

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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**Report Highlights:**

This report focuses on specific Portuguese certification requirements that differ from or are in addition to EU-harmonized certification. Compared to previous years, this report contains updated links to relevant information sources and contacts. This report should be read in conjunction with the EU FAIRS Export Certificate report prepared by the FAS Office in the U.S. Mission to the European Union (USEU).

**Disclaimer:** This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service for Spain and Portugal for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate 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 confirm requirements with local authorities, before any goods are shipped.

**FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.**

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## Executive Summary

As an EU member since 1986, Portugal applies EU harmonized regulations on import certificates for plant or animal products whether or not they are intended for human consumption. However, in the absence of an EU-harmonized certificate, Portugal may **require certain specific health certificates and occasionally the lack of specific details in the governing regulation also provides significant leeway for border inspectors' interpretation.**

There are several Border Inspection Points (BIP) in Portugal that carry out import controls. Contact details of the EU BIPs, listed by countries, are available in the [link](#).

As of January 1, 2024, import controls are integrated under the Directorate General for Food and Veterinary (DGAV) ascribed to the Ministry of Agriculture and Maritime Affairs. A new Portuguese regulation has reorganized official border controls through a common integrated system for the import of food and plant health related products as per [Decree Law 36/2023](#) (Portuguese language only).

### Ministry of Agriculture, and Maritime Affairs

Directorate General for Food and Veterinary (DGAV)

Campo Grande, 50

1700-093 Lisbon

Tel: +351 213 239 500

Email: [geral@dgav.pt](mailto:geral@dgav.pt)

## Section I. List of All Export Certificates Required by Portugal

Please consult the latest [EU FAIRS Export Certificate report](#) for the Export Certificates required for EU harmonized products.

To import annelids for fishing bait into Portugal, you will need an import permit and approval, prior to the worms arrive at the Border Inspection Post (BIP). Requests should be sent to [secretariadoDIM@dgav.pt](mailto:secretariadoDIM@dgav.pt)

### **Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s):**

Except for specific requirements identified in this report, imports of food and agricultural products into Portugal are not subject to special certification other than that of the European Union. EU legislation calls for many health and supervisory requirements that are meant to guarantee that imports meet the standards of production in Member States.

Portugal, as an EU Member State, follows all rules and regulations that govern food legislation, including certification, within the European Union. While certification requirements are developed at the EU level, Portuguese authorities are responsible for the enforcement of the regulations. When EU-wide legislation is incomplete, not harmonized, or absent, Portugal might require certain specific health certificates.

With respect to enforcement of import requirements, purely administrative mistakes such as minor typographic mistakes can frequently be fixed with a new certificate. However, exporters must assume a zero-tolerance policy for mistakes that affect the identity and traceability of the shipment (e.g., wrong establishment number). In accordance with [Regulation \(EU\) 2020/2235](#), the certificate must be issued before the corresponding consignment leaves the control of the competent authority of the country of dispatch. Additionally, the importer, or its country representative, must submit the Prior notification through TRACES, at least one business day before the expected arrival of the shipment. This report has information on the U.S. competent authority that is authorized to issue the food and agricultural import certificates required by the EU and can also be accessed through the [FAS website](#). An [overview of legally required certificates](#) in the EU and references to the [U.S. authority issuing these certificates](#) is available in the links. For more information, please consult the [FAIRS Country Report for the EU](#).

## Special Import Permits

- **Samples without commercial value to Portugal**

For sanitary reasons, food products imported into the EU, even if they are not intended for commercial sale, must meet certain requirements on food hygiene and animal health.

[Regulation \(EU\) 2019/2122](#) provides details on the exemptions of official controls at the border for animal origin goods that can enter the EU outside of regular commercial channels. The protocol to introduce samples with no commercial value intended for exhibitions is available in the DGAV site [link](#). Prior to the arrival of a shipment of samples without commercial value, the import request must be submitted by email to the DGAV address at [secretariadoDIM@dgav.pt](mailto:secretariadoDIM@dgav.pt) and must include the following elements:

- Product identification, its origin and destination, end use for which they are intended, quantity and expected date for import.
- Copy of the sanitary certificate provided for in specific legislation.

A summary of the requirements depending on the type of sample can be consulted in the table below:

Type of Sample		Official Control	3 <sup>rd</sup> Country Authorized	Authorized Establishment	Zoosanitary Requirement	Hygiene Requirement	Certificate	Prior authorization
<b>Products of animal origin</b>								
<b>Not intended for consumption or market</b>	<b>Biological Samples – SANDACH</b>	NO	NO	NO	NO	-	NO	YES
	<b>Biological Samples no-SANDACH</b>	NO	NO	NO	NO	-	YES	YES
	<b>Commercial Samples</b>	YES	YES	NO	YES	-	YES	
	<b>Samples or Exhibition Materials</b>	YES	YES	YES	NO	-	YES	YES
<b>Intended for consumption or market</b>		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	
<b>Products of non-animal origin</b>								
<b>Not intended for consumption or market</b>		NO	NO	NO	-	NO	NO	
<b>Intended for consumption or market</b>		YES	YES	YES	-	YES	YES	

- **Food Supplements**

The import of food supplements into Portuguese territory must be approved by the Directorate General of Food and Veterinary (DGAV). Portugal, as a member of the European Union, obeys the general rules for importing food, whether animal or non-animal origin, and the complementary procedure to verify the compliance of the ingredients. Furthermore, it is mandatory to notify DGAV with the required dossier, notification table, copy of label, consumer information leaflet electronically that can be found in this [link](#). For further details please comply with the guidance provided in the [DGAV site](#). For additional clarifications on food or dietary supplements directly contact DGAV by email at [perguntas.dsna@dgav.pt](mailto:perguntas.dsna@dgav.pt).

