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Report Highlights:

This report focuses on specific Spanish certification requirements that differ from or are in addition to EU-harmonized certification. Compared to 2024, this report contains new country-specific certificates as well as 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, Spain 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, Spain 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 Spain that carry out import controls. Contact details of the EU BIPs, listed by countries, are available in the [link](#).

As of October 1, 2024, import controls, with direction from the Ministry of Territorial Policy, are integrated into the functional areas of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food (MAPA).¹ A new Spanish regulation has reorganized official border controls through a common integrated system for the import of food and related products ([Ministerial Order PJC/756/2024](#), in Spanish language only). This regulation was put forward by the Ministry of Territorial Policy, in coordination with the Ministries of Health and Agriculture.

The approved regulation guarantees unity of action and simplifies administrative procedures for imports of agricultural and food products for human consumption. It aims to strengthen the effectiveness of the system, guarantee an optimal distribution of resources, and boost the competitiveness of the Spanish agri-food sector. An Inter-ministerial Commission for Monitoring Official Border Controls has also been established, whose goal is to guarantee coordination of competencies. The new system brings all animal and plant health inspectors responsible for the import of agricultural products meant for human consumption under the authority of MAPA.

The Spanish Consumption, Food Safety and Nutrition Agency (AESAN), ascribed to the Ministry of Consumption, is responsible for Food Safety and coordinates control of the food chain. AESAN was established as an independent agency, and it is also responsible for risk management. Within MAPA, the Sub Directorate General for Livestock Resources coordinates the national plan in feedstuffs.

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación

Dirección General de la Sanidad de la Producción Agraria

Sub directorate General for Sanitary Agreements and Border Control

Almagro, 33. 5^a planta

28071 Madrid

Tel.: +34-91-347-8241

Fax: +34-91-347-6969

¹ Until October 1, 2024, in Spain, the Ministry of Health (MOH) controlled the imports of agricultural products intended for human consumption; while the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) controlled imports of animal feed/ingredients and live animals not intended for direct human consumption.

Website: [Plant Products](#) / [Animal Products](#)

Email: sgacuerdos@mapa.es;

importacionanimal@mapa.es (animal products)

inspfito@mapa.es (plant products)

Section I. List of All Export Certificates Required by Spain

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

The import of live animals and products of animal origin, for purposes other than food (including live animals, reproductive material such as semen, ovules and embryos and other products of animal origin, and Used Cooking Oil) are subject to specific Spanish certification requirements.

All models of Import Certificates that are not harmonized at the EU level can be found on the [MAPA website](#). Forms can be obtained also in the following links (certificates are bilingual):

Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
ANIMALS				
ANNELIDS FOR FISHING BAIT	Health Certificate	Certify animals' health condition and that measures have been put in place to avoid subsequent contamination.	Animal Health	MAPA
RODENTS TO EXPERIMENTATION	Health Certificate	Certify animals' health condition, establishment animal health status, and establishment registration.	Animal Health	MAPA
LAGOMORPHS TO EXPERIMENTATION	Health Certificate	Certify animals' health condition, establishment registration.	Animal Health	MAPA
NO LISTED AQUATIC ANIMALS INTENDED FOR ORNAMENTAL CLOSED FACILITIES²	Health Certificate	Certify animals' health condition, establishment registration.	Animal Health	MAPA
SALAMANDERS AND NEWTS	Health Certificate	Certify animals' health condition.	Animal Health	MAPA
GENETIC MATERIAL				
REPTILES EGGS	Health Certificate	Certify donor health condition, establishment registration and that measures have been put in place to avoid subsequent contamination.	Animal Health	MAPA
SEMEN AND EMBRYOS OF RODENTS AND RABBITS FOR EXPERIMENTATION	Health Certificate	Certify that the product was collected and stored in an approved facility, the donors were clinically healthy and, in the case they were used, diluents, additives, or extenders, present no animal health risk.	Animal Health	MAPA
SEMEN FROM CETACEOUS	Health Certificate	Certify that the product has been obtained from clinically healthy animals in a Zoological Institution controlled by the Official Veterinary Service.	Animal Health	MAPA
CERVIDAE SEMEN³	Health	Donor health condition, establishment registration, chain of custody of the	Animal	MAPA

² Information on aquatic animals destined to ornamental closed facilities is available in the [link](#) (available in English language).

