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Spain

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Report

FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:

This report focuses on Spanish specific certification requirements when they differ or are additional to EU-harmonized certification. This report should be read in conjunction with the [EU-28 FAIRS Export Certificate report](#) prepared by the FAS Office in the U.S. Mission to the European Commission (USEU).

Disclaimer: This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Madrid, Spain 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 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 confirm requirements with local authorities, before any goods are shipped.

FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

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General information

As an EU member since 1986, Spain applies EU harmonized regulations on export certificates for plant or animal products whether or not they are intended for human consumption. However, in the absence of an EU-harmonized certificate, Spain may **require certain specific health certificates and occasionally the lack of specific details in the governing regulation also provides significant leeway for border inspectors to interpret.**

Competent authorities on certificates vary depending on the type of products. While the Ministry of Health, Consumption and Social Welfare (MSSSI) is responsible for all products intended for human consumption, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) is responsible for agricultural products for purposes other than human consumption.

There are a number of Border Inspections Points (BIP) in Spain that carry out [plant health inspection](#) (MAPA) and veterinary inspection for [animal products not intended for human consumption](#), and for products [intended](#) for human consumption (MSSSI). Contact details of the EU BIPs, listed by countries, are available on the following links: [Approved BIP](#) and [BIP contact information](#).

A list of products intended for human consumption subject to sanitary control can be found in the [link](#).

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

Please consult the latest [EU-28 FAIRS Export Certificate Report](#) for the Export Certificates required for EU harmonized products.

The imports of live animals and products of animal origin, for purposes other than food (including live animals, reproductive material such as semen, ovules and embryos and other products of animal origin, and Used Kitchen Oil) are subject to specific Spanish certification requirements.

All models of Import Certificates that are not harmonized at the EU level can be found in the [Ministry's website](#). Forms can be obtained also in the following links (certificates are bilingual):

ANIMALS
ANNELIDS FOR FISHING BAIT
BRINE ANS SHRIMP AND THEIR EGGS WITH ORNAMENTAL PURPOSES
RODENTS TO EXPERIMENTATION
INVERTEBRATES DESTINED TO ORNAMENTAL CLOSED FACILITIES
GENETIC MATERIAL
REPTILES EGGS
FELINE SPERM BRED IN CAPTIVITY
SEMEN OF RODENTS FOR EXPERIMENTATION
SEMEN FROM CETACEOUS
CANINE SPERM
OTHER PRODUCTS
REPTILE SKINS
NON-UNGULATES AND NON-BIRDS WILD GAME TROPHIES
DECLARATION FOR THE IMPORT OF USED KITCHEN OIL INTENDED TO BIODIESEL PRODUCTION¹
DECLARATION FOR THE IMPORT INTO SPAIN OF FISHING BAITS²
POLLEN FOR FEEDING OF BEES AND BUMBLES BEES

Source: MAPA (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food)

The above listed Veterinary Certificates, requested by the MAPA (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) require the signature of an Official Veterinarian.

¹ It is a declaration by the importer, not a certificate. Hence, no USDA signature is required.

² An explanatory note is available in Spanish language in the [link](#).

Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

With the exception of specific requirements identified in this report, imports of food and agricultural products into Spain are not subject to special certification other than that of the European Union. European Union legislation calls for many health and supervisory requirements that are meant to guarantee that imports meet the standards of production in Member States.

Spain, as an EU Member State, follows all rules and regulations that govern food legislation, including certification, within the European Union. While certification requirements are developed at the EU level, Spanish authorities are responsible for the enforcement of the regulations. When EU-wide legislation is incomplete, not harmonized or absent, Spain might require certain specific health certificates as identified in the **Section I** Table.

Spain is among the most vigilant of EU Member States with respect to enforcement of the import requirements. Sometimes purely administrative mistakes such as minor typographic mistakes can sometimes be fixed with a new certificate, exporters must assume a zero tolerance policy can be for mistakes that affect the identity and traceability of the shipment (e.g. wrong establishment number). According to General Principles for Certification, the certificate must be issued before the consignment to which it relates leaves the control of the competent authority of the country of dispatch. Spain's Authorities do not tolerate health certificates issued after the ship date.

For additional information on EU-Harmonized Certification Requirements, please consult the [EU-28 FAIRS Export Certificate Report](#). This report has information on the U.S. competent authority that is authorized to issue the food and agricultural import certificates required by the EU. This report can also be accessed through the [FAS website](#). An overview of legally required certificates in the EU and references to the U.S. authority issuing these certificates is available at in the [USEU website](#).

For more information on food standards and regulations, please consult the [FAIRS Narrative Report for the EU-28](#).

Special Import Permits

- **Samples without Commercial value to Spain**

For sanitary reasons, food products imported into the EU, even if they are not intended for commercial sale, must meet certain requirements on food hygiene and animal health.

In 2011 Spain's Ministry of Health, Consumption and Social Services (MSSSI) implemented a procedure to authorize the import of samples of food products for human consumption without commercial value.

To guarantee the access of samples without commercial value, prior or at the arrival of the product, the Common Entry Document ([CED](#)) has to be presented and filled in specifying "Other" in the "For internal market" field. The same rules to commercial shipments apply to samples without commercial value regarding the Common Entry Document (CED published as [Annex II to Regulation 669/2009](#)).

Other required documents include a copy of the invoice, documentation proving the non-commercial destination of the product (trade show information or research institute to which the samples are shipped), and the original [Declaration of Destination](#).

Further details about requirements to import samples and to send parcels with food items to Spain can be found at the following [link](#) (Information only available in Spanish language).

