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Netherlands

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Narrative

FAIRS Country Report

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Report Highlights:
All sections were updated. This report should be read in conjunction with the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) – Country Report written by the U.S. Mission to the EU in Brussels, Belgium, GAIN E57011.

Section I. Food Laws:

DISCLAIMER: This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in The Hague, the Netherlands for U.S. exporters of domestically produced food and agricultural products. This report should be read in conjunction with the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) – Country Report written by the U.S. Mission to the EU in Brussels, Belgium, GAIN E57011.

While every possible care was taken in the preparations 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 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.

EU legislation is made up of Directives and Regulations which must be translated into the 23 official languages in use in the EU-27. Directives define the result that must be achieved but leave to each Member State the choice of form and methods to transpose the directive into national laws (usually within 2-3 years after adoption). Regulations are binding in their entirety and automatically enter into force on a set date in all Member States. Amendments to EU legislation are usually published in new and separate Directives and Regulations.

A Decision is binding entirely on those to whom it is addressed. No national implementing legislation is required. A Recommendation has no binding effect as it is not a law.

Harmonization with the EU

http://useu.usmission.gov/agri/harmonization.html

The Netherlands, as a member of the EU, conforms to all EU regulations and directives. Regulation (EC) 178/2002 (General Food Law) is the harmonized regulation which sets out the general principles and requirements of EU harmonized food law. Exporters should be aware that there may also be some variation among Member States in applying EU harmonized legislation; there may be temporary waivers or exemptions and in certain cases there may be room for interpretation of EU harmonized legislation or aspects, which are not regulated in detail at EU level, may be handled differently in different member states.

The Netherlands

The Dutch Food and Drugs Law is called "Warenwet." This Warenwet provides the Dutch regulatory framework for all food and non-food products. It is applicable to domestically produced and imported products. Revisions of the Dutch Food and Drugs Law are published in the "Staatscourant". The Food and Drugs Law and revisions can be found on http://wetten.overheid.nl/zoeken/. At this website all other Dutch legislation can be found as well. (NOTE: website is in Dutch).

The task of the Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (VWA) is to protect human and animal health. It monitors food and consumer products to safeguard public health and animal health and welfare. The VWA is an independent agency in the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation (ELI) and a delivery agency for the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (WVS).

The Dutch Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (VWA)
P.O. Box 19506
2500 CM The Hague, the Netherlands
Phone: +31-(0)70-4484848
Fax: +31-(0)70-4484747
www.vwa.nl
info@vwa.nl

The Plant Protection Service (PD) is the body within the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation that is responsible for the phytosanitary inspections on imported products. An overview of plant products that are subject to

inspection can be found at
http://www.minlnv.nl/portal/page?_pageid=116,1640321&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&p_file_id=15774.
This website is updated regularly. For more information or questions for the PD, contact:

Plantenziektenkundige Dienst (PD)
Geertjesweg 15
Postbus 9102
6706 EA Wageningen
Phone: +31 (0)317-496911
Fax: +31 (0)317-421701
pd.info@minlnv.nl
www.minlnv.nl/pd

Since September 1, 2007, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation transferred the inspection tasks of its PD to the following 4 inspection bodies (see Appendix III): NAK (Netherlands General Inspection Service for Agricultural Seeds and Seed potatoes), NAK-tuinbouw (Netherlands Inspection Service for Horticulture), BKD (Flower Bulb Inspection Service) and KCB (Quality Control Bureau for Vegetables and Fruit). These four agencies carry out import inspections to detect plant diseases, as well as quality control inspections on fruit and vegetables. The Minister of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation retains ultimate responsibility for these matters.

The Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (VWA), Plant Protection Service (PD) and General Inspection Service (AID) have merged their activities.

