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Report Highlights:

This report includes technical information and certificate requirements for food and agricultural product exports to the Republic of Korea.

Disclaimer

The USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Office of Agricultural Affairs in Seoul, Republic of Korea (ROK) prepared this report for U.S. exporters of food and agricultural products. While FAS/Seoul took every possible care in the preparation of this report, please be aware that policies may have changed since the time of publication or clear and consistent information about these policies may not be available. FAS/Seoul highly recommends that U.S. exporters verify the full set of regulatory requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before shipping any goods. Final import approval of any product is subject to Korea's rules and regulations as interpreted by border officials at the time of product entry.

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Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of the agricultural export certificates that the Korean government requires for import inspection. Prior to export, FAS/Seoul strongly encourages U.S. exporters to consult with the appropriate U.S. authority and their Korean importers on product eligibility and the specific requirements imposed by the Korean government.

Section I. List of Export Certificates Required by Korea and Products Covered (Matrix)

List of Export Certificates Required by Korea

Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry ¹
Beef and beef products	FSIS Form 9060-5 and 9305-7 (issued by USDA/FSIS)	Multiple statements on 9305-7. See Appendix.	Health certificate / Food Safety	APQA/ MAFRA & MFDS
Pork	FSIS Form 9060-5 and 9305-5 (issued by USDA/FSIS)	Multiple statements on 9305-5. See Appendix.	Health certificate / Food Safety	APQA/ MAFRA & MFDS
Poultry ¹	FSIS Form 9060-5 and 9305-2A (10/01/2018 edition) for fresh and frozen products / 9305-2B (12/29/2015 edition) for heat treated products (issued by USDA/FSIS)	Multiple statements on 9305-2A and 9305-2B. See Appendix.	Health certificate / Food Safety	APQA/ MAFRA & MFDS
Shell eggs	AMS Form PY-210S and Disease Free Certification Statements for Korea	Multiple statements on PY-210S and on Disease Free Certification Statement. See Appendix for details.	Health certificate / Food Safety	APQA/ MAFRA & MFDS
Egg products ²	FSIS Form 9060-5EP and FSIS Letterhead Certificate issued by USDA/FSIS for liquid, frozen, and dried eggs and a certificate issued by USDA/AMS for food products containing eggs regulated by FDA	See note ²⁻¹ below for specific time/ temperature attestation to pasteurization treatment for individual egg products that should be stated in the “Remarks” section.	Health certificate / Food Safety	APQA/ MAFRA & MFDS
Dairy ^{3/ 3-1/3-2} Products including ice cream	Export Certificate (issued by USDA/AMS effective July 1, 2021)	See note below for specific time/temperature attestation to heat treatment for dairy	Export certificate / Food Safety	APQA/ MAFRA & MFDS

		products and eggs contained in dairy products		
Pork casing	FSIS Form 9060-7 and 9305-9 (03/19/2018 edition) (issued by USDA/FSIS)	Only pork casings from animals slaughtered and processed in the United States are eligible for export to Korea. The animals born and raised in the United States and animals legally imported from Canada and resided in the United States for at least 3 months are eligible.	Health certificate / Food Safety	APQA/ MAFRA & MFDS
Protein-free tallow	FSIS Form 9060-5 (issued by USDA/FSIS)	“Certified materials have been tested and found to have a level of insoluble impurities of 0.15% or less.”	Health certificate / Food Safety	APQA/ MAFRA & MFDS
Live animal	Health Certificate (issued by USDA/APHIS)	Attestation required on certificate varies depending on species. See Appendix.	Health certificate / Animal Health	APQA/ MAFRA
Pet food	Health Certificate (issued by USDA/APHIS)	Attestation required on certificates includes “pet food does not contain protein derived from ruminants. See Appendix for details.	Health certificate / Animal Health	APQA/ MAFRA
Fresh vegetables, grains, fruits, nuts	PPQ Form 577 (issued by USDA/APHIS)	Attestation required on certificate varies depending on products. See Appendix.	Phytosanitary certificate / Plant Health	APQA/ MAFRA
Frozen vegetables and fruits	Form SC-146E, SC-146ES, SC-146CS, SC-147CS, or SC-149CS (issued by USDA/AMS)	“Products have been frozen at -17.8C or below.”	Certificate of Quality & Condition or Export Certificate	APQA/ MAFRA
U.S. organic products	1) For U.S. processed organic products that are covered by the US-Korea equivalency arrangement ⁴	(A) A NAQS Import Certificate of organic processed food issued by Korea’s e-NAQS Import Certificate System by USDA/AMS/NOP accredited certifying	Certificate to confirm the terms of the US-Korea equivalency arrangements have been met	NAQS/ MAFRA

