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**Date:** 2/28/2019

**GAIN Report Number:**

## **Ghana**

### **Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Report**

### **FAIRS Export Certificate Report**

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**Report Highlights:**

The report provides the requirements for the importation of food and agricultural products into Ghana. These requirements include information on food product registration, labeling, import permits and others to assist U.S. exporters.

**Section I: List of All Export Certificates Required by Government**

<b>Products</b>	<b>Title of Certificate</b>	<b>Attestation Required on Certificate</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Requesting Ministry</b>
Poultry & poultry products	Obtain FSIS Form 9060-5--Export Certificate of Wholesomeness	Section III A.	Food safety	MOFA(VET)/FDA
Beef and beef products	Obtain FSIS Form 9060-5--Export Certificate of Wholesomeness	Section III B.	Food safety	MOFA(VSD)/FDA
Live poultry-day old chicks and hatching eggs	VS Form 17-6 Certificate for Poultry or Hatching Eggs for Export	Section III C. 1	Health/sanitary	MOFA (APD/VSD)
Live animals/Bovine	VS Form 17-37 Certificate of Inspection of Export Animals /US origin health Certificate	Section III. C. 2	Health/sanitary	MOFA (APD/VSD)
Grains and oil seeds	Phytosanitary Certificate (APHIS)	Section III. D	Phytosanitary	MOFA (PPRSD)

Note:

FDA - Food and Drugs Authority

MOFA - Ministry of Food and Agriculture

VSD - Veterinary Services Directorate

APD - Animal Production Directorate

PPRSD - Plant Protection and Regulatory Services

GOG - Government of Ghana

**Section II: Purpose of Specific Export Certificate**

All food and agricultural products imported into Ghana are required to comply with Ghana's food, health, and sanitary/phytosanitary laws. All food and agricultural products, including plant products that enter Ghana ports are required to pass through procedures designed to check that they are safe for their intended use.

The health, sanitary and phytosanitary regulations and procedures applied to imported agricultural and food products are similar for all types of products. Under Ghana import laws, it is the responsibility of the importer to ensure that any product entering the country is in full compliance with Ghana health and phytosanitary regulations. The enforcing authorities will check for compliance by inspecting the goods and relevant import/export documentation and decide on whether the goods may enter Ghana. In cases of non-compliance, the goods may be required to be treated before released or they may be rejected and ordered to be destroyed or disposed of outside Ghana.

The Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) is the main government regulatory authority mandated to protect and promote public health by ensuring that food and drugs consumed in Ghana are wholesome and safe. Depending on the food product, the FDA performs its function in collaboration with MOFA directorates such as Veterinary Services, Animal Production and Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorates.

By law, the FDA has the right to test and analyze any domestic or imported product at its laboratories to determine if the product is free of contamination. (see 2018 FAIRS Annual country Report).

### **Section: III Specific Attestations Required on Export Certificate**

**A. Poultry and Products:** A Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness (FSIS9060-5) must accompany all U.S. poultry and poultry products. Exporters must accompany all poultry shipments to Ghana with the following statement:

*"Fat content is 15% or less"*

**Note:** This statement should be supported by fat analysis performed in a USDA certified laboratory. According to the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Ghana, the maximum fat content standard for poultry is fifteen (15) percent. FSIS personnel should **not** sign this statement.

**Note:** Exporters should work closely with Ghanaian importers to assure that the product meets all requirements as described on the import permit.

All federally inspected establishments are eligible to export to Ghana.

### **B. Beef and Beef products**

A Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness (FSIS 9060-5) must accompany all U.S. beef and beef products.

Exporters must accompany all poultry shipments to Ghana with the following statement:

*"Fat content is not more than 25%"*

**Note:** Fat analysis performed in a USDA certified laboratory should support this statement. According to the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Ghana, the maximum fat content standard for beef and beef products is not more than twenty-five (25) percent. FSIS personnel should **not** sign this statement.

**Note:** Exporters should work closely with Ghanaian importers to assure that the product meets all requirements as described on the import permit.

All Federally inspected establishments are eligible to export to Ghana

**C. Live Animals:** An APHIS Certificate of Inspections of Export Animals and/or a U.S. origin Health Certificate must accompany all live animals from the U.S.