³ Information on *cervidae* semen import requirements is available in the [link](#) (available in English language).

Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
	Certificate	product and documentary checks.	Health	
FELINE AND CANINE SEMEN, OOCYTES AND EMBRYOS⁴	Health Certificate	Certify donor health condition, establishment registration, chain of custody of the product and documentary checks.	Animal Health	MAPA
OTHER PRODUCTS				
REPTILE SKINS	Health Certificate	Certify that the product has been obtained from animals with the appropriate health status as described.	Animal Health	MAPA
NON-UNGULATES AND NON-BIRDS WILD GAME TROPHIES	Health Certificate	Certify that the product has been treated as appropriate, and measures have been put in place to avoid subsequent contamination.	Animal Health	MAPA
USED KITCHEN OIL INTENDED TO BIODIESEL PRODUCTION	Declaration	Declare that the used cooking oil is intended to be imported for biofuel production, that the consignment has not been mixed with other products and that it will be transported directly to the plant of destination in sealed containers and will be kept completely independent from other uses.	Use, authenticity, and chain of custody	MAPA
FISHING BAITS⁵	Declaration	Declare that the product is imported exclusively to be used as fishing bait and transported directly to the establishment of destination in closed containers to prevent any leakage of product.	Use and chain of custody	MAPA
POLLEN FOR FEEDING OF BEES AND BUMBLE BEES	Health Certificate	Certify that product comes from an area where the listed diseases are officially notifiable and the area is not subject to any restrictions, the prohibition periods are observed, the product has been under minus 12 Celsius degrees at least 24 hours and treated by the methods described.	Animal Health	MAPA
INSECT EGGS OR BRINE SHRIMP CYST NON-VIABLE, INTENDED FOR THE FEEDING TO INSECTS⁶	Declaration	The product is imported exclusively to be used for feeding to insects and will be transported directly to the establishment of destination in closed containers to prevent any leakage of product.	Traceability and chain of custody	MAPA
BIOLOGICAL CONTROL ORGANISMS (BCO)⁷	Declaration	Declare that the imported product is intended to be used according to Royal Decree 951/2014 and transported directly to the establishment of destination in	Plant Health	MAPA

⁴ Information on *feline* and *canine* sperm is available in the [link](#) (available in English language).

⁵ Information on fishing bait requirements is available in the [link](#) (available in English language).

⁶ Information on insect eggs or non-viable brine shrimp cyst import requirements is available in the [link](#) (available in English).

⁷ Information on BCO import requirements is available in the [link](#) (available in English).

Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
		closed containers to prevent any leakage of product.		
<u>MATERIALS IN CONTACT WITH FOOD (MECAS)</u> ⁸	Declaration	Declares that the imported product complies with Royal Decree 39/2015, Article 69. Registration of destination establishment is mandatory	Traceability	MAPA
<u>CANINE-FELINE CADAVERS FOR RESEARCH</u>	Health Certificate	Certifies that the import of Canine and feline cadaver is intended for studies or analyses only	Animal Health For research	MAPA

Source: MAPA (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food)

The above listed Veterinary Certificates, requested by the MAPA (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food), require the signature of an Official Veterinarian.

⁸ Information on import requirements MECAS is available in the [link](#) (available in Spanish language only)

Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s):

Except for specific requirements identified in this report, imports of food and agricultural products into Spain 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.

Spain, 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, Spanish authorities are responsible for the enforcement of the regulations. When EU-wide legislation is incomplete, not harmonized, or absent, Spain might require certain specific health certificates as identified in the **Section I** Table.

With respect to enforcement of import requirements, Spain is among the most vigilant of EU Member States. Frequently, purely administrative errors such as minor typographic mistakes can 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 [Commission Implementing 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. Spain's Authorities do not tolerate health certificates issued after the ship date. 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. This report can also be accessed through the [FAS website](#). For more information, an overview of legally required certificates in the EU and references to the U.S. authority issuing these certificates, please consult the [FAIRS Country Report for the EU](#).

Special Import Permits

Samples without commercial value to Spain

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.