		agents ^{4.2} (B) A copy of an organic certificate issued by a USDA/AMS/NOP accredited certifying agents		
	2) For non-processed organic products including livestock products ^{4.1}	1) A copy of the organic certificate issued by Korea's accredited certifying agents**** 2) A transaction certificate issued by certifying agents in the exporting country	Certification to Korean organic standards	NAQS/MAFRA
To obtain an exemption from mandatory GMO labelling for Non-GMO bulk shipments	Full IP (identity preserved) Documentation (issued by private entities), Non-GMO Certificate (issued by exporting government) or a negative test certificate issued by MFDS recognized laboratories	Attestation to IP handling of bulk grains	Certificate to prove IP handling of bulk grains from seed to final export	MFDS
To obtain an exemption from mandatory GMO labeling for Non-GMO processed products ⁵	Full IP Documentation issued by private entities; Non-GMO Certificate issued by exporting government; Notarized Self Declaration issued by manufacturer – See Appendix for an example; or a negative test certificate issued by MFDS recognized laboratories	Attestation to identity preserved (IP) handling of raw materials from seed purchasing to manufacturing	Certificate or statement to provide IP handling of raw materials used in processed products	MFDS

*MAFRA: Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

*APQA: Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency

*MFDS: Ministry of Food & Drug Safety

*NAQS: National Agricultural Products Quality Management Service

*USDA: U.S. Department of Agriculture

*AMS: Agricultural Marketing Service

*NOP: National Organic Program

*FSIS: Food Safety Inspection Service

*GIPSA: Grain, Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Administration

- *APHIS: Animal Plant Health Inspection Service
- *PPQ: Plant Protection & Quarantine
- *VS: Veterinary Service

Explanatory Notes from List of Export Certificates Required by Korea Table

1

For fresh and frozen poultry and poultry products that are eligible for export to Korea, FSIS provides updates on eligible products with certification requirements.

<https://www.fsis.usda.gov/inspection/import-export/import-export-library/korea>

2

For egg products certified by USDA’s FSIS, please refer to information under the “Requirements” section of the following link: [FSIS certified egg products](#)

USDA’s AMS (Livestock and Poultry Division) is the certifying agency for export certificates for further processed egg products regulated by FDA. In addition to shell eggs, FDA-regulated products include hard boiled eggs, cooked omelets, frozen egg patties, imitation egg products, etc. For more information on jurisdiction overlap for commercial products regulated by either or both FDA and USDA, please refer to the [FDA/USDA jurisdictional chart](#) (Exhibit 3-1) and the [AMS website](#) for details. Regarding the shell egg exports, please refer to the following AMS website: [AMS Shell Eggs](#)

2-1

The specific time/temperature requirements for processed egg products on certificates are as follows:

