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Prepared By: Gerda Vandercammen

Approved By: Emma Aspell

Report Highlights:

Belgium is a Member State of the European Union (EU) and applies the certification requirements described in the European Union Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) Certification Report. Products not yet harmonized are subject to Belgian national rules.

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DISCLAIMER

This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service in Brussels, Belgium for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products to the European Union. It is important to note that the information provided may no longer be completely accurate because policies have changed since its publishing 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 best equipped to research 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.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Import requirements for food and feed, animals, and plants are widely harmonized between the Member States of the European Union (EU). The EU's regulations applicable to imports include specific model certificates with pre-defined attestations on animal, plant, or public health or on the quality specifications of a product. Belgium is a Member State of the EU and applies all EU certification requirements. Therefore, we recommend this report be read in conjunction with the [European Union Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards \(FAIRS\) Certification Report](#).

The Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC) is the Belgian authority in charge of defining the requirements in the limited cases where requirements have not been set at the EU level. The FASFC is also responsible for import controls for products shipped to Belgium. This report provides some useful links for traders from the FASFC website.

SECTION I:

Export Certificates required by Government (Matrix)

Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
Products of Animal Origin	Health Certificate	Attestation is dependent on the product. Detailed attestation can be found in the model certificates available at EUR-Lex under the relevant regulations.	Food Safety	The Belgian Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC) (in Dutch: Federaal Agentschap voor de Veiligheid van de Voedselketen (FAVV); in French: Agence Fédérale pour la Sécurité de la Chaîne Alimentaire (AFSCA))
Composite Products	Health Certificate	Attestation is dependent on the product. Detailed attestations can be found in the model certificates available at EUR-Lex under the relevant regulations. Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/2292 defines composite products as food containing both products of plant origin and processed products of animal origin .	Food Safety	The Belgian Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC) (in Dutch: Federaal Agentschap voor de Veiligheid van de Voedselketen (FAVV); in French: Agence Fédérale pour la Sécurité de la Chaîne Alimentaire (AFSCA))

Animals and Genetics that can introduce animal diseases	Health Certificate	Attestation is dependent on the product. Detailed attestation can be found in the model certificates available at EUR-Lex under the relevant regulations.	Animal Health	The Belgian Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC) (in Dutch: Federaal Agentschap voor de Veiligheid van de Voedselketen (FAVV); in French: Agence Fédérale pour la Sécurité de la Chaîne alimentaire (AFSCA))
Plant Products which can introduce pests	Phytosanitary Certificate	APHIS inspectors, attest to specific requirements of EU legislation by making additional declarations in the relevant phytosanitary certificate boxes. These declarations are specific for different plant species, and they are subject to change, thus the shipper needs to check for the most recent change before export.	Plant Health	The Belgian Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC) (in Dutch: Federaal Agentschap voor de Veiligheid van de Voedselketen (FAVV); in French: Agence Fédérale pour la Sécurité de la Chaîne Alimentaire (AFSCA))
Various Plant Products	Annex II – Pre-Export Check Certificate	e.g. aflatoxin levels in almonds: Use of the Pre-Export Check Program Certificate (the PEC Certificate) is not mandatory but the EU regulation mandates that consignments with this certificate are controlled for aflatoxin levels at less than 1%. USDA	Food Safety and Quality	The Belgian Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC) (in Dutch: Federaal Agentschap voor de Veiligheid van de Voedselketen (FAVV); in French: Agence Fédérale pour la Sécurité de la Chaîne Alimentaire (AFSCA))

		Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is the competent authority for the PEC program.		
Organic Products	Certificate of Inspection	Attestation is dependent on the product. Detailed attestation can be found in the model certificate available at EUR-Lex .	Proof of Organic Production Method	<p>In Flanders Region: Government of Flanders, published by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries</p> <p>In Walloon Region: Service Public de Wallonie/Agriculture, Ressources Naturelles et Environnement</p>

The EU has created model certificates for the vast majority of products imported into the EU, reflecting general and product specific import requirements spelled out in EU animal health and food legislation.

This report focuses on the limited products for which the United States and Belgium negotiated a bilateral export certificate in the absence of an EU certificate. It also addresses the occasional authorizations for shipments of non-harmonized products and the certification requirements for food samples. It furthermore lists some of the border issues that U.S. exporters have faced when shipping product to Belgium.

While the exporter has no formal role in the import control process, an overview of this process is also provided.

Belgian Import Controls on U.S. Certificates

The Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC) (in Dutch: Federaal Agentschap voor de Veiligheid van de Voedselketen (FAVV); in French: Agence Fédérale pour la Sécurité de la Chaîne Alimentaire (AFSCA)) is the Belgian authority in charge of import controls both for EU harmonized and non-harmonized products shipped to Belgium:

Official controls on consignments of regulated animals and goods of animal origin are carried out at the border control post (BCP) of first entry into the European Union. Belgium designated several BCPs for the purpose of carrying out official controls on one or more categories of animals and goods of animal

origin. The designation is made after approval by the European Commission in line with the requirements of the [EU Official Controls Regulation \(OCR\)](#).

