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Report Highlights:

This report offers guidance on the certificates and documents required for exporting food and agricultural products to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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Disclaimer: This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care has been taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either 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 research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY’S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

Executive Summary

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) requires various certificates for imported food products which must be issued by designated competent authorities. While there are no mandatory formats for most documents, phytosanitary certificates must comply with the standards of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

Certain veterinary certificates must include specific statements related to contagious diseases, hormone use, pathogen reduction methods, and other requirements set by the State Veterinary Office (SVO). The SVO is also responsible for verifying requirements for the importation of live animals and specific products of animal origin, in accordance with recommendations from the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH).

This report includes an Export Certificate Matrix and a detailed description of the content required for each certificate. BiH does not offer waivers for export certificates and does not accept electronic certificates. No major changes in local regulations have occurred since the previous update in June 2024.

Section I. List of All Export Certificates Required by Government (Matrix):

Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
All Food Products	Health Certificate/Evidence of Sanitary Wholesomeness (Certificate to a Foreign Government)	The food product is safe for human consumption	To certify food hygiene/safety	The Federation of BiH Inspectorate and the Republika Srpska Inspectorate ¹
All Food Products	Certificate/Evidence of Quality (no specific format; stickering permitted)	Evidence of quality such as product composition, energy value, specification etc.	To certify food quality	The Federation of BiH Inspectorate and the Republika Srpska Inspectorate
All Live Animals and Certain Animal Products (live animals, raw animal products, animal feed, semen, veterinary medicines, and waste)	Veterinary Certificate	Depending on the specific requirements set by The State Veterinary Office	To certify that products are safe for animal and human health	The State Veterinary Office
All Plants and Plant Products	Phytosanitary Certificate	To certify that the product has been inspected according to appropriate procedures, considered to be free from quarantine pests and considered to conform to the current phytosanitary regulations of the importing country	To certify that products are safe for plant and human health	The Federation of BiH Inspectorate and the Republika Srpska Inspectorate
Dietary supplements, medical foods, foods	Certificate of Free Sale	To certify that the product is registered	To certify that products are safe	The Federation Ministry of Health

¹ Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) consists of two entities: the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska. Agricultural policy falls under the jurisdiction of these entities, while food safety oversight is shared with state-level institutions, including the State Veterinary Office, the Plant Health Protection Administration, and the Food Safety Agency.

Entity-level inspectorates are responsible for food control and inspections at border crossings and within the country, except for border veterinary inspections, which are handled at the state level.

Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
for special dietary use, and baby food		and is in free sale in the country of the manufacturer	for consumption	and the Republika Srpska Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

The health certificate/evidence of sanitary wholesomeness confirms that a product is safe for human consumption. This certificate is required by the Federation Inspectorate and the Republika Srpska Inspectorate—specifically, their Border Inspection and Food Inspection Sectors. For this purpose, a document such as the FDA Certificate to a Foreign Government is generally accepted.

The certificate/evidence of quality confirms that the product meets established quality standards. This documentation is required by the Federation Market Inspection Sector and the Republika Srpska Food Inspection Sector. The information may be indicated directly on the packaging or provided as a sticker affixed to the product. There is no prescribed format for this certificate.

The veterinary certificate is required for live animals; semen, embryos, and egg cells; certain processed animal products; raw materials intended for further processing; veterinary medicines and accessories; diagnostic kits and materials; animal feed and waste; and other products that may carry animal diseases and pose a risk to animal or human health. This certificate confirms the product is safe for both animal and human health. The responsible authority for issuing and verifying these certificates is the SVO.

The phytosanitary certificate verifies the health and compliance of all plants and plant products with plant health standards. It is required by the Federation Inspectorate (Border Inspection Sector) and the Republika Srpska Inspectorate (Phytosanitary Inspection Sector).

The Certificate of Free Sale is accepted for dietary supplements; medical foods; foods for special dietary use; and baby food. Products must first be approved and registered at the entity ministries of health.

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

The certificate/evidence of sanitary wholesomeness – There are no specific certifications mandated by the local authorities, provided that the product is deemed fit for human consumption and complies with the safety requirements of the exporting country. While no precise format is prescribed, the certificate should be an original document issued and signed by the competent authority in the exporting country (e.g., an FDA Certificate to a Foreign Government). It must be translated into the local language.

The certificate/evidence of quality – There are no specific quality certifications required by the authorities; therefore, internationally recognized quality certificates commonly used in trade are

generally accepted. However, food inspection authorities reserve the right to sample and test imported products.

The veterinary certificate – The certificate must clearly identify the imported product, including details such as the mode and route of transportation, packaging, consignee and consignor, and the quantity of the shipment. It must also provide a clear statement on the epizootic (disease) status of the country, region, and facility of origin.

The SVO is the competent authority for setting specific requirements related to the import of live animals and products of animal origin. The veterinary certificate must confirm compliance with these requirements. Upon request, the SVO can provide the relevant import conditions in English.

There is no mandatory format for the certificate; its content is typically negotiated between the SVO and the veterinary authority of the exporting country (e.g., see the agreed [U.S. – BiH agreed certificates](#)). The certificate must be an original document issued by the official authority of the exporting country and must be translated into the local language.

The phytosanitary certificate – The certificate must comply with the guidelines of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). It should include the name and address of the exporter, the declared name and address of the consignee, the country of origin, means of conveyance, point of entry, and packaging details. The certificate must also specify the name of the product, the botanical name of the plants, quantity, and any treatments applied (e.g., disinfestation or disinfection).

Furthermore, the certificate must confirm that the product has been inspected in accordance with appropriate procedures, is free from quarantine pests, and complies with the current phytosanitary regulations of the importing country.