Product Type	Common Heat Treatment Standard
Whole liquid eggs	Heat treatment for 2.5 minute with the core temperature of 64 degrees centigrade or equivalent or higher treatment.
Liquid egg white	Heat treatment for 870 seconds with the core temperature of 55.6 degrees centigrade or for 232 seconds with the core temperature of 56.7 degrees centigrade or equivalent or higher treatment.
Liquid egg yolk	Heat treatment for 138 seconds with the core temperature of 62.2 degrees centigrade or equivalent or higher treatment.
Whole egg powder	Heat treatment for 188 seconds with the core temperature of 60 degrees centigrade or equivalent or higher treatment.
Egg white powder	Heat treatment for 20 hours with the core temperature of 67 degrees centigrade or for 513 hours with the core temperature of 54.4 degrees centigrade or equivalent or higher treatment.
Egg yolk powder	Heat treatment for 3.5 minutes with the core temperature of 63.5 degrees centigrade or equivalent or higher treatment.
Other processed egg products	Heat treatment for _____ seconds with the core temperature of _____degrees centigrade.

Please refer to the following link for details: [FSIS Export Library](#)

3

In 2021, the United States and Korea agreed to new dairy export certificates for U.S. dairy products. As of July 1, 2021, all U.S. dairy products intended for human consumption must be accompanied by the AMS Dairy Export Certificate. Please note that the dairy plant number, name and address registered in AMS shall match with the plant number, name and address registered to Korea. For details on the AMS Dairy Export Certificate, please refer to GAIN KS2021-0019 from the following link: [FAS/GAIN](#)

3-1

For dairy products, the specific time/temperature requirements are as follows:

No	Type of heat treatment	Time and Temperature
1	Low Temperature Long Time (LTLT)	63 ~ 65°C for 30 minutes (1,800 seconds) or equivalent heat treatment
2	LTLT for milk creams	65 ~ 68°C for 30 minutes (1,800 seconds) or equivalent heat treatment (only to milk creams)
3	LTLT for ice cream and ice cream mix	68.5°C for 30 minutes (1,800 seconds) or equivalent heat treatment (only to ice creams and ice cream mix)
4	High Temperature Short Time (HTST)	72 ~ 75°C for 15-20 seconds or equivalent heat treatment
5	HTST for milk creams	74 ~ 76°C for 15-20 seconds or equivalent heat treatment (only to milk creams)
6	Ultra-High Temperature (UHT)	130 ~ 150°C for 0.5-5 seconds or equivalent heat treatment
7	Other for cured cheese	2°C or higher for cured cheese cured over 60 days or °C for days
8	Countries not recognized as FMD free country	HTST (XX°C XX seconds) or UHT (XX °C seconds) and if pH of raw milk is 7.0 or higher, 2 times of HTST

3-2

For dairy products containing eggs including ice cream, the specific time/temperature requirements for the egg ingredients are as follows:

Product Type	Common Heat Treatment Standard
Whole egg ingredients	Heat treatment for a minimum of 188 seconds with a minimum core temperature of 60 degrees centigrade or equivalent
Whole egg blend ingredients	Heat treatment for a minimum of 188 seconds with a minimum core temperature of 60 degrees centigrade, 61.1 degrees centigrade for a minimum of 94 seconds, or equivalent or higher treatment
Liquid egg white ingredients	Heat treatment for 870 seconds with the core temperature of 55.6 degrees centigrade or for 232 seconds with the core temperature of 56.7 degrees centigrade or equivalent or higher treatment.
Liquid egg yolk	Heat treatment for 138 seconds with the core temperature of 62.2 degrees centigrade or equivalent or higher treatment.
Dried egg white ingredients (egg white)	Heat treatment for 20 hours with the core temperature of 67 degrees centigrade or for 513 hours with the core temperature of 54.4 degrees

powder)	centigrade or equivalent or higher treatment.
Dried egg yolk ingredients	Heat treatment for 3.5 minutes at 63.5 degrees centigrade or equivalent or higher treatment

4

Processed organic products covered by the terms of the U.S. – Korea organic equivalency agreement may be exported to Korea if they are accompanied by both a NAQS Import Certificate of Organic Processed Foods issued by Korea’s e-NAQS Import Certificate System by NOP-accredited certifying agents and a copy of the NOP organic certificate. A list of USDA/AMS/NOP accredited organic certifying agents is available from the following link: [USDA Accredited Certifying Agents](#)

4-1

This organic equivalency arrangement does not cover non-processed organic products including livestock products.

