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Report Name: Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards
Export Certificate Report

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Prepared By: Mira Kobuszynska, Anna Galica, Jolanta Figurska

Approved By: Mira Kobuszynska

Report Highlights:

Lithuania applies harmonized European Union (EU) regulations, including requisite certificates for most animal- and plant-origin food and agricultural imports from non-EU countries. U.S. exporters should be aware that some interpretational variations can occur between EU Member States and are advised to consult with their Lithuanian importers regarding market access questions. U.S. exporters may also wish to consult with Lithuanian authorities on a case-by-case basis.

DISCLAIMER:

U.S. Embassy Warsaw’s Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA) prepared this report for exporters of U.S.-origin food and agricultural products, as OAA Warsaw regionally covers Lithuania. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate due to policy changes since preparation, or because clear information about these policies was not available. Post recommends that U.S. exporters verify all import requirements with their international customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. The following Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) Certificate report should be read in conjunction with the 2022 Lithuania FAIRS Country report and the 2022 EU FAIRS Certificate reports prepared by the U.S. Mission to the EU’s (USEU) OAA, which are available on their [website](#). FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCTS IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY’S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

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Executive Summary

EU import requirements for food, feed, animals and products, and plants and products are generally harmonized among Member States. Depending on the product, EU import requirements include specific model certificates with pre-defined attestations for animal health, plant health, food safety, or quality specifications (e.g., organic). U.S. exporters should be aware that some interpretational variations can occur between EU Member States and are advised to consult with their Lithuanian importers regarding market access questions. U.S. exporters may also wish to consult with Lithuanian authorities on a case-by-case basis.

I. List of Required Export Certificates

Lithuania applies EU export certification requirements for imported products. Post recommends reading this report in conjunction with the OAA USEU 2022 EU FAIRS Country and Certificate reports, which can be found on their website [here](#) and [here](#). There are no additional country-specific certificates (besides EU certificates) for food imports derived from plants and animals. U.S. export certificates in English must also include an official translation into Lithuanian.

II. Purpose of the Export Certificates

EU legislation calls for many health and supervisory requirements that are meant to guarantee that imports meet the standards of production in Member States.

Products of animal origin

Following an update of the EU's Animal Health Law ([Regulation \(EU\) 2016/429](#)), which entered into force on April 21, 2021, the EU has updated all required certificates for products of animal origin. Models of the new certificates for foods of animal origin were published by the EU and implemented by U.S. agencies. Several amendments to the new certificates were made since their first publication. They are available from [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2020/2235 \(consolidated version July 14, 2022\)](#)

Some U.S.-origin animal products from EU-approved U.S. processing plants are eligible for export to Lithuania and the EU. For these products, one or more U.S. regulatory agencies, including the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), will be responsible for determining export eligibility. [EU-approved production plants](#) in the United States may be subject to EU audits.

Only the international trade of a few products/by-products and exotic animals are not harmonized under EU legislation. In such cases, Member State national regulations apply. For specific questions about shipping food and agricultural exports from the United States to Lithuania, exporters are advised to contact OAA Warsaw or consult U.S. regulatory agencies' websites in their export libraries and guides.

The EU requires veterinary and/or general health certificates to accompany each shipment of meat, which must be signed and dated prior to shipment. The competent U.S. certifying official will delete any statement(s) appearing on the EU model certificate that is not applicable. The EU imposes general requirements for all veterinary health certificates. In accordance with [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2020/2235 \(consolidated version July 14, 2022\)](#), certificates must be issued before consignments leave control of the competent authority. Non-compliance may result in rejection at the EU port of entry.

Plants and plant products

EU import requirements for plants and plant products are harmonized. In accordance with international regulations laid out by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. For more information, see the [export certification guide](#) at the [IPPC website](#). Phytosanitary certificates are issued by APHIS inspectors, who can attest to the specific requirements of EU legislation.

Composite Products

[Regulation \(EU\) 2019/625](#) defines composite products as foodstuffs intended for human consumption that contain processed products of animal origin and ingredients of plant origin. Composite products include a wide variety of products, including cheesecakes, high protein food supplements, pizza, and lasagnas. U.S. exports of "composite products" continue to be restricted due to burdensome certification requirements. While the U.S. is eligible to ship hormone-free meat, dairy products, egg products, and fishery products separately, it is often not possible to ship the composite products that combine these eligible ingredients. More information on the EU import conditions for composite products is available on the European Commission's [website](#).

III. Specific Attestation Required on the Export Certificate

Lithuania's State Food and Veterinary Service ([SFVS](#)) is the competent authority for all veterinary import requirements regarding products of animal origin from non-EU countries. SFVS requires that seal numbers on containers are printed on veterinary certificates. A seal number on bills of landing is not sufficient. If no seal number is present on the certificate, a physical check may be conducted to verify the identity of the shipment.

IV. Government Certificate Legal Entry Requirements

According to SFVS requirements, products of animal origin may be imported to Lithuania if:

- They contain original veterinary certificates drawn up in at least one of the official languages of the border inspection and the country of destination issued by the competent authority of the country of origin;
- Products are labeled in a way that can be identified;
- Products and import requirements meet all criteria published by the European Commission;
- Products, or their parts, derived from any third countries are declared;
- Products are sourced from production plants eligible to ship to the EU.

U.S. food and agricultural product exporters to Lithuania can contact OAA Warsaw with any questions or requests for additional information:

U.S. Embassy, Poland

United States Department of Agriculture/ Foreign Agricultural Service

Regional Office of Agricultural Affairs (Covering Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia)

Warsaw, Poland

Ph: +48 22 504 2336

Email: agwarsaw@state.gov

Attachments:

No Attachments