Section II. Labeling Requirements:

A. General requirements

In the Netherlands, the labeling requirements have been laid down in the *Warenwetbesluit etikettering van levensmiddelen* and can be found at http://wetten.overheid.nl. The Netherlands follows EU legislation. For more detailed information, the reader may refer to the Dutch legislation, which is given in italics next to each item.

Compulsory information:

Name/Description: *Warenwetbesluit Etikettering van Levensmiddelen, art. 4*

List of ingredients: *Warenwetbesluit Etikettering van Levensmiddelen, art. 6*

Allergens: *Warenwetbesluit Etikettering van Levensmiddelen*

Net quantity: *Warenwetbesluit Etikettering van Levensmiddelen, art. 11*

Shelf-life: *Warenwetbesluit Etikettering van Levensmiddelen, art. 16 and art. 17*

	In the Netherlands:
For a shelf-life up to 3 month after the date of production	Tenminste houdbaar tot (best before) Day, Month, (Year)
For a shelf-life between 3 and 18 months	Tenminste houdbaar tot einde (best before end) Month, year
For a shelf-life longer than 18 months	Tenminste houdbaar tot einde

	(best before end) Year
For Highly perishable foodstuffs	Te gebruiken tot (use by) Day, Month, (Year) In addition to the date, the instructions for storage have to be mentioned as well

Instructions for storage and/or use: *Warenwetbesluit Etikettering van Levensmiddelen, art. 17 and art. 18*

Name and address: *Warenwetbesluit Etikettering van Levensmiddelen, art. 19*

Place of origin: *Warenwetbesluit Etikettering van Levensmiddelen, art. 20*

Percentage of alcohol: *Warenwetbesluit Etikettering van Levensmiddelen, art. 21*

Lot marking: *Warenwetbesluit Etikettering van Levensmiddelen, art. 22*

Treatments: see Section VII

Additives: *Warenwetbesluit Etikettering van Levensmiddelen, art. 7*

Flavorings: *Warenwetbesluit Etikettering van Levensmiddelen, art. 7 + Warenwetbesluit Aroma's*

Quinine and caffeine:
Warenwetbesluit bereiding en behandeling van levensmiddelen in verband met de etikettering van levensmiddelen met kinine en cafeine

Phytosterols & Phytostanols:
Warenwetbesluit Etikettering van Levensmiddelen, art. 2.3
Verordening inzake de etikettering van voedingsmiddelen en voedselingrediënten met toegevoegde fytosterolen, fytosterolesters, fytostanolen en/of fytostanolesters

Quantitative Ingredients Declaration (QUID):
Warenwetbesluit Etikettering van Levensmiddelen, art. 10
General guidelines have been drawn up to help Member States and industry organizations implement the principle of QUID. A copy of these guidelines can be downloaded from the European Commission's website at http://ec.europa.eu/food/fs/fl/fl02_en.pdf.

Warning on labels:
Commission Directive 2008/5/EC establishes a list of foodstuffs that require a warning on the label:

- foodstuffs whose durability has been extended by means of packaging gases
- foodstuffs containing (a) sweetener(s)
- foodstuffs containing added sugar(s) and sweetener(s)
- foodstuffs containing aspartame
- foodstuffs containing more than 10% added polyols
- confectionery or beverages containing liquorice

Warenwetbesluit Azo-kleurstoffen

As of July 20, 2010, Regulation 1333/2008 (see section IV) requires foodstuffs containing the food colors sunset yellow (E110), quinoline yellow (E104), carmoisine (E122), allura red (E129) and ponceau 4R (E124) to be labeled "may have an adverse effect on activity and attention in children". Food placed on the market or labeled before July 20, 2010, which do not comply with this provision may be marketed until their date of minimum durability or use-by-date.

Any non-edible parts of a packaging system that consumers could mistake for food must be labeled with the words "DO NOT EAT" and where technically possible carry the warning symbol established by Annex I of Regulation 450/2009.