For plants, plant products and non-animal food and feed subject to specific EU control regulations, identity and physical checks may also take place at control points other than the BCP. The control points should meet the same minimum requirements (in terms of infrastructure, equipment and documentation) as the BCPs.

The full up-to-date list of FASFC BCPs and CPs, designated by the FASFC for official controls is available from <https://www.static.favv.be/documents/BCPICCPlistBE.xlsx>. BCPs and CP are designated to perform official controls on the product categories mentioned on the list. The full text of the different categories of live animals, animal products, plant products, and food and feed is provided in the tab “abbreviations”. The list specifically mentions which facilities are designated to do official controls on frozen and chilled products.

U.S. exporters are recommended to closely work with their importer in Belgium who will find some of the needed specific information on the import control procedure in the FASFC’s website in the section on Third Country Imports

<https://favv-afsca.be/nl/thema/import-export/import/derde-landen>

<https://favv-afsca.be/fr/theme/import-export/import/pays-tiers>

Bilateral Export Certificates

Turtles: Veterinary Health Certificate for Export of Commercial Turtles from the United States of America to Belgium. Exporters of turtles should contact APHIS to obtain this certificate. Contact vs.live.animal.import.export@usda.gov in USDA, APHIS, VS National Import Export Services.

Lanolin: Belgium requires facilities to be registered by APHIS for the export of lanolin (wool grease). For information regarding how to become registered, facilities should contact the VS Field Office covering the area from where the product will be exported or is produced. For further information see: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/export/iregs-for-animal-product-exports/sa_international_regulations/sa_by_country/sa_b/ct_product_belgium

Occasional Shipments of Non-Harmonized Products

The Belgian authorities may accept occasional shipments of products for which no harmonized specific EU legislation exists. In those cases, the Belgian authorities will require guarantees for animal and public health issues related to the specific product on an ad hoc basis. An import authorization from the FASFC will list the import requirements. The importer in Belgium has to request the authorization by means of standardized documents, which are available from the FASC website ([Import Authorization Request for Animals; Import Authorization Request for Products of Animal Origin](#)).

The U.S. exporter will likely have to work with the appropriate regulatory agency in the United States to demonstrate that the import conditions set by FASFC are satisfied, before the FASFC will grant the import authorization to the requesting operator in Belgium. FAS can help facilitate this process.

Food Samples Shipped to Belgium

Under EU legislation, food samples sent to Belgium with the intention to be consumed are considered foods for human consumption and are subject to the same listing and certification requirements as regular commercial shipments. As mentioned above, these requirements are largely harmonized throughout the EU and are described in the European Union FAIRS Certification Report. In other cases (e.g. for the testing of equipment, diagnostics materials etc.), such goods come under the animal by-products regulation (Commission Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 of 25 February 2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009). Only registered users in Belgium can receive such goods after they have obtained an import permit from the FASFC. The importer in Belgium has to request the authorization by means of a standardized document. The import Authorization Request for Commercial Samples is available from the FASFC website in [Dutch](#) and [French](#).

The FASFC will check whether the products originate from a country that is authorized to ship to the EU. The FASFC will also check whether the applicant for the permit is included in the [list of registered users](#)

If import is possible, Belgium will issue an import permit which generally requires **no** government certification of the consignment. In rare cases, for some samples derived from ungulates or poultry, the import permit may require APHIS certification. For further information see: [Diagnostic and Research Samples](#).

Common Certification Issues

Certification issues are often at the basis for the detention of shipments imported through Belgian ports and are no different than the problems reported by other FAS posts in EU countries. Please see examples of reasons for detention below:

- the certificate was issued after the date of departure;
- there were typographical errors;
- EU plant approval number mentioned on the certificate did not match the approval number on the product label or on the list of EU approved establishments. Please note that the approval number has to be identical on the certificate, label, and the EU list; Belgian BCPs will not accept small inconsistencies such as the addition of a letter to the Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) establishments which is commonly accepted in the United States.
- the shipper used the wrong/old certificate model;
- or a certificate was absent; or was not provided for every animal origin ingredient in the final product;
- the copy of the certificate is not the original;
- incorrect strike outs of standard text in certificates were implemented or initials were missing by strike outs; and,
- the stamp was unclear or the stamp is not original.

