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Honduras

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification

FAIRS Export Certificate Report 2017

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Report Highlights:

The National Plant, Animal Health and Food Safety Service (SENASA) is the regulatory agency responsible for the inspection of all agricultural products that enter Honduras. The new sanitary regulatory agency (Agencia de Regulacion Sanitaria – ARSA) is in charge of sanitary registration, surveillance, and inspection of food products approved for sale at the retail and wholesale level. The certificates requested by SENASA and ARSA are described in this report.

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

| Product(s) | Title of Certificate | Attestation Required on Certificate | Purpose | Requesting Ministry |
|---|---|--|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Live animals | -Export Certificate for Animal Products: (APHIS VS form 16-4) -Certificate of Origin | None | Health Certificate | Agriculture |
| Bovine meat and processed bovine meat | -Meat and Poultry Export Certificate: (FSIS Form 9060-5) -Certificate of Origin | None | Health Certificate | Agriculture |
| Pork meat and processed pork meat | -Meat and Poultry Export Certificate: (FSIS Form 9060-5) -Certificate of Origin | None | Health Certificate | Agriculture |
| Poultry meat and processed poultry meat | -Meat and Poultry Export Certificate: (FSIS Form 9060-5) -Certificate of Origin | Additional declaration indicating that "All fresh/frozen poultry meat, including mechanically deboned meat (MDM), comes from an area free of high or low pathogenic Avian Influenza" | Health Certificate | Agriculture |
| Dairy | -Health/Export Certificate: (APHIS) and (FDA) -Certificate of Origin | None | Health Certificate | Agriculture |
| Fish and Crustaceans | -Health/Export Certificate (NOAA Form 89-807) -Certificate of Origin | None | Health Certificate | Agriculture |

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| Siluriformes Fish, including Catfish | -Export Certificate of Wholesomeness (FSIS Form 9060- 5S) -Certificate of Origin | None | Health Certificate | Agriculture |
| Grains | -Phytosanitary Certificate (APHIS) PPQ Form 577 -Certificate of Origin | None | Health Certificate | Agriculture |
| Fresh fruits and vegetables | -Phytosanitary Certificate: (APHIS) PPQ Form 577 -Certificate of Origin | None | Health Certificate | Agriculture |
| Onions | -Phytosanitary Certificate (APHIS) PPQ Form 577 -Certificate of Origin | Free from “Ditylenchus dipsaci” | Health Certificate | Agriculture |
| Plants and plant products | -Phytosanitary Certificate (APHIS) PPQ Form 577 -Certificate of Origin | Some products require an additional declaration. The import authorization will indicate which requirement is needed | Health Certificate | Agriculture |
| Planting seeds | -Phytosanitary Certificate (APHIS) PPQ Form 577 -Certificate of Origin -Quality Certificate | Some products require an additional declaration. The import authorization will indicate which requirement is needed | Health Certificate | Agriculture |
| Potatoes seed | -Phytosanitary Certificate (APHIS) PPQ | -Free from dirt, dirt and sand clods -Free of the following Nematodes: | Health Certificate | Agriculture |

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|---------------------------------|--|---|--------------------|-------------|
| | Form 577 -Certificate of Origin | -Globodera rostochiensis -Ditylenchus dipsaci -Ditylenchus destructor -Aphelenchoides fragaie -Meloidogyne chitwoodi | | |
| Potatoes for consumption | -Phytosanitary Certificate (APHIS) PPQ Form 577 -Certificate of Origin | -Free from dirt, dirt and sand clods -Anti-sprouting treatment -Free of the following Nematodes: -Globodera rostochiensis -Ditylenchus dipsaci -Ditylenchus destructor -Meloidogyne chitwoodi | Health Certificate | Agriculture |
| Processed fruits and vegetables | -Certificate of Free Sale -Certificate of Origin -Product's Specification Report | None | Food Safety | ARSA |
| Sugar | -Certificate of Free Sale -Certificate of Origin | Must have vitamin "A" added | Health Certificate | ARSA |
| Salt | -Certificate of Free Sale -Certificate of Origin | Must have iodine added | Health Certificate | ARSA |
| Honey | -Health /Export Certificate -Certificate of Origin | Must indicate the bee species | Health Certificate | Agriculture |
| Bottled water | -Certificate of Free Sale -Certificate of Origin -Product's Specification Report | Physical, chemical, biological and microbiological laboratory analysis | Health Certificate | ARSA |

Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

Under the United States – Central America – Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR), Honduras recognizes the U.S. inspection services as equivalent. This equivalence eliminates the requirement of a certification by Honduras of the U.S. plant to export to the Honduran market.

For imports, the Government of Honduras (GOH) requires that the certificates and other shipment documents be clear, with the same information and names of the importer and exporter, amounts, product description, origin, point of shipping, name, date and signature of the official issuing such certificate.

The purpose of certificates most widely used is as follows:

1. Certificate of Origin: Products made in the United States and shipped from any port must clearly indicate a U.S. address on the certificate, showing the United States as the country of origin. In the past, multiple addresses and non-U.S. addresses on documents have caused confusion and delays.

The main purpose of the document is to certify the origin of the product, confirming that it complies with the sanitary requirements established by Honduras. In addition, the Certificate of Origin is the document that allows U.S. products to receive preferential tariff treatment under CAFTA-DR. Further information can be found on the GAIN Report for Honduras: Exporter Guide Report Number HO1708. Section II. “Demonstrating Eligibility for Preferential Tariff Treatment” at www.fas.usda.gov.

In the case of products not made in the United States, but distributed by U.S. companies, the United States Chambers of Commerce can issue a Certificate of Origin which indicates the country of origin of the product. However, this certificate does not comply with the requirement to demonstrate eligibility for preferential tariff treatment under CAFTA-DR. In the case of animal products and sub-products, SENASA requests that the Certificate of Origin indicates the name of the establishment where it was processed or provide the Certificate of Origin where the product originated.

SENASA reports that importers are often confused about “country of origin” and “point of shipping”, this might cause errors in the documents presented for the import permit.

When similar products come from different countries, there are two options. The first option is to submit separate Certificates of Origin issued by the competent authority of each country that the product originated from. Or, the second option is to submit the information in the same Certificate of Origin, indicating the product, quantity, and the name of the establishment where the product originated from as well.

2. Phyto or Zoosanitary Export Certificates: The certificate aims to protect the sanitary condition of the importing country and acknowledges that the plant or animal product is pest or disease free. In the case of the United States, depending on the product, SENASA requires that the certificate be issued by the U.S. federal government authority that inspects the conditions of the plant where the product has

been produced or processed such as:

- USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS).
- U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- United States Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

SENASA requires that the certificates be filled out completely. The information and names of the importer and exporter, amounts, product description, origin, point of shipping, written name, date and signature of the official issuing such certificates must be consistent across all documents.

SENASA has requested that USDA add an Additional Declaration (AD) to the FSIS Certificate (Form 9060-5). Imports of U.S. fresh/frozen and cooked poultry products should indicate that "All fresh/frozen poultry meat, including mechanically deboned meat (MDM), comes from an area free of high or low pathogenic Avian Influenza". The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and APHIS provide updates to SENASA concerning outbreaks by state as well as their current status. However, SENASA has emphasized that it is the importers' and exporters' responsibility to stay abreast of outbreaks so they can assure SENASA of the health status of the area of origination.

Further information can be found at: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs>

3. Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness: This certificate officially states that the meat or meat food product is derived from animals that received both ante mortem and postmortem inspections and were found sound and healthy. It also states that the product passed the inspection in compliance with applicable laws and regulations and is wholesome and fit for human consumption. The certificate is issued by FSIS (FSIS form 9060-5). The certificate is required by SENASA.