Language requirements:
Warenwetbesluit Etikettering van Levensmiddelen, art. 23

Stick-on labels:
Warenwetbesluit Etikettering van Levensmiddelen, art. 24.1
The Netherlands accept stick-on labels.

Samples:
Warenwetbesluit Etikettering van Levensmiddelen, art. 1

Institutional packed products:
Warenwetbesluit Etikettering van Levensmiddelen, art. 24

Exceptions:
Only the Federal Minister of agriculture can grant an exception to the existing labeling regulations. The granting of an exception would be very rare.

B. Medical/Health/Nutrition Claims
A list of functional health claims such as "calcium is good for your bones" will be established in two steps. First, a list of permitted health claims for all substances other than botanicals will be adopted in 2011. Subsequently, the claims regarding botanicals will be considered. Disease risk reduction claims and claims referring to the health and development of children require an authorization on a case-by-case basis, following the submission of a scientific dossier to EFSA. Health claims based on new scientific data will have to be submitted to EFSA for evaluation but a simplified authorization procedure has been established. An EU list of authorized/rejected disease risk reduction and children development claims is available on the European Commission's website:
http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/labellingnutrition/claims/community_register/health_claims_en.htm.

Regulation 353/2008 as amended by Commission Regulation 1169/2009 sets out implementing rules for applications for the authorization of health claims as provided for in Article 15 of Regulation 1924/2006. GAIN Report E48055 describes how application dossiers for authorization of health claims should be prepared and presented. A guidance document on how companies can apply for health claim authorizations can be downloaded from EFSA's website at
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/ScientificPanels/NDA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178684448831.htm.

Trademarks and brand names that suggest health and/or nutritional benefits but do not comply with the new rules must be entirely removed from the EU market by January 19, 2022.

Point of contact in the Netherlands:
KOAG/KAG
Postbus 90445,
1006 BK Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Phone: +31-(0)20-7130720
Fax: +31-(0)20-7130721
Email: keuringsraad@koagkag.nl
www.koagkag.nl. (Code voor de Aanprijzing van Gezondheids-producten)

Requirements specific to nutritional labeling
Warenwetbesluit Voedingswaarde-informatie Levensmiddelen, § 2. voedingswaarde etikettering

C. Product-Specific Labeling
See Section VII

D. Country of Origen labeling
Proposal: A European Commission proposal to revise the EU's general food labeling requirements is currently going through the legislative adoption procedure. New requirements would include the mandatory declaration of nutrition information on the front label of pre-packaged foods, a minimum font size of 3 mm for printing mandatory information and an ingredients list on the label of alcopops. For more information on the labeling proposal see GAIN Report E48020

Section III. Packaging and Container Regulations:

A. Size and content
Warenbesluit containers

B. Packaging Waste Management
Besluit beheer verpakkingen en papier en karton
The Netherlands introduced in this context NEDVANG, more information can be found on www.nedvang.n.

C. Material in contact with food stuffs
Warenwetbesluit Verpakkingen en Gebruiksartikelen
Verpakkingsverordening productschap dranken 2003
Exporters are advised to verify if a Member State follows EU provisions as Member States are allowed to authorize provisionally the use of certain substances not listed in one of the specific directives. They may also restrict or temporarily prohibit the use of certain materials authorized by the specific directives for reasons of public health. A summary of national legislation can be downloaded from the European Commission website at http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/chemicalsafety/foodcontact/sum_nat_legis_en.pdf.

Point of contact in the Netherlands:
Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport
PO Box 20350
2500 EJ The Hague, The Netherlands
Phone: +31 (0)70 340 7911
Fax: +31 (0)70 340 7834

Section IV. Food Additives Regulations:

In December 2008, the "Package on Food Improvement Agents" was adopted, which includes four new regulations: Regulation 1331/2008 establishing a common authorization procedure for food additives, food enzymes and food flavorings, Regulation 1332/2008 on food enzymes, Regulation 1333/2008 on food additives and Regulation 1334/2008 on flavorings.