Import Control Process

Each consignment of regulated animals and goods must be notified by the operator responsible for the consignment to the BCP of first entry at least one working day before arrival in the EU territory. The pre-notification must be submitted with a Common Health Entry Document (CHED) via the Trade and Control Expert System (TRACES)-NT system. A CHED must be completed for each consignment. The model CHED and information regarding what needs to be filled in for each box are laid out in [Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1715](#) (IMSOC). To submit a CHED in TRACES-NT, the operator responsible for the consignment must have the "person responsible for the load" role in TRACES. Importers will find more information about TRACES and how to apply for this "person responsible for the load" role, in the "[TRACES](#)" section on the FASFC website.

An official import control consists of three control steps that are recorded on the CHED:

- 1. Documentary Checks:**

Every consignment of regulated animals and goods undergoes a documentary check. For this purpose, the original official certificate accompanying the consignment, or other documents as stipulated in the import conditions, must be submitted along with the CHED to the BCP where the consignment enters. During the documentary check, the originality and correct completion of the official certificate will be assessed. The official certificate must comply with the model prescribed by EU legislation.

- 2. Identity Checks:**

The identity check verifies that the shipment data matches the information on the accompanying documents (CHED, health certificate, phytosanitary certificate). This check includes checking the container number, seal numbers, country of origin, product description, number of packaging units, and approval numbers of the manufacturing companies. The conformity check is performed at a legally mandated frequency.

- 3. Physical Checks:**

Physical checks involve a visual inspection of the goods. Depending on the category, packages are opened to subject the products to specific tests, such as temperature and organoleptic examination. The consignment's labeling is also examined. In certain cases, samples may be taken from a consignment for laboratory testing. Physical checks are performed at a legally mandated frequency.

After the checks have been carried out, the competent authority makes a decision on the consignment, which is recorded on the CHED. This can be either authorized or refused. If the consignment is authorized, it is authorized for the entire European Union (unless national conditions apply). The operator responsible for the consignment receives a CHED (or its electronic equivalent) signed and stamped by the competent authority, as well as a certified copy of the official certificate (or an original in the case of transit).

A refused consignment is eligible for the following measures: re-dispatch, destruction, special treatment, or other action to repurpose the consignment. Such action is decided by the competent authority after consulting the operator responsible for the consignment, unless immediate action is required due to risks to human, animal, or plant health, or to animal welfare.

Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

Please read the [European Union Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards \(FAIRS\) Certification Report](#).

SECTION II: SPECIFIC ATTESTATIONS REQUIRED ON EXPORT CERTIFICATES(S)

Please read the [European Union Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards \(FAIRS\) Certification Report](#).

SECTION III: GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATE LEGAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Please read the [European Union Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards \(FAIRS\) Certification Report](#).

SECTION IV: OTHER

Please read the [European Union Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards \(FAIRS\) Certification Report](#).

APPENDIX I: ELECTRONIC COPY, SCANNED COPY, OR OUTLINE OF EACH EXPORT CERTIFICATE

The FAVV website does not provide electronic copies of the certificates that must be issued by third country authorities to ship product to Belgium.

APPENDIX II: INSTRUCTIONS FOR EXPORTERS OF FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA) REGULATED PRODUCTS CERTIFIED BY OTHER AGENCIES

FDA regulated products covered by this section include seafood, dairy products, honey and other apiculture products, egg and egg products regulated by the FDA, and composite products regulated by the FDA.

For each of these products, the exporter needs to assess whether they must obtain a health certificate to accompany shipments sent to the EU. Exporters should be aware that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issues the health certificates required by the EU for seafood. USDA/AMS issues the health certificates required by the EU for the other product groups.

In addition, the exporter will have to check whether the animal origin ingredient or product supplier is listed on the appropriate EU approved establishment list in TRACES. The handling of the listing

process, whereby companies are included in the list of EU approved establishments, remains under the responsibility of the FDA.

Products not needing controlled temperatures during transport may not require a U.S. Government-issued certificate. Most animal origin ingredients must be sourced from EU approved establishments listed in TRACES. Animal ingredient suppliers in the United States will have to work with the FDA to be listed. Consignments shipped to the EU must rely on a private declaration from the importer to convey information regarding the establishment where the animal product ingredient is sourced. This will not be conveyed as part of a U.S. government certificate.

Seafood

The EU export health certificate attests to the safety of fish and fishery - both wild and aquaculture and is required by the EU Directorate-General for Health and Consumer Protection. U.S. exports of seafood products to the EU are subject to establishment listing requirements as a precondition for market access. Establishments may apply for inclusion on these lists via the [Export Listing Module \(ELM\)](#). Please visit the [Online Applications for Export Lists](#) for a link to this electronic system and for step-by-step instructions. Please note, the EU will only accept export certificates signed after an establishment has been added to the list published on the [European Commission website](#) and only when the list has entered into force. Once listed, U.S. establishments may contact the NOAA Seafood Inspection Program to request export certificates for U.S. seafood exports to the EU. These certificates must be requested and issued prior to shipment of the product. [Follow this link to submit a request online.](#)

Dairy Products

AMS is the certifying agency for EU export certificates for dairy products regulated by the FDA. For more information, contact DairyExportsQuestions@usda.gov.