Section III. Government Certificate Legal Entry Requirements

An original document or a certified copy (in the case of multiple shipments under the same certificate) must accompany each shipment at the point of entry, regardless of the mode of transport. All documents must be translated into the local language.

Imported products will only be cleared through customs upon submission of all required certificates. BiH does not accept supplier or manufacturer-issued export declarations as valid proof of regulatory compliance. However, BiH will accept export certificates issued by U.S. authorities—such as the FDA Certificate to a Foreign Government or Certificate of Free Sale—provided they are consistent with BiH legislation.

Phytosanitary certificates are valid for 15 days and veterinary certificates are valid for 10 days from the date of issuance. These certificates are shipment-specific and cannot be used for multiple consignments. Entry will be denied for products that fail to comply with domestic quality standards or that contain unapproved biotech ingredients. Currently, the only biotech product approved for import is biotech soybean meal.

BiH does not grant waivers for required export certificates, does not participate in any preclearance programs, and does not accept electronic certificates, as there is no legal framework in place to support them.

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

Live Animals and Animal Products

Exporters to BiH must obtain prior import approvals from the SVO for the following categories:

- Live animals
- Fresh, chilled, or frozen meat
- Veterinary medicines
- Reproductive eggs
- Semen and inseminated egg cells

For the import of breeding animals, additional documentation is required, including certificates or evidence of origin, production data, and reproductive value. Importers of animal semen must also provide progeny test results.

Exporting facilities must be registered with the SVO prior to their first export shipment to BiH.

Plant Products

Exporters of seeds, planting materials, pesticides, and mineral fertilizers to Bosnia and Herzegovina must obtain prior approvals or technical opinions from the respective entity-level Ministry of Agriculture (Federation of BiH or Republika Srpska). These approvals are based on the submission of valid health and quality certificates. Application forms are available directly from the Ministries.

Following this step, the BiH Plant Health Protection (PHPA) Administration issues the final import approvals.

Seeds and Planting Material

Registered importers must submit a request for import consent to the competent Ministry of Agriculture of the respective entity (Federation of BiH or Republika Srpska). Since procedures and requirements may vary between entities, it is essential to consult the relevant ministry to confirm the specific documentation required and to obtain details on applicable administrative fees. Once entity-level consent is granted, importers must submit an import request to BiH PHPA using the official application form, available directly from the PHPA.

In addition to the import permit, the following must be provided:

- A certificate of quality issued by the authorized authority in the country of origin
- Proof that the plant variety is listed on the PHPA's [List of Approved Varieties](#) (available in the local language only)

Only varieties included on this official list are eligible for import for agricultural production purposes.

Plant Protection Products

Only registered importers are authorized to receive shipments of plant protection products and distribute them on the domestic market in Bosnia and Herzegovina. To register with the relevant entity-level Ministry of Agriculture (Federation of BiH or Republika Srpska), importers must demonstrate adequate professional and technical capabilities, including appropriate storage facilities and qualified personnel.

For each shipment, the importer, whether a distributor or an authorized representative, must:

1. Submit a written request for import consent, and
2. Request authorization for market placement of the product

These requests must be submitted to the competent entity Ministry of Agriculture using prescribed forms, available directly from the respective ministries. As procedures vary between entities, importers are strongly advised to consult the appropriate ministry in advance to confirm documentation requirements and obtain current procedural guidelines.

Typical information required in the request includes:

- Tariff number
- Trade name
- Active substance
- Intended use
- Quantity and value of goods
- Border entry point for inspection
- Pro forma invoice

The request must be accompanied by all supporting documentation to demonstrate compliance with applicable conditions, including proof of importer registration.

Under Article 12 of the [Law on Phyto-Pharmaceutical Products](#) (available in local language only), the import of any plant protection product prohibited in its country of origin or in the European Union is strictly forbidden. The BiH Plant Health Protection Administration (PHPA) maintains and regularly updates a list of such prohibited products, which is available upon request.

Once approval is granted by the competent entity Ministry of Agriculture, the importer must file an import request form with the PHPA to complete the process.

Mineral Fertilizers

Importers are required to file a request for mandatory phytosanitary control of each shipment at the designated point of entry. This request must be submitted to the phytosanitary inspector of the relevant entity, based on the location of the border crossing.

To proceed with the inspection, the importer must present the following:

- A valid import permit issued by the BiH Plant Health Protection Administration (PHPA)
- A certificate of quality issued by the authorized body in the country of origin

Phytosanitary inspection is a mandatory part of the import process and must be completed before the goods can be cleared for entry and placed on the domestic market.

Mercantile Products

Certain mercantile products, such as potatoes, are also subject to mandatory phytosanitary inspection at the border, in accordance with Annex 1 of the Decision on Classification of Goods in the Regimes of Import and Export.

Importers must file a request for phytosanitary control with the competent entity inspection authority, based on the location of the border crossing point.

It is the importer's responsibility to verify whether the product falls under mandatory inspection requirements prior to shipment and ensure all supporting documentation is in place.

Genetically Engineered Foods

Under the [2009 Law on GMOs](#) (available in local language only), Bosnia and Herzegovina allows the licensed use of biotechnology products. However, as of now, the only genetically engineered (GE) product approved for import is GE soybean meal for animal feed. BiH's Food Safety Agency issued permits for import and marketing GE feed.

Importers must ensure that appropriate GE-related documentation accompanies the shipment to comply with current regulations and avoid delays at the border.

Attestation of Radioactivity

Bosnia and Herzegovina does not require attestation of radioactivity for food and agricultural products imported from the United States.

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

BiH accepts all types of export certificates; therefore, the Post cannot provide digital copies of these certificates.

A detailed outline of the content of each certificate is provided under Section III.

Attachments:

No Attachments