Additives (including colors and sweeteners):
Regulation 1333/2008 on food additives brings the current miscellaneous additives directive and the directives on colors and sweeteners into one regulation and became applicable as of January 20, 2010, except for the transitional provisions. It provides for the establishment of an EU positive list, conditions of use and rules on the labeling of additives sold as such.

All food additives, colors and sweeteners that will be entered in Annex II and Annex III to Regulation 1333/2008 are currently being reviewed by the Commission. The review should be completed by January 2011 after which the annexes will enter into force. Food additives are being reviewed based on their compliance with the new provisions, meaning technological need, safety and use, as well as advantages and benefits. A food additive or the specific use of a food additive that is no longer needed will not be transferred to the new Annexes. For colors and sweeteners some specific conditions exist as well. The review is conducted by the Commission and will not require a new risk assessment. Until the completion of the review food additives under the old directives will continue to be permitted. An important difference from U.S. legislation is the use of flour bleaching agents: chlorine, bromates and peroxides are not allowed in the EU.

Additionally, Regulation 1333/2008 also provides for an evaluation program, set up by Commission Regulation 257/2010, for food additives permitted before January 2009. Those food additives shall be subject to a new risk assessment carried out by EFSA and the re-evaluation of approved food additives shall be completed by the end of:
- 2015 for food colors (currently listed in Directive 94/36/EC)
- 2018 for all additives other than colors and sweeteners (currently in Directive 95/2/EC)
- 2020 for all sweeteners (currently listed Directive 94/35/EC)

Annex I of Regulation 1333/2008 lists the approved food additives for which the re-evaluation by EFSA was already completed at the time of adoption of Regulation 257/2010.
Foods containing any of the six food colors Quinoline Yellow (E104), Sunset Yellow (E110), Ponceau 4R (E124), Tartrazine (E102), Azorubine/Carmoisine (E122) and Allura Red AC (E129), will have to be labeled with the phrase, 'may have an adverse effect on activity and attention in children' (Annex V to Regulation 1333/200).

Flavorings:
Warenwetbesluit Aroma's
Warenwetbesluit additieven, aroma's en enzymen in levensmiddelen

Enzymes:
Warenwetbesluit additieven, aroma's en enzymen in levensmiddelen

Processing Aids:
Warenwetbesluit additieven, aroma's en enzymen in levensmiddelen

Section V. Pesticides and Other Contaminants:

The legislation on pesticides and contaminants is partially harmonized in the EU. Enforcement of both EU and remaining Member State rules is done at the Member State level.

Pesticides
Regulation 1107/2009 sets out new rules for the authorization of plant protection products (PPPs) and replaces Directive 91/414/EEC. It entered into force at the end of December 2009 and it will become fully applicable June 14, 2011. This Regulation establishes a list of approved active substances. Only PPPs containing active substances included in the list may be authorized for use in the EU. Member States can approve PPPs containing the active substances. According to the new Regulation, the EU is divided in three different zones. Once a Member State approves the PPP it can be mutually recognized and thus authorized within the same EU zone as set out in Annex I of the Regulation. The Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for substances not on the list will be set at default level of 0.01 mg/kg. The legislation allows exporters to request an "import tolerance" for active substances not yet evaluated or in use in the EU.
The Netherlands together with Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Hungary, Austria, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia and the United Kingdom fall in Zone B – Centre.

