

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Spain Updates National Regulation on Agrifood Testing Standards

Country: Spain

Post: Madrid

Report Category: Detained Shipments, FAIRS Export Certificate Report, FAIRS Country Report, FAIRS Subject Report

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Report Highlights:

Spain's Royal Decree 562/2025, published on July 2, 2025, and effective July 3, 2025, introduced standardized testing procedures for both domestic and imported agrifood products. The Royal Decree limits testing to two analyses, with the second test result prevailing over the first. This reform simplifies border control processes, reduces procedural complexity, while ensuring food safety for the consumers and a predictable regulatory framework for the operators.

On July 2, 2025, Spain published [Royal Decree 562/2025](#), which went into effect on July 3. This Royal Decree was coordinated by the Spanish Agency of Food Safety and Nutrition (AESAN)¹. The Royal Decree complements [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/625](#)² in terms of official controls in the agrifood industry, specifically modifying the sampling and analysis procedures at Border Inspection Posts (BIPs). Key updates include:

- **Sampling:** A sample will be taken during the inspection. Operators may request that enough be collected for a second (contradictory) analysis.
- **Second Analysis:** If the initial sample result is unfavorable, operators may request a second expert opinion within 10 working days of notification. The result of the second analysis will override the first one. Operators will bear all costs related to the second expert opinion, in accordance with [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/625](#).
- **Removal of Third Sample:** The third (decisive) sample has been eliminated from the procedure as the second test would prevail when in doubt.

[Royal Decree 562/2025](#) limits the number of tests to two. The second test result prevails over the first, provided it is conducted in an official laboratory. This reform simplifies border control processes, reduces procedural complexity, while ensuring food safety for the public and a predictable regulatory framework for operators.

¹ Please, see **Annex I** for additional information on competent authorities and areas of responsibility.

² EU Regulations are directly applicable at the Member State level so is not mandatory to transpose them to National Law.

Annex I. Competent Authorities on Food Controls

Spain has a decentralized system for testing and controlling the feed and food chain. The central government oversees customs controls, while the autonomous communities are responsible for enforcement. The communities establish their own monitoring and sampling plans in coordination with national authorities and focus on risk assessments and sampling at the wholesale and the processing level.

The Spanish Food and Nutrition agency ([AESAN](#)), ascribed to the Ministry of Social Rights, Consumption and Agenda 2030 ([MOC](#)) is responsible for coordinating regulatory development. Other interested government agencies such as the Ministry of Agriculture ([MAPA](#)) and Ministry of Health ([MOH](#))³ were consulted and involved in the process.

- AESAN: As an independent agency under the Ministry of Consumption, oversees food safety, coordinates control of the food chain, and manages risk assessment.
- MAPA: Withing MAPA the Sub Directorate General for Livestock Resources coordinates the national feedstuffs plan.

Import Controls: As of October 1, 2024, import controls are integrated into the functional areas of the Ministry of Agriculture under the direction of the Ministry of Territorial Policy. A new Spanish regulation, [Ministerial Order PJC/756/2024](#)⁴ reorganized official border controls through a common integrated system for the export and import of food and related products. Additional information can be found in GAIN Report: [Official Border Controls Reorganization Enters into Force](#).

Attachments:

No Attachments.

³ Until October 1, 2024, in Spain, the MOH controlled the imports of agricultural products intended for human consumption, while MAPA controlled imports of animal feed/ingredients and live animals not intended for direct human consumption.

⁴ This Ministerial Order aims to strengthen the effectiveness of the system, guarantee an optimal distribution of resources, and boost the competitiveness of the Spanish agri-food sector. Controls will continue to be carried out by the same personnel, with direction from the Ministry of Territorial Policy but integrated into the functional areas of the Ministry of Agriculture.