, agricultural chemicals, veterinary products, and inputs used in food processing for human or animal consumption.

Generally, import regulations and export certificate requirements describe and/or attest to animal and plant health or product safety, production, or processing methods. They attest to the status of the manufacturing or packaging establishment producing the food. Requesting a certificate is also geared toward avoiding fraud in transactions dealing with food and agricultural products, as well as protecting the agricultural and economic interests of Honduras in both the domestic and international food and agricultural trade.

The legal entry requirements of imports of food and agricultural products are the following:

1. Products must have an import permit before entering the country. SENASA has introduced an online system for permits covering plants, plant products, seeds, live animals, and animal products/by-products. The system allows importers to register, upload all required data and documents, pay fees, obtain the permit within a few hours, and store it in a secure cloud repository.

Importers of plants, plant products and seeds, live animals, animal products and by-products can access SENASA's online system at:

<http://importaciones.senasa.gob.hn/#/login>

2. For food products of animal origin, import permit requests must be accompanied by a copy of the Zoosanitary Certificate, the Certificate of Origin, and a Pro-Forma Commercial Invoice. For plant products, however, the request only requires submission of the Pro-Forma Commercial Invoice.
3. An import permit applies to a single shipment and may cover up to ten products of animal origin or up to five products of similar plant origin. Each permit is valid for 30 days.
4. A sanitary authorization from ARSA is required to import raw materials and additives used in processed food and beverage manufacturing. Since April 2020, ARSA has allowed online submission of applications for both Sanitary Authorizations (SA) and Sanitary Registration Numbers (SRN). The instructions, supporting documentation requirements and application forms are published in ARSA's website at: <https://arsateca.arsa.hn/>
5. SENASA delegated the responsibility of all quarantine inspections and treatments of agricultural imports to the International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health (OIRSA). OIRSA's Plant and Animal Protection Service (SEPA) inspectors are located at the borders, ports, and airports. To register their products for import, companies must obtain an SRN with ARSA. The instructions, supporting documentation requirements and application forms are published in

ARSA's website at: <https://arsateca.arsa.hn/?s=registro+sanitario>

6. The original import permit approved by SENASA, and the supporting documents need to accompany the product at the time of entry. The compliance with requirements indicated on the import permit are reviewed. The documents must be clear, with consistent information about the importer and exporter, amounts, product description, origin, point of shipping, name, date, and signature of the official issuing the certificate.
7. SENASA requested from FSIS in May 2015, that the production, expiration date, and lot number appear in Spanish on shipping carton(s). The dates must be provided in the Day/Month/Year format (DD/MM/YYYY). The requirement that the products have stamped the production and expiration dates is closely inspected at the ports of entry.

#### **SECTION IV. OTHER CERTIFICATION/ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS**

Import registries and license permits for poultry, rice, and onions along with other import requirements can be found in the Honduras GAIN Report: Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) – Country Report and [Exporter Guide Report](#) at: USDA Foreign Agricultural Service under [Honduras Attaché Reports](#) or contact FAS Tegucigalpa at: [agtegucigalpa@usda.gov](mailto:agtegucigalpa@usda.gov).

#### **APPENDIX I. ELECTRONIC COPY OR OUTLINE OF EACH EXPORT CERTIFICATE**

**Outline of Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness: ([FSIS Form 9060-5](#))**

1. District Office
2. Country of destination
3. MPH number
4. Exported by (Applicant's name and address including ZIP code)
5. Establishment/Plant number
6. City
7. Consigned to (Name and address including ZIP code)
8. Total marked net weight
9. Total containers
10. Product as labeled
11. Marked weight of lot
12. Number of packages in lot
13. Shipping marks
14. Establishment/Plant number on product
15. Remarks
16. Inspector and District

**Outline of Health Certificate - Export Certificate - Animal products: ([APHIS VS form 16-4](#))**

1. Name and address of exporter
2. Name and address of consignee
3. Product (quantity, unit of measure, and kind)
4. Identification
5. Conveyance

**Outline of Certificate of Free Sale, Health, and Sanitation:**

1. Product/consumable item
2. Description
3. Weight
4. Quantity

**Outline of Export Health Certificate: ([NOAA Form 89-807](#))**

1. Issuing office
2. Exported by (Applicant's name and address)
3. Consigned to (Name and address)
4. Shipped via
5. Port of embarkation
6. Port of debarkation
7. Identifying marks
8. Total containers
9. Total marked weight
10. Product
11. Class, type, style
12. Lot No. and code
13. Container size
14. No. cases
15. Lot weight
16. Label brand
17. Results – Remarks
18. Signature of inspector/Inspector No.
19. Official Stamp (Containers stamped with this mark)

If you have questions regarding this report or need assistance exporting to Honduras, please contact the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Office at the following address:

**Foreign Agricultural Service**  
U.S. Embassy  
Avenida La Paz, Tegucigalpa,  
Honduras  
Phone: (504) 2238-5114, ext.  
4544

Fax: (504) 2236-8342

E-mail: [AgTegucigalpa@fas.usda.gov](mailto:AgTegucigalpa@fas.usda.gov)

For further information on exporting U.S. agricultural products to other countries, please visit the Foreign Agricultural Service's home page:

<https://www.fas.usda.gov/>

**Attachments:**

No Attachments