4. Export Certificate for Animal Products: This certificate states the names of the animal diseases that do not exist in the United States. It also declares that live animals are healthy with no pests or diseases. The certificate complies with the health regulations of Honduras for the importation of live animals and animal products. The certificate is issued by the APHIS (VS form 16-4). The certificate is required by SENASA. For additional information contact:
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/sa_export_from_us.

5. Export Health Certificate: This certificate confirms that the product was inspected and found to be

in compliance with the applicable regulations. It also certifies that the product was found to be wholesome, edible, and fit for human consumption. In the case of fish and crustacean exports from the United States, the certificate is issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA form 89-807). The certificate is required by SENASA. For additional information contact: http://www.seafood.nmfs.noaa.gov/Export_Certification.html.

6. Certificate of Free Sale (CFS): The certificate indicates that the exporter has a permit to produce, manufacture, distribute and pack food products for human consumption. It states that the products are freely sold and consumed in the United States, as well as exported. ARSA reviews that the information in the CFS such as the product's name, trademark, manufacturer and country of origin is the same information provided in the request for sanitary registration and in the label. The certificate is issued by the appropriate state-level health authorities or Chambers of Commerce. The certificate is requested to obtain the product registration of processed food products with ARSA.

7. Quality Certificate: This certificate is issued by the Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA), an organization of member laboratories. Members include official state, federal, and university seed laboratories across the United States. SENASA requires that the analysis reflected in the certificate state that the seed has a germination of no less than 85 percent and that the seed analysis was done within the last six months. For additional information contact: www.aosaseed.com.

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

The certificates and attestation (declaration) listed in Section II above provide information needed by SENASA to comply with the import requirements of Honduras. Some specific attestations, however, will be requested when the animal or plant health conditions of the exporter country changes. SENASA indicates that it is the responsibility of the importer, as well as the exporter to keep updated on any animal or plant pests or diseases outbreaks. A detailed outline of the content of export certificates is provided in Appendix I of this report.

Section IV. Government Certificate's Legal Entry Requirements

GOH institutions involved in the importation of food and agricultural products are the National Plant, Animal Health and Food Safety Service (SENASA) and the new Sanitary Regulation Agency (ARSA). SENASA issues the import permits and regulates the inspection of all agricultural products that enter Honduras. ARSA is in charge of the sanitary registration and inspection of food products approved to be sold at the retail and wholesale level.

SENASA issues import permits for plant, animal, processed, consumer ready food products, agricultural chemicals, veterinary products; and inputs used in food processing for human or animal consumption that enter Honduras. ARSA issues licenses, sanitary registrations, and other sanitary authorizations for food and beverages, medicines, natural products, cosmetics, medical devices and hygiene products.

Generally, import regulations and export certificate requirements describe and/or attest to animal and plant health or product safety, production, or processing methods. They attest to the status of the manufacturing or packaging establishment producing the food. Requesting a certificate is also geared

toward avoiding fraud in transactions dealing with food and agricultural products, as well as protecting the agriculture and economic interests of Honduras in both the domestic and international food and agricultural trade.

The legal entry requirements of imports of food and agricultural products are the following:

1. The product must have an import permit before entering the country. The permit request should be submitted by the importer to SENASA in Spanish. The import permit request for food products of animal origin must be accompanied with a copy of the Zoosanitary Certificate, Certificate of Origin, and Pro-Form Commercial Invoice. The import permit request for plant products should be submitted only with the Pro-Form invoice.

The documents must be clear, with consistent information about the importer and exporter, amounts, product description, origin, point of shipping, name, date, and signature of the official issuing the certificate.

2. The import permit process in SENASA takes from 24 to 48 hours if all documents are in order. The permit is applied to one shipment and is valid for 30 days. In case the permit is not used within 30 days of issuance, the importer should request a renewal five days before or five days after the expiration date of the import's permit. SENASA will renew the import permit for an additional 30 days. However, after five days of the expiration date the importer has to submit a new import permit application. For additional information, please see the following GAIN Reports for Honduras: Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) - Narrative Report Number HO1706; and Exporter Guide Report Number HO1708.