Contaminants:
http://www.fas.usda.gov/posthome/useu/contaminants.html

Official Controls of Maximum Levels in Foodstuffs:
The following regulations concern the sampling methods and methods of analysis for the official controls of the levels of the different contaminants. Annex I describes the methods of sampling; Annex II concerns the sample preparation and the performance criteria for the methods of analysis:
Nitrates: Commission Regulation 1882/2006
Mycotoxins: Commission Regulation 401/2006
Dioxins: Commission Regulation 1883/2006
Heavy metals: Commission Regulation 333/2007

Import Conditions for U.S. almonds
In September 2007, the EU implemented special import conditions which called for mandatory testing of U.S. almonds imported into the EU. USDA and The California almond industry have developed a "Voluntary Aflatoxin Sampling Plan (VASP)" comparable to the EU sampling procedures so that almonds can be uniformly tested before they are shipped to the EU. Per Commission Regulation 1152/2009, these procedures are considered to provide sufficient assurances which means that almonds shipped under VASP are subject to random controls. Almonds not controlled under VASP continue to be subject to 100% border controls. The Regulation covers almonds in shell or shelled, roasted almonds and mixtures of nuts or dried fruits containing almonds, and foodstuffs containing a significant amount of almonds (at least 20%).

Regulation 1152/2009 also introduces the use of a Common Entry Document (CED). Importers have to provide prior notification to the competent authorities at the designated port of entry for the goods covered by the regulation at least 1 working day prior to the arrival of the goods, using the CED. The CED was published as Annex II to Regulation 669/2009. Provisions for methods of sampling and analysis for the official control of mycotoxins including aflatoxins are laid down in Commission Regulation 401/2006. More information is available in the European Commission's Guidance Document and on the Almond Board of California's website.

Residues in Animals and Animal Product:
The monitoring of residues in animals and animal products is addressed separately in Council Directive 96/23/EC. This directive includes the monitoring of the pesticide residues as well as residues of veterinary drugs and a wide range of other contaminants and undesired substances such as residues of growth promotants. The prohibition of the use of hormones in meat production is addressed in Council Directive 96/22/EEC (amended by Directive 2008/97/EC).

Section VI. Other Regulations and Requirements:

A. Product inspection and registration
In the Netherlands the VWA and the PD are responsible for the inspections.

Criteria for laboratories conducting food controls have been harmonized but it is the Member States' responsibility to designate laboratories that are allowed to perform analyses. A list of laboratories designated by the Netherlands to perform analysis can be found at the following internet link, www.rva.nl. Different laboratories are accredited for the different type of controls.

Dutch Accreditation Council (RVA)
P.O. Box 2768
3500 GT Utrecht, The Netherlands
T: +31 (0)30 23 94 500
F: +31 (0)30 23 94 539
postmaster@rva.nl

B. Certification and Documentation Requirements
FAIRS Export Certificate Report GAIN NL0029

C. Herbal Ingredients
Rules on herbal ingredients are not yet harmonized at EU-level and therefore still subject to the Member States' national legislation. National authorities usually require pre-market notification of products containing vitamins, minerals and/or herbal ingredients and a copy of the labels. The contact information for the competent authority in the Netherlands is:

Ms. E.N. Blok
Ministerie van Volksgezondheid, Welzijn en Sport
Directie Voeding
Postbus 20350
2500 EJ Den Haag
The Netherlands

Phone: +31.70.340.6875
Fax: +31.70.340.5554
e-mail: en.blok@minvws.nl

Section VII. Other Specific Standards:

D. Dietetic or special use foods

Warenwetbesluit Producten voor Bijzondere Voeding

Commission Regulation 41/2009 lays down new EU harmonized rules for the composition and labeling of foodstuffs suitable for people who are intolerant to gluten. This regulation, applicable as of January 1, 2012, sets conditions for the use of the terms "very low gluten" and "gluten-free". For more information see GAIN report E49009 "New EU labeling rules for "gluten free" foods".

To take advantage of technological developments, the Commission may authorize for a two-year period the marketing of products which do not comply with the requirements of the specific directives.