In order to obtain an EU Health Certificate, manufacturers must have their final production, blending, and/or packing facility listed on the directory of EU approved facilities on the [European Commission website](#). Exporters should check whether the manufacturing facility for exported products has been included on this list. Exporters may apply for inclusion on these lists through the FDA ELM. Please visit the [Online Applications for Export Lists](#) for a link to this electronic system and step-by-step instructions.

Honey and Other Apiculture Products

The EU requires a Chapter 45 certificate with public health attestations for imports of the following apiculture products intended for human consumption: honey, beeswax, royal jelly, propolis, or pollen imported under the Harmonized System (HS) code headings 0409, 0410, 1212, 1521, and 1702.

Exporters of these products should contact SCIinspectionoperations@usda.gov to obtain a Chapter 45 certificate.

In order to obtain an EU Health Certificate, establishments that produce (process, bottle, or pack) honey or other apiculture products must be listed on the directory of EU approved facilities on the [European](#)

[Commission website](#). Exporters should check whether the establishment for exported products has been included on this list. Exporters may apply for inclusion on these lists through the FDA ELM. Please visit the [Online Applications for Export Lists](#) for a link to this electronic system and step- by-step instructions.

Composite products (see below) containing apiculture products as an ingredient fall outside the scope of the Chapter 45 certificate.

Eggs and Egg Products

In the egg sector, AMS is the certifying agency for export certificates for egg products regulated by the FDA. The AMS Livestock, Poultry, and Seed Division is responsible for the EU export certificates for food products containing eggs or egg products that are regulated by the FDA. In addition to shell eggs, FDA-regulated egg products include hard boiled eggs, cooked omelets, frozen egg patties, imitation egg products, noodles, cake mixes, dietary foods, dried no-bake custard mixes, egg nog mixes, acidic dressings, mayonnaise, milk and egg dip, foods containing egg extracts, French toast, sandwiches containing eggs or egg products, and balut and other similar ethnic delicacies. For more information on jurisdiction overlap for commercial products regulated by either or both the FDA and USDA, please refer to the following website: <https://www.fda.gov/media/172542/download>.

U.S. exports of eggs and egg products to the EU are subject to [establishment listing](#) requirements as a precondition for market access. Establishments may apply for inclusion on these lists via the ELM. Please visit the [Online Applications for Export Lists](#) for a link to this electronic system and step- by-step instructions. When plant ingredients are added to egg products, exporters should consult the below section on composite products.

Composite Products

The EU defines a composite product as a food product containing both processed products of animal origin and products of plant origin. This section only concerns composite products regulated by the FDA; it does not concern composite products produced at FSIS-regulated facilities bearing the USDA mark of inspection.

EU legislation distinguishes three categories of composite products: (1) non-shelf stable composite products, (2) shelf stable composite products that contain meat products, and (3) shelf stable products that do not contain meat products. These three products have different entry requirements. The EU requires composite product certificates for all non-shelf stable products and for shelf stable products with a meat ingredient.

All composite product certificates are available from [ATLAS](#) and managed by the AMS Dairy Program, irrespective of the ingredients in the final product. Prior to requesting a certificate from AMS Dairy Program, a new customer will need to establish a USDA level 2 e-authentication account. Go to [AMS Dairy Program – EU Dairy and Composite Product Certification Programs](#) for additional information.

In 2025, changes are being implemented to the certificates for composite products that contain a processed honey or apiculture product ingredient and for composite products that contain gelatin or collagen derived from ruminant bones. For composite products containing gelatin or collagen derived from ruminant bones, the approval number of the establishment on TRACES gelatin or TRACES collagen list must be indicated in the certificate. Composite product certificates for products containing processed honey or apiculture products must also indicate the establishment registration number from the appropriate TRACES list. All certificates issued after November 19, 2025 must include this information. Please visit the [Online Applications for Export Lists](#) for a link to this electronic system and step- by-step instructions. For further information from the FDA, please see the FDA's website: <https://www.fda.gov/food/exporting-food-products-united-states/food-export-lists>, or contact the FDA at: hfpexportcertification@fda.hhs.gov.

Shelf-stable composite products that do not contain meat and do not contain collagen or gelatin derived from bovine bones do not require an export certificate. If the product contains animal ingredients of animal origin, the EU importer will have to complete and sign a private attestation. In the attestation, they must provide the TRACES establishment number for the ingredient of animal origin. Since the introduction of the establishment listing for honey and apiculture products, Member States have also requested this information in the private attestation for the processed honey ingredient.

Attachments:

No Attachments