3. The original import permit approved by SENASA, and the original Phyto or Zoosanitary Certificate need to accompany the product at the time of entry. The compliance of requirements indicated on the import permit are reviewed such as: if the Additional Declarations requested is included in the Phyto or Zoosanitary Certificates, if the country of origin of the product is the one authorized on the import permit; and if it is the same origin in the label of the product entering the country.

4. SENASA delegated the responsibility of all quarantine inspections of agricultural imports to the International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health (OIRSA). OIRSA's Plant and Animal Protection Service (SEPA) inspectors are located at the borders, ports, and airports. SEPA inspects that the expiration date, lot number, and production date appear in Spanish on the shipping carton(s). The dates must be provided in the Day/Month/Year format (DD/MM/YYYY). SENASA requested that FSIS meet this requirement in May 2015. If a first-time exporter does not comply with this requirement, the product is retained and SENASA/SEPA allows a label to be applied. However, if the exporter has not repeatedly had the required labels, the product is not allowed entry.

5. Additional supporting papers during the inspection to collate data of the shipment's content and the documents submitted are: Bill of Lading, Commercial Invoice and the Packing list.

6. SENASA does not accept a Suppliers or Manufacturers Export Declaration as proof of compliance of their requirements.

Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements

Additional import requirements can be found in the Honduras GAIN Report: Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) – Narrative Country Report Number HO1706 and Exporter Guide Report Number HO1708 at www.fas.usda.gov under Attaché Reports or contact FAS Tegucigalpa at agtegucigalpa@fas.usda.gov.

Appendix I. Electronic Copy or Outline of Each Export Certificate

Outline of Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness: (FSIS Form 9060-5)

1. District Office
2. Country of destination
3. MPH number
4. Exported by (Applicant's name and address including ZIP code)
5. Establishment/Plant number
6. City
7. Consigned to (Name and address including ZIP code)
8. Total marked net weight
9. Total containers
10. Product as labeled
11. Marked weight of lot
12. Number of packages in lot
13. Shipping marks
14. Establishment/Plant number on product
15. Remarks
16. Inspector and District

Outline of Health Certificate - Export Certificate - Animal products: (APHIS VS form 16-4)

1. Name and address of exporter
2. Name and address of consignee
3. Product (quantity, unit of measure, and kind)
4. Identification
5. Conveyance

Outline of Certificate of Quality and Condition (Processed foods):

1. Applicant
2. Address

3. Receiver or buyer
4. Address
5. Source of samples
6. Product inspected
7. Marks on containers
8. Principal label marks
9. Condition
10. Remarks
11. Address of inspection office
12. Signature of inspector

Outline of Certificate of Free Sale, Health and Sanitation:

1. Product/consumable item
2. Description
3. Weight
4. Quantity

Outline of Export Health Certificate: (NOAA Form 89-807)

1. Issuing office
2. Exported by (Applicant's name and address)
3. Consigned to (Name and address)
4. Shipped via
5. Port of embarkation
6. Port of debarkation
7. Identifying marks
8. Total containers
9. Total marked weight
10. Product
11. Class, type, style
12. Lot No. and code
13. Container size
14. No. cases
15. Lot weight
16. Label brand
17. Results – Remarks
18. Signature of inspector/Inspector No.
19. Official Stamp (Containers stamped with this mark)

Author Defined:

If you have questions regarding this report or need assistance exporting to Honduras, please contact the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Offices at the following addresses:

Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Embassy
Avenida La Paz, Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Phone: (504) 2238-5114, ext. 4544, 4354
Fax: (504) 2236-8342
E-mail: AgTegucigalpa@fas.usda.gov

For further information on exporting U.S. agricultural products to other countries, please visit the Foreign Agricultural Service's home page: www.fas.usda.gov