Specific directives on foods and beverages for sports people or on foods intended for diabetics are still subject to Member State legislation. The introduction of foodstuffs intended for particular nutritional uses for which no specific rules are set must be notified to the Member State where the food is sold. The competent authority for the Netherlands is:

Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (VWA)
Mrs. Yvonne Huigen
P.O. Box 19506
NL - 2500 CM The Hague, The Netherlands
Tel: + 31 70 448 4806
Fax: + 31 70 448 4061
E-mail: yvonne.huigen@vwa.nl

G. Organic foods

For the importation of organic products from outside the EU, the Dutch importer needs at the moment an import certificate and an import authorization. The import certificate is issued by Skal* while the import authorization is issued by Dienst Regelingen**, the executive body of the Ministry of agriculture.

* SKAL
P.O. Box 384
8000 AJ Zwolle, Netherlands
Ph: +31 (0)38 426 8181
Fax: +31 (0)38 421 3063
info@skal.nl
www.skal.nl

**Dienst Regelingen
P.O. Box 965
6040 AZ Roermond, the Netherlands
Phone: +31 (0)475 355 444
Fax: +31 (0)475 318 939

M. Seafood

Detailed information on exporting U.S. seafood to the EU is available in the 2010 update of the "How to export seafood to the European Union" guide which can be downloaded from http://www.fas.usda.gov/posthome/useu/NOAA-Export-to-the-EU-Guide.pdf.

N. Pet Food

Regulation 767/2009 sets out new rules for the labeling and marketing of feed and pet food. Feed and pet food not

complying with Regulation 767/2009 and with the provisions on feed additives laid down in Regulation 1831/2003 and Directive 90/167/EC will not be allowed on the EU market. However, for pet food Commission Regulation 454/2010 provides for a 1-year transitional period (until August 31, 2011) to comply with the new labeling requirements. New requirements relate to the indication in descending order of weight of feed materials in compound feed, claims, the establishment of a non-exhaustive "Catalog of Feed Materials" and "Codes of Good Labeling". Regulation 767/2009 covers feed materials, compound feed and medicated or dietetic feed for both food and non-food producing animals. For more information see GAIN report E50060 "EU Feed and Pet Food Labeling Requirements".

Section VIII. Copyright and/or Trademark Laws:

Copyright

The Netherlands and the U.S. are both members of the Universal Copyright Convention of Geneva. As a consequence, works by U.S. authors, copyrighted in the U.S., are also protected in the Netherlands.

Trademarks

Council Regulation 207/2009 lays down rules for the registration of Community trademarks. It creates a single, unitary registration system covering the whole Community.

In practice, a Community trademark must meet two conditions: it must be a sign which can be represented in graphic form, and it must make it possible to distinguish goods and services from those of another company. It is valid for a period of 10 years. Applications for registering Community trademarks under these regulations may be filed with the Alicante, Spain, based Office of Harmonization for the Internal Market, subject to the fees set out in Commission Regulation 2869/95, or at a national industrial property office in a Member State of the European Union.

On completion of the registration procedure, the trademark is registered in the Register of Community trademarks.

The Community Trademark did not replace the existing trademark laws of the member states but co-exists alongside national trademarks. Directive 2008/95/EC approximates the laws of the Member States relating to trade marks.

Trademark registration in the Netherlands is based on Benelux legislation. Registration can be obtained for all 3 Benelux countries (Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg) through one process. Applications for trademark registration in the Benelux can be sent to:
Benelux Merkenbureau (Benelux Trademark Office)
Bordewijklaan 15
2591 XR The Hague, the Netherlands
Phone: +31-(0)70-3491111.

In the Benelux countries, an international trademark can also be registered, as regulated by the Treaty of Madrid. This trademark offers protection to all nine EU countries that signed the convention.

Protected Geographical Indications

On December 10, 2010 the European Commission presented a proposal on "Agricultural Product Quality Schemes". The proposal introduces a harmonized, simplified a shorter registration procedure for PDO's and PGI's and provides clarifications on intellectual property rights. The proposal covers agricultural products and foodstuffs but not wines and spirits which are covered by specific legislation. A timeline for the adoption of the proposal is not yet available.