4-2

In August 2021, NAQS introduced the electronic import certificate system. All U.S. organic certifying agents are now required to register with NAQS to issue the Import Certificate electronically. Certifying agents issue the NAQS Import Certificate in the e-NAQS Import Certificate System prior to a shipping date and provide a printed copy of the certificate to exporters/importers through postal mail. Importers must present the printed copy of the certificate to the Korean authorities upon product arrival. After first issuing the NAQS Import Certificate, certifiers may update the Bill of Lading information once and provide an updated copy to their client, as needed. The documentation must include this statement: “Certified in compliance with the terms of the U.S.-Korea Organic Equivalency Arrangement.” See more details on this from the following link: [NOP Organic](#)

5

Owing to the expanded biotech labeling requirement implemented in February 2017, MFDS changed documentation requirements for non-GMO processed food. To receive an exemption from the labeling requirement, MFDS offers the following options:

1. Full IP documentation,
2. A government issued certificate,
3. A notarized self-statement for U.S. products or
4. A negative test certificate issued by a MFDS-recognized GMO testing laboratory and a manufacturer statement combined with a supporting document such as a negative testing certificate.

For details, please refer to the most recent Biotech Labeling Report from the USDA/FAS GAIN Report website.

Section II. Specific Attestations Required on Export Certificate:

The specific attestation required on the export certificate is provided in the table and annotations in Section I. In addition, certain livestock products, grains and fruits require pre-printed attestations in the corresponding certificates. Links to these certificates are included in the Appendix.

Given the complexity, the documents required to ship beef to Korea should be thoroughly reviewed by potential exporters. Korea requires beef imports to come from plants approved under the Export Verification (EV) Program within USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). Beef must be slaughtered and/or processed at plants identified in the [Official Listing of Bovine Eligible Suppliers](#) (aka, USDA Bovine EV Programs).

Beef slaughtered and processed under an approved EV program may only be stored in a warehouse approved by USDA's FSIS. A list of all of the establishments can be found in [the FSIS Meat, Poultry and Egg Products Inspection Directory](#).

Korean beef importers and U.S. exporters have reached a commercial understanding, as a transitional measure, to source U.S. beef from cattle less than 30-months of age. AMS has set up a voluntary Quality System Assessment (QSA) Program to verify that beef from participating plants will be from cattle less than 30 months of age. Participation in this program is not required for issuance of the FSIS Form 9060-5. However, for establishments that do participate in the AMS QSA program, the following statement may appear in Remarks on the FSIS 9060-5: "The beef or beef products were produced at a verified establishment under the Less than 30 Month Age Verification USDA Quality System Assessment (QSA) Program for Korea." At this time, shipments of beef without the QSA program statement will not be accepted for port-of-entry inspection, and any such shipment will be returned to the owner/agent by Korean quarantine officials. A list of [QSA approved establishments](#) and their approval dates is maintained by AMS.

As for poultry meat and poultry meat products, AMS has established a voluntary Poultry Export Verification (EV) Program for Korea to verify poultry meat and poultry meat from *non*-commercially raised chickens, ducks and geese, which were hatched and raised in the United States. Certification for commercially raised chickens, ducks, and geese are hatched and raised in the United States is provided by the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS). Exporting establishments that slaughter and process birds, other than commercially raised chickens, ducks, and geese, must participate in the Poultry EV Program to be eligible to export poultry meat and poultry meat products to Korea.

Additionally, AMS maintains a voluntary Poultry Export Verification (EV) Program for Korea to verify poultry meat and poultry meat products eligible for export to Korea are not commingled with non- U.S. origin poultry meat and poultry meat products. Exporting establishments that receive and process imported poultry meat or poultry meat products must participate in the Poultry EV Program to be eligible to export poultry to Korea.