- **Imports of biological material**

The import of biological material from third countries in Portugal is subject to prior approval issued by the Directorate General of Food and Veterinary (DGAV). Portugal, as a member of the European Union, obeys the applicable specific legislation, [Regulation 1069/2009](#) and [Regulation 142/2011](#). Furthermore, for imports where the potential risk would affect animal health, an import permit is required. The request must be made prior to the arrival of the goods to the Border Inspection Post (BIP). Otherwise, the shipment may be retained until the end of the process. The import request must be made by the destination laboratory (investigator or responsible) by sending the request of import authorization of biological material for research to the competent authority by email to [secretariadoDIM@dgav.pt](mailto:secretariadoDIM@dgav.pt). More detailed information can be found in DGAV site in the [link](#) as guidance to initiate the process online.

- **Imports of reproductive material**

Information regarding import requirements for genetic material (semen, eggs, embryos) is available in the [link](#).

- **Imports of products intended for animal feed**

In addition to fulfilling EU requirements, to import products of plant or animal origin intended for animal feed, the importer must be duly registered with DGAV. Furthermore, the import of these products, whether of animal or non-animal origin, can only enter through the consigned [Border Inspection Points \(BIP\)](#). More detailed information regarding import requirement for products intended for animal feed can be found in the [link](#).

- **Imports of planting seeds to Portugal**

Imports of planting seeds to Portugal are regulated by [Decree Law 42/2017](#). Entities that want to import seeds from third countries must, in advance to importation, complete the [Import Form](#) and submit it electronically to [secDVS@dgav.pt](mailto:secDVS@dgav.pt). In the case of seed intended for studies of a scientific nature or selection work, they are established with [authorized maximum quantities](#).

More detailed information regarding import requirement for seeds imports to Portugal can be found in the [link](#).

For further details please contact:

Ministry of Agriculture and Maritime Affairs  
Campo Grande, 50  
1700-093 Lisbon  
Tel: +351 213 29 95 00  
Email: [secDVS@dgav.pt](mailto:secDVS@dgav.pt)

- **Imports of non-animal origin food products**

The imports of foodstuffs of non-animal origin from third countries into Portuguese territory must comply with the rules established by the European Union. More detailed information can be found in the [link](#) to DGAV. For additional clarifications, please contact DGAV through the email [perguntas.dsna@dgav.pt](mailto:perguntas.dsna@dgav.pt).

- **Imports of food products of animal origin**

To import food products of animal origin in Portuguese territory, products must comply with the rules established by the EU. More details on importing by-products of animal origin can be found in the [link](#).

- **Imports of non-harmonized live animals**

To import non-harmonized live animals (including zoo animals, circus animals, animals for exhibitions or shows, or exotic live animals to be sold as pets), safeguards are in place, and interested parties should submit a request using the official [form](#) (Portuguese language only). The request should be addressed to the Institute of Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF) via email to [cites@icnf.pt](mailto:cites@icnf.pt).

Please note that the authorities also require additional documentation such as an international animal health certificate. More information is available in the [link](#).

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

U.S. competent authorities providing detailed export certificate information are listed below:

- AMS: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA  
[Export Verification](#)
- APHIS: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA  
[Exporting plants, animals, or animal products from the United States](#)
- FSIS: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
[Export Requirements for the European Union](#)
- FDA: Food and Drug Administration  
[Exporting Food Products from the United States](#)
- FGIS: Federal Grain Inspection Service; Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA  
[Official Certificates | Agricultural Marketing Service](#)
- NOAA: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
[Export Certification to the European Union | NOAA Fisheries](#)

For additional information, please consult the [EU FAIRS Export Certificate report](#).

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

See **Section I**. For additional information, please consult the [EU FAIRS Export Certificate report](#).

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

See **Section I**.

According to [Decree-Law 337/2001](#) (Portuguese language only), imports of irradiated foods can only originate in approved facilities. Consult the official link to [List of EU approved establishments from third countries](#). Portugal requires specific labeling for irradiated foods or those containing irradiated ingredients. For further guidance to comply with all the requirements in Portugal, see the link to [DGAV Food Irradiation](#).

For additional details on licensing of food treatment establishments by irradiation, contact the competent authority [APA](#).

For clarifications, contact DGAV by email to [questions.dsna@dgav.pt](mailto:questions.dsna@dgav.pt)

For additional information, please consult the [EU FAIRS Export Certificate report](#).



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

See **Section I.** For additional information, please consult the [EU FAIRS Export Certificate report](#).

## **Appendix II. Instructions for Exporters of FDA Regulated Products Certified by Other Agencies**

For detailed information on FDA regulated products certified by other U.S. agencies, please consult the latest [EU FAIRS Country Report](#).

### **Attachments:**

No Attachments.