Section IX. Import Procedures:

Regulation 648/2005, a "security amendment" to Regulation 2913/92, introduces a number of measures to tighten security for goods crossing international borders. The provisions to implement the security amendment to the Customs Code are established by Council Regulation 1875/2006. Starting January 1, 2011, all traders involved in customs transactions have to provide EU customs authorities with security data on goods before they are imported into the EU. The type of security data requested varies according to the means of transport and can include a description of the goods, information on the consignor

or exporter, the route of the goods and any potential hazards. The time limits for submitting advance security data also vary according to the means of transport: 24 hours for maritime cargo to 1 hour for road traffic and air transport. More detailed information is available on the DG Taxation & Customs website: http://ec.europa.eu/ecip/security_amendment/index_en.htm.

More info on the Dutch customs offices can be obtained at: http://www.belastingdienst.nl/9229237/v/e-index.htm

Customs provides information of imports from which the VWA selects the lots for further inspection. Regulation 2004/882/EC sets out the standards for control of compliance with the General Food Law.

The Import Process:

- Pre announcement: by Common (veterinary) Entry Document (CVED or CED), issued by agent;
- Documentary Check: examination of the original required documents that accompany the consignment based on model certificate according to EU legislation, carried out by Customs based on an agreement between Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Finance;
- Identity Check: to ascertain that the products correspond to the information given in the accompanying certificates or documents. All veterinary goods undergo an Identity Check. The ID check is conducted by comparing the seal number of the container with the seal number mentioned on the HC. If no seal number is mentioned on the Health Certificate, the veterinary authorities will need to open the shipment to conduct the Identity Check.
- Physical check: Check on the product itself to verify compliance with food or feed law;

More information about the Dutch import regulations and standards can be obtained by contacting FAS/The Hague:

Office of Agricultural Affairs
U.S. Embassy
Lange Voorhout 102
2514 EJ The Hague, The Netherlands
Tel: +31-(0)70-3102299
Fax: +31-(0)70-3657681
Email: agthehague@fas.usda.gov
www.usembassy.nl/fas.html

Appendix I. Government Regulatory Agency Contacts:

1) Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation (GAIN NL0027)
PO Box 20401
2500 EK The Hague, The Netherlands
Phone: +31 (0)70 378 6868
www.minlnv.nl
http://www.rijksoverheid.nl/themas/landbouw-natuur-en-voedsel

2) Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport
PO Box 20350
2500 EJ The Hague, The Netherlands
Phone: +31 (0)70 340 7911
www.minvws.nl

3) The Dutch Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (VWA)
P.O. Box 19506
2500 CM The Hague, The Netherlands
Phone: +31-(0)70-4484848
Fax: +31-(0)70-4484747
www.vwa.nl

info@vwa.nl

4) Plant Protection Service (PD)
Ministry Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality Geertjesweg 15
Postbus 9102
6700 HC Wageningen
Phone: +31-(0)317-496911
Fax: +31-(0)317–421701
www.minlnv.nl/pd

Appendix II. Other Import Specialist Contacts:

1) Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation (GAIN NL0027)
PO Box 20401
2500 EK The Hague, The Netherlands
Phone: +31 (0)70 378 6868
www.minlnv.nl
http://www.rijksoverheid.nl/themas/landbouw-natuur-en-voedsel

2) Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport
PO Box 20350
2500 EJ The Hague, The Netherlands
Phone: +31 (0)70 340 7911
www.minvws.nl

3) The Dutch Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (VWA)
P.O. Box 19506
2500 CM The Hague, The Netherlands
Phone: +31-(0)70-4484848
Fax: +31-(0)70-4484747
www.vwa.nl
info@vwa.nl

4) Plant Protection Service (PD)
Ministry Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality Geertjesweg 15
Postbus 9102
6700 HC Wageningen
Phone: +31-(0)317-496911
Fax: +31-(0)317–421701
www.minlnv.nl/pd