

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## Germany

### Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification

### FAIRS Export Certificate Report

**Approved By:**

Kelly Stange

**Prepared By:**

Leif Erik Rehder

**Report Highlights:**

Germany as part of the European Community has implemented EU regulations for the import of products of animal and plant origin. The US export certification requirements for most products destined for the EU have been harmonized. The few products not yet harmonized are subject to German national regulations.

**Author Defined:****Disclaimer**

This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Berlin, Germany 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 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 OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.**

Germany as part of the European Community has implemented EU regulations for the import of products of animal and plant origin. The export certification requirements for most products destined for the EU market have been harmonized.

For information on the export certifications for the EU market, please see the USEU Brussels report which can be found on their website: <http://www.usda-eu.org/reports/>

The few products not yet harmonized are subject to German national regulations. The competent German authority needs to be consulted on a case-by-case basis to address requirements for non-harmonized products.

Imported products must meet existing Member State requirements and products must be accompanied by the proper certification at port of arrival. In general, health certificates are required for all imported products of animal origin and phytosanitary certificates are needed for all plant products that could introduce pests into the EU. In Germany, food safety is the primary responsibility of the federal states (Bundesländer). Official surveillance is co-ordinated by the respective state ministries or, in city-states, by the respective senate administration department.

Export certificates must be in the official language of Germany, which is German. Certified translations of the certificates into German may be used. The import of special products like blood, blood products, and material containing epizootic pathogens must be approved by the responsibility of the federal state. Usually the importer (or possibly an exporter) applies to the authority with all relevant details. There is no set form for this kind of application.

EU food legislation is translated into the 24 official languages in use in the EU-28 (including German) and is published in the Official Journal. The Eurlex website <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm> provides free access to European Union laws.

EU plant and plant product import regulations have been harmonized and are published in a single directive. Unlike veterinary products, there is only one model certificate for all plant products in

accordance with international regulations laid out by the International Plant Protection Convention of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. [www.ippc.int/](http://www.ippc.int/)

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 Commission (USEU). For additional information on US export certifications for the EU market, please see the USEU Brussels website: <http://www.usda-eu.org/reports/>

**USDA FAS Contacts in Berlin, Germany**

Foreign Agricultural Service

American Embassy

Clayallee 170

14195 Berlin

E-mail: [agberlin@fas.usda.gov](mailto:agberlin@fas.usda.gov)

Tel: (0049) (30) 8305 1150