[Commission Delegated 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 is available in the [link](#) (Spanish language only). A summary of the requirements depending on the type of sample can be consulted in the table below:

Type of Sample		Official Control	3 rd Country Authorized	Authorized Establishment	Zoosanitary Requirement	Hygiene Requirement	Certificate
Products of animal origin							
Non-intended for consumption or market	Biological Samples – SANDACH	NO	NO	NO	NO	-	NO
	Biological Samples no-SANDACH	NO	NO	NO	NO	-	YES
	Commercial Samples	YES	YES	NO	YES	-	YES
	Samples or Exhibition Materials	YES	YES	NO	NO	-	Commercial Document
Intended for consumption or market		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Products of non-animal origin							
Non-intended for consumption or market		NO	NO	NO	-	NO	NO
Intended for consumption or market		YES	NO	NO	-	YES	NO

Imports of biological material

The import of biological material must be approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA). For imports where the potential risk would affect animal health, only an import permit is required. More detailed information can be found in the [link](#) as well as a link to initiate the [process online](#) (information only available in Spanish language) and the relevant [form](#) to request the import permit to the competent authority (Sub Directorate General for Sanitary Agreements and Border Control). The request must be made prior to the arrival of the goods to the Border Inspection Post (BIP). Otherwise, they may be retained until the end of the process. The importing researcher must complete the import of biological material for research form and present it to the competent authority.

In those cases where the biological material could potentially pose a threat to human health, the importer/exporters may request authorization at the following email address importacionanimal@mapa.es. More detailed information can be found in the [link](#) (information only available in Spanish). Importing biological material must be approved by MAPA.

Imports of reproductive material

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

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 registered in the MAPA's [database](#). More detailed information regarding import requirement for products intended for animal feed can be found in the [link](#) (information only available in Spanish).

Imports of planting seeds to Spain

To import planting seeds to Spain, a request must be submitted by the local importer to Spain's Plant Varieties Authorities. The request can be submitted electronically on the Ministry's website or by sending an authorization form to bnz-importasemillas@mapa.es. [Forms](#) are available on the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food website (information only available in Spanish).

Annex I Form is intended for importing horticultural plant seeds or seeds for trials.

Annex II Form is intended for imports of agricultural plants seeds.

Contact Information for Spain's Plant Varieties Authorities:

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Oficina Española de Variedades Vegetales

C/ Almagro 33, 7a

28010 Madrid

Tel.: +34-91-347-6659

Fax: +34-91-347-6703

[Website](#)

Email: oevv@mapa.es; bnz-importasemillas@mapa.es

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), interested parties should submit a request using the official [form](#) (Spanish language only). The request should be addressed to the Sub-Directorate General for Sanitary Agreements and Border Control and sent via email to importacionanimal@mapa.es.

The Spanish competent authorities study the requests individually and assess potential risks. Certificates exist (see **Section I** above) for the most traded animals. In the absence of a specific certificate, if the import of the animals is deemed appropriate, authorities issue an import license. Please note that authorities could also require additional documentation such as an international animal health certificate. More information is available in this [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**.

The Government of Spain does not require attestation of radioactivity for imports.

According to [Royal Decree 348/2001](#) (Spanish language only) imports of irradiated foods can only originate in approved facilities. However, Spain does not require certification related to the non-application of irradiation treatment as a condition for entry of food.

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

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

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 NOAA issues the health certificates required by the EU for seafood. 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 products 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 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 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (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 to the EU

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (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 Export Listing Module (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 to the EU

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 SCInspectionoperations@usda.gov to obtain a Chapter 45 certificate.

The EU also requires establishments that produce (process, bottle, or pack) honey or other apiculture products exported to the EU to be registered in TRACES as approved establishments. Further information may be found on FDA's website here <https://www.fda.gov/food/food-export-lists/honey-and-other-apiculture-export-lists>; and in USDA FAS's [GAIN report](#).

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, USDA's Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) is the certifying agency for export certificates for egg products regulated by FDA. The AMS Livestock, Poultry and Seed Division is responsible for the EU export certificates for the food products containing eggs or egg products that are regulated by 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 nogg 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 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 Export Listing Module (ELM). Please visit the [Online Applications for Exports 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 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 Agricultural Marketing Service 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 from establishment list on [TRACES gelatin](#) or [TRACES collagen](#) must be indicated in the certificate. Composite product certificates for products containing 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. For further information from FDA, please see FDA's website: <https://www.fda.gov/food/exporting-food-products-united-states/food-export-lists>, or contact FDA at hfpexportcertification@fda.hhs.gov

Shelf-stable composite products that do not contain meat 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.

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

Attachments:

No Attachments