For complete import requirement please visit:

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/export/international-standard-setting-activities-oie/regionalization/sa\\_by\\_country/sa\\_g/ct\\_animal\\_ghana](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/export/international-standard-setting-activities-oie/regionalization/sa_by_country/sa_g/ct_animal_ghana)

1. **Live birds/day-old chicks/Eggs:** The Republic of Ghana will accept imports of U.S. live poultry, including day-old chicks and hatching eggs, using "Certificate for Poultry or Hatching Eggs for Export" (VS Form 17-6). The Veterinary Authority at the point of embarkation should issue the Health certificate accompanying all live fowl, day-old chick and/or hatching eggs shortly before shipment.

2. **Bovine:** The Government of Ghana will accept imports of live cattle using Certificate of Inspection of Export Animals /US origin health Certificate (VS Form 17-37).  
For complete import requirements please visit:

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/export/international-standard-setting-activities-oie/regionalization/sa\\_by\\_country/sa\\_g/ct\\_animal\\_ghana](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/export/international-standard-setting-activities-oie/regionalization/sa_by_country/sa_g/ct_animal_ghana)

*Certification Statements:*

- i). The United States is free of contagious bovine pleuropneumonia and foot and mouth disease.
- ii). The United States is recognized by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) as a country with negligible risk of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).
- iii). The State(s) of Origin has been free of clinical cases brucellosis and tuberculosis for the last 12 months prior to export.
- iv). The Herd of Origin has been free of clinical cases of bovine leucosis, infectious bovine rhinotracheitis, campylobacteriosis and trichomoniasis for the last 12 months prior to export.
- v). The animals were isolated for at least 21 days immediately prior to export, in a facility approved by a USDA accredited veterinarian.
- vi). The animals were inspected within 21 days prior to export and found to be free from clinical evidence of communicable diseases.

*Test Requirements:* The cattle must show negative results for the diseases listed below. (Mark through the non-applicable testing option.)

- i). Tuberculosis: Intradermal test using bovine PPD tuberculin
- ii). Brucellosis OR other test accepted by USDA Test date(s) Complement fixation test at a 1:10 dilution OR buffered Brucella antigen test (i.e., card test) OR Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) or standard tube test OR plate agglutination test at a 1:50 dilution. Test date(s)

*Other Veterinary Treatments And Inspections*

Within 21 days prior to the export, the animals were inspected and treated for internal and external parasites.

Date(s) of treatment: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of product: \_\_\_\_\_

Within 60 days prior to export, the animals were vaccinated against the following diseases:

Vaccination date \_\_\_\_\_ Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR)

Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) Parainfluenza Leptospirosis

The animals will receive a USDA veterinary inspection at the port of embarkation, within 48 hours of export, and found free of evidence of communicable disease and fit for travel.

**D. Grains and Oil seeds:** Exporters must determine if the importing country requires certification that the commodity meets that country's phytosanitary regulations; for example, freedom from a particular prohibited insect. The [Phytosanitary Export Database](#) (PExD) program offers a computerized database of the phytosanitary requirements for most countries to which the United States exports agricultural products.

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) issues phytosanitary certificates. Additional information regarding importing requirements can be found in the Foreign Agriculture Service's (FAS) [Global Agriculture Information Network](#) (GAIN) reports or by calling APHIS at (301) 734-8537.

#### **Section IV. Government Certificate Legal Entry Requirements**

**Registration Requirements:** All food products imported, advertised, sold or distributed in the country must first be registered with Ghana's FDA under Sections 18 and 25 of the Food and Drugs Law of 1992 (PNDCL 305B) and Section 4 (b) of the Food and Drugs (Amendment) Act 523, 1996, respectively. The product will then receive a certificate with a registration number. In addition, only companies duly registered by the Registrar General's Department shall be permitted to import food. Legally, failure to register any food item with the FDA means the product cannot be imported. The FDA may apply the following in the case of importation of unregistered products: re-exportation, destruction/confiscation and prosecution, or bringing the product into compliance with the law. (See 2018 GAIN FAIRS Report)