- **Imports of biological material**

The import of biological material has to be approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) or the Ministry of Health depending on the nature of the potential risk. In those cases where the biological material could potentially pose a threat to human health, the MOH will be responsible for the import approval. In those cases where the potential risk would affect to animal health, the Ministry of Agriculture (MAPA) will oversee the import.

In those imports under MAPA rule, only an import permit is required. On February 2012 the MAPA reviewed the procedure to authorize the import of biological material of animal origin for research purposes. More detailed information can be found in the [link](#) (Information only available in Spanish language) as well as the pertaining [form](#) to request the import permit to the competent authority (Sub directorate General for Sanitary Agreements and Border Control).

The request must be made prior to the arrival of the goods to the Border Inspection Post (BIP). Otherwise, they may be retained until the end of the process. The importing researcher must complete the import of biological material for research form and present it to the competent authority.

According to Royal Decree 65/2006, those non-commercial biological material imports under MOH rule, an import authorization is required. The importer/exporters may request the authorization to the following email address mbiologicas@msssi.es. More detailed information can be found in the [link](#) (Information only available in Spanish language) as well as the pertaining forms necessary to request the import authorization to the competent authorities (Dirección General de Salud Pública, Calidad e Innovación).

- **Imports of Products intended for animal feed**

On top of fulfilling EU requirements, to import products of plant or animal origin intended for animal feed, the [importer](#) and the [first storing facility](#) must be registered in the MAPA's database.

- **Imports of planting seeds to Spain**

To import planting seeds to Spain a request has to be submitted by the local importer to Spain's Plant Varieties Authorities. The request can be submitted electronically in the Ministry's website or sending an authorization form to bzn-importasemillas@MAPA.es. [Forms](#) for are available in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food website.

- Annex I Form is intended for imports of horticultural plant seeds or seeds for trials.
- Annex II Form is intended for imports of agricultural plants seeds.

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación

Planting Seeds and Nursery Products (import requirements, seed registration and certification, and commercial seed catalogs)

Oficina Española de Variedades Vegetales

C/ Almagro 33, 7a

28010 Madrid

Tel.: +34-91-347-6659

Fax: +34-91-347-6703

Website: <http://www.MAPA.gob.es/es/agricultura/temas/medios-de-produccion/semillas-y-plantas-de-vivero/>

Email: oevv@MAPA.es; bzn-importasemillas@MAPA.es

- **Imports of non-harmonized live animals**

To import non-harmonized live animals (including zoo animals, circus animals, animals exhibitions or shows or exotic live animals to be sold as pets) to Spain a request, using the official [form](#) (page 2), should be addressed to the Sub directorate General for Sanitary Agreements and Border Control (by email to importacionanimal@mapama.es).

The requests are studied individually and potential risks are assessed. Certificates exist (see Section I above) for the most commonly traded animals. In the absence of a specific certificate, if the import of the animals is deemed appropriate, an import license is issued. Additional documentation such as an international animal health certificate could be required. More information can be found in the [link](#).

Responsible Authorities for Health and Veterinary Certificates:

While the Ministry of Health Consumption and Social Services (MSSSI) provides information on imports of products intended for human consumption, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) is responsible for live animals imports and agricultural products for purposes other than human consumption.

Ministry of Health Consumption and Social Services

Ministerio de Sanidad, Consumo y Servicios Sociales
Dirección General de Salud Pública, Calidad e Innovación
Subdirección General de Sanidad Exterior
Paseo del Prado, 18 and 20
28014 Madrid
Tel.: +34-91-360-1343
Website: <http://www.msssi.es>
E-mail: saniext@msssi.es; areacim@msssi.es

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación
Dirección General de la Sanidad de la Producción Agraria
Sub directorate General for Sanitary Agreements and Border Control
Almagro, 33. 5ª planta
28071 Madrid
Tel.: +34-91-347-8241
Fax: +34-91-347-6969
Website:
Plant Products: <http://www.MAPA.gob.es/es/agricultura/temas/sanidad-vegetal/default.aspx>
Animal Products: http://www.MAPA.gob.es/es/ganaderia/temas/comercio-exterior-ganadero/comercio-exterior-ganadero-import-export-/importacion_intro.aspx
Email: sgacuerdos@MAPA.es

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

See Section II. For additional information, please consult the [EU-28 FAIRS Export Certificate Report](#).

Section IV. Government Certificate's Legal Entry Requirements

See Section II. For additional information, please consult the [EU-28 FAIRS Export Certificate Report](#).

Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements

See Section II. For additional information, please consult the latest [EU-28 FAIRS Export Certificate Report](#).

Appendix I. Electronic Copy or Outline of Each Export Certificate

See Section I. For additional information, please consult the latest [EU-28 FAIRS Export Certificate Report](#).

Appendix II. Other Key Contacts

USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service Office for Spain and Portugal, located in Madrid, can also assist U.S. exporters in obtaining specific national legislation on all food product directives. You may contact us at the following address:

Foreign Agricultural Service

Office of Agricultural Affairs
United States Embassy Madrid
C/ Serrano, 75 – Box 20
28006 Madrid
Spain

Tel.: +34-91-587-2555

Fax: +34-91-587-2556

Email: AgMadrid@fas.usda.gov

[Website link](#)

European Union – Delegation of the European Union to the United States

2300 M Street
NW, Washington, DC 20037
Tel.: (202) 862-9500
Fax: (202) 429-1766

United States Mission to the European Union

Office of Agricultural Affairs

27 Boulevard du Regent

1000 Brussels

Belgium

Tel.: +32-2-508 2760

Fax: +32-2-511 0918

Website: <http://www.usda-eu.org/>

E-mail: AgUSEUBrussels@fas.usda.gov