Information about the Poultry EV Program and a list of Poultry EV approved establishments and their approval dates can be found at the [AMS website](#). Each establishment that participates in the Poultry EV Program for Korea is required to maintain a unique product identification system, which can be accessed by authorized FSIS inspection personnel from the FSIS Intranet site.

Section III. Government Certificate Legal Entry Requirements

Except for the IP certificate, MFDS and APQA require the original certificates listed in Section 1 of this report for all products at the time of entry. Both MFDS and APQA require an original or duplicative (with original signatures) of health, sanitary, and export certificate for livestock products. The original certificate for IP grain and shipments of non-processed organic products is only required for the first shipment. Subsequent shipments can be accompanied by copies of the original.

In cases where a government issued certificate is required, any government entity (including city/municipal, state, federal) can issue certificates. However, health certificates must be issued by U.S. federal authorities.

The Korean government does not require a Certificate of Free Sale for imports.

Section IV. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements

Phytosanitary certificate: The “issuance date” and “inspection date” of phytosanitary certificates must be prior to the “on-board date” listed on the Bill of Lading.

Health certificate: Regarding animal products covered by certificates issued by APHIS, Korea denies entry of products that are shipped prior to obtaining an export certificate. A health certificate “issuance date” for meat products originating from the United States may be after the “on-board date” listed on the Bill of Lading. However, an “inspection date” must also appear on the certificate and be conducted prior to loading. Presentation of certificates are required on the day of product arrival into Korea.

Following the introduction of the new dairy certificate system in July 2021, Korea temporarily permits the “issuance date” marked on U.S. dairy certificates to be after the “shipping date” listed on the Bill of Lading. Under this condition, the dairy certificate must be issued and in the importer’s possession before applying for MFDS and APQA inspection. This is an interim measure and subject to change.

The Korean government does not require attestation of radioactivity for imports.

Appendix I. Electronic Copy or Outline of Each Export Certificate

1. FSIS certificates for meat products

Please refer to the website below for details on Korea's export requirements.

[Korea's Export Requirements](#)

2. APHIS Certificate

A. Plant Certificate

Please refer to the website below for details about plant certificate requirements.

[APHIS Plant Health](#)

PPQ Form 577 can be viewed at the website below:

[APHIS PPQ Form 577](#)

B. Animal Certificates

Please refer to the website below for details about animal product requirements.

[APHIS Animal Product Certificate Requirements](#)

Korean requirements for live animal exports can be found at:

[APHIS Animal Health](#)

C. Dairy Certificate

Please refer to the website below for details about certificate requirements for dairy products.

Dairy products:

[AMS Dairy](#)

3. Egg Certificate

A. Shell egg certified by AMS

Please refer to the website below for details about export procedures for table eggs to Korea.

[AMS Shell Egg Export to Korea](#)

B. Egg products regulated and certified by FSIS

Please refer to the website below for details about certificate requirements for liquid, frozen, or dried eggs regulated and certified by FSIS.

[FSIS Egg Products](#)

C. Further processed egg products regulated by FDA and certified by AMS

Please refer to the website below for details about certificate requirements for FDA regulated further processed egg and egg products, which are certified by AMS.

[AMS Further Processed Egg Products](#)

4. Organic Certificate for Processed Organic Products

Please refer to the website below for details about the US-Korea equivalency arrangement for processed organic products.

[Equivalency with Korea](#)

5. Health Certificate for Pet Food

Please refer to the website below for details about pet food health certificates issued by USDA/APHIS. Korea and the United States have been working on health certificates for pet food containing ruminant ingredients. Post will provide a copy of the health certificate once it is completed.

[Pet Food Requirement](#)

[Sample certificate for non-sterile products](#)

[Sample certificate for sterile products](#)