**Customs clearance:** Customs clearance of cargo through the seaports/air involves a collaborative effort with about twenty ministries, departments and agencies in order to fulfill contractual and tax obligations that might be associated with the import consignment. These bodies control different aspects of the importation/clearance process such as issuance of permits, exemptions or import declaration forms. For the clearance of food and agricultural products, those involved include the GRA's Customs Division, the Ghana Ports and Harbors Authority (GPHA), FDA, GSA, MOTI, MOFA's Veterinary Services Directorate, Animal Production Directorate and the Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate, EPA, the National Drug and Narcotics Board, Shipping Lines, other agencies, and various service providers at the ports of Ghana. (See 2018 GAIN FAIRS Report)

**General Labelling Requirements:** The General Labeling Rules, 1992, (L. I. 1514) of FDA require that food labeling be informative and accurate. Ghana uses the Codex Alimentarius standards to formulate its labeling requirements. The minimum labeling requirements are as follows:

- Labeling should be in English. An English translation must be shown on the label or package insert (where applicable) if it is in another language;
- Labeling shall be legible and shall be of indelible ink;
- Name of product – Brand, Common name and Generic name should be in bold letters;
- Provide Net mass/weight, Net volume or Drained Weight (for solids in liquid medium, e.g. mackerel in tomato sauce) of content- specifying essential ingredients in metric weight for solids, semi-solids and aerosols, and metric volume for liquids;
- The manufacturer/exporter/agent's name and complete address including location;
- The country of origin must be provided on the product label. LI 1541 Ghana Standards Authority (Food, Drugs and Other Goods) General Labeling Rule, 1992 Section 1(1) (i) states "*No person shall offer for sale, sell, distribute, import or otherwise dispose of prepackaged food or drug, unless the food or drug is marked or labeled with country of origin of the food or drug.*"
- Expiry Date: all food products should carry expiry dates and/or shelf life. The active ingredients should be specified on the packaging where applicable. The FDA regulation states that the expiry date should be "at least half the shelf life as at the time of inspection at the port of entry."
- List ingredients (specific names of ingredients and/or E-numbers) by their common names in order of importance by weight. If the food is "standardized," the label must include only those ingredients, which are optional for that standard; directions for use, if any.

(See 2018 GAIN FAIRS Report)

**General Import Requirements:** For general guidance, importers are required to obtain the following documents:

- Original Bill of Lading /Airway Bill from the supplier;
- Attested proforma invoice from the supplier;
- An Import Declaration Form from the Ministry of Trade and Industry;
- Customs Classification and Valuation Report, which replaces the Final Classification and Valuation Report by Ghana Customs;
- Tax Clearance Certificate from the Domestic Tax Revenue Division of the Ghana Revenue Authority issued in the name of the importer;
- Tax Identification Number (TIN) from the Ghana Revenue Authority;
- Packing List, which includes **details** about the contents of a package to let transport agencies, government authorities, and customers know the contents.
- Permit or License from the appropriate Ministry/Agency Department as applicable for restricted goods;
- Appropriate letter of Exemption from payment of Duty and /or taxes (as applicable); and
- Delivery Order.

(See 2018 GAIN FAIRS Report)

## **Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements**

**Veterinary sanitary requirements and certificates:** VSD MOFA in Ghana is responsible for providing veterinary sanitary requirements and certificates for import and export of live animals, products of animal origin and animal by-products. Currently, requirements developed are limited in scope and not comprehensive enough. Additionally, the requirements are not available a single database

for easy retrieval. Consequently, Ghanaian responses to queries concerning requirements are often delayed, having negative impact on trade facilitation.

**Import Permit:** To import frozen poultry and poultry products into Ghana an importer must obtain an import permit from MOFA. With the introduction of the Ghana Community Network Services Ltd. (GCNET), all an applicant needs is the approval from the Minister of MOFA. Upon declaration at the ports, VSD is able to access via the online portal (GCNET) to see whether the details of declaration (approved quantity, country of origin, specific meat product, etc. matches the copy of approval provided to them by the Minister.

At this stage if there is NO received approval from the Minister, VSD will alert port officials of rejection of the request for permit. However, if VSD receives a copy of the approval letter by the Minister, they communicate to the port officials that the product is under query, which means granting of a provisional permit to the importer. VSD grants a final permit upon receiving required documents (veterinary certificates covering the product from the country of origin, bill of lading, among others) and some required payment from the importer at the VSD. In summary, the VSD has NO certificate covering their assessment of products. In addition, there is currently no transparency in the granting of permits.