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POLICY

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New Bovine Genetics Import Requirements

Report Categories:

Livestock and Products

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Report Highlights:

Turkey has onerous and redundant requirements for the import of bovine semen, ovum and embryos. These requirements include the provision of numerous documents to obtain import permits. Many of the requirements have little or no basis in science and create an unnecessary burden for importers and impede imports.

MINFAL published new import procedures to the Ministry's web page that will enter into force in 2014. An unofficial translation of the requirements are provided below.

General Information:

The regulation is available at the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock website. The link leads to a .ZIP file that can only be seen with use of Internet Explorer and is not compatible with other browsers such as Chrome.

<http://www.tarim.gov.tr/HAYGEM/Sayfalar/DuyurularDetay.aspx?rid=34&ListName=Duyurular&refId=>

Part I
Semen, Ovum, and Embryo Import Procedures

Semen, Ovum, and Embryo imports shall be from members of The International Committee for Animal Recording.

Companies who have an import competency certificate shall submit the following documents to apply for a control certificate:

1. An application letter signed by an authorized person of the company applying or a person who has taken authorization through a notary public.
2. A pro-forma invoice, translated into Turkish. Three copies shall be sent in advance and the original shall accompany the shipment for processing by customs at the time of import.
 - a. The pro-forma invoice shall not be issued more than 6 months from the application date.
 - b. The pro-forma invoice shall be signed by an authorized company representative and include the representative's name, surname and title. Moreover, the pro-forma invoice shall contain the company's stamp.
 - c. The pro-forma invoice shall contain the name of the donor animal, the breed, the ear tag number, the number of doses, the unit price, the country of loading and the country of production, the volume, model, and number of storage tanks that will carry the product.
3. A DNA profile of the semen shall be submitted for every import request. The microsatellite markers that verify parentage of the cattle shall be provided as:

(Locus)	(Fragment size, BP)	
	Allele 1	Allelyl 2
TGLA227		
BM2113		
TGLA53		
ETH10		
SPS115		
TGLA126		
TGLA122		
INRA23		
ETH3		
ETH225		
BM1824		

The table above was taken from commercial kits produced by Applied Bio systems. The International Society of Animal Genetics recommends parentage verification kits and the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MINFAL) selected Applied Biosystems' kits from among those suggested. In order to compare DNA profiles, the exporter company shall compare DNA profiles by submitting fragment values obtained with StockMarks® Bovine Genotyping kits.

DNA testing is not required for water buffalo, ram and Billy goat semen.

1. A certificate of origin and 2 copies, translated into Turkish. The exporter country's authority shall issue the certificate with an official seal. The certificate shall include information on the country or state of origin, unless the country or state of origin is mentioned on the health certificate.
2. A sample or pro-forma veterinary health certificate and 3 copies translated into Turkish. The certificate shall contain the same health related articles as on the original health certificate. The certificate shall be issued by an official veterinary service.
3. The blank control certificate shall be completed by the importer company and signed by the company's authorized representative. The certificate shall contain the representative's name, surname, title and an original signature. Three copies of this document shall be submitted.
4. One original and one copy of the letter issued by either the related Ministry in the exporter's country, or the producer's laboratory, or the producer's union/cooperative that shows that the imported semen, ovum or embryo is also used in exporter's country through artificial insemination or embryo transfer practices.
5. One original and two copies of pedigree that contains yield information on dam and sires shall be issued by producer's union/cooperatives and submitted to Ministry. The abbreviation used in the pedigree should be in harmony with international standards. The pedigree should be issued maximum 6 months prior to application.
6. A Semen Declaration analysis report for each filling/production and date of operation which is mentioned at the veterinary health certificate should be prepared by Producer Company and submitted as one original and two copies. The method of analysis shall be written in the analysis.
7. Any other documents shall be translated into Turkish and submitted to the Ministry. Translations should be prepared by a sworn translator.
8. An original and three copies of a DNA test containing the name of the bull, the bull's ear tag number, the breed, the sex, and the name, ear tag number and breed of the donor's dam and sire. The importer company shall sign a distribution agreement with foreign companies and renew their agreement before the agreement is terminated. The text of new agreements shall be submitted to the Ministry. The distributor agreement shall contain the name of the company, the duration of the agreement, the name of the breeding animals covered in the agreement, and the identification numbers of the mentioned animals.
9. Applications that do not provide the aforementioned documents will not be evaluated.
10. The pro-forma invoice and the pedigree certificate shall be valid until the Ministry issues the control certificate.
11. The importer company shall sell approved semen that is accompanied with an analysis report.
12. The importer company shall provide the domestic distributor, dealer or operator the analysis results and documents that demonstrate the semen is viable.
13. The importer company shall provide the Ministry a sales report of products sold by the importer,

dealer or distributor every three months.

14. The importer company shall submit test results, a letter of conformity, customs declaration and one copy of the control certificate to the General Directorate of Livestock in order to sell imported frozen semen. The imported semen shall not be distributed, sold or used until the Ministry publishes approval on the Ministry's web page.
15. If the exporter country's language is not English, then the documents should be prepared in their local language and translated into English and Turkish.
16. If the application is rejected, the application documents will not be returned.
17. The importer shall mention the date of the pro-forma invoice and the number of the doses when they deposit the application fee with the Central Working Capital Fund.
18. The application documents shall be submitted to the Ministry in a folder.

Only importers with an import competency certificate can import bovine semen, ovum and embryos.

Part II

Semen, Ovum and Embryo import competency certificate requirements

1. The importer shall be registered as a semen and/or embryo importer with the relevant authority. If the importer is a company, it shall provide a copy of the Turkish Trade Registry. If the importer is an individual, s/he shall provide a copy of a Trade Chamber registration.
2. The importer company shall have at least one full time veterinarian whose responsibility is imports. This veterinarian shall be registered with the Chamber of Veterinarians for a minimum of one year. If the company's owner is a veterinarian, the company shall provide a decision by the Board of Directors assigning the owner veterinarian responsibilities.
3. The importer company shall provide one original and one copy of a Chamber of Veterinarian registration.
4. The importer company shall provide a veterinarian graduation certificate notarized by a notary public.
5. The importer company shall provide proof of veterinarian social security payments.
6. The importer company shall provide the Ministry with a signed letter affirming liability for payments and attesting to the accuracy of certificates.
7. The importer company shall provide the Ministry with a list of the authorized signatures of company representatives and a deed of trust.
8. The importer company shall provide the Ministry with a copy of the rental contract or deeds for administrative buildings or warehouses.
9. The importer company shall provide the Ministry a signed and sealed forecast of annual imports and a signed declaration of capacity..
10. The importer company shall obtain an infrastructure conformity letter from the Ministry's Regional Directorate to demonstrate that the company has declared its capacity and that it is active in the declared business. This certificate shall be renewed each year.
11. The distributor or dealer shall also obtain an infrastructure conformity letter from the Ministry's Regional Directorate.
12. The importer company shall submit to the Ministry a list containing the contact details of their dealers and distributors, and their dealers' and distributors' infrastructure conformity letters.
13. The importer shall sign a distribution agreement with a foreign company and, before the expiry of the agreement, shall renew the agreement and submit the text of the new agreement to Ministry. The distribution agreement shall contain the name of the exporter company, the

duration of the agreement, the breed of the animals, and the identification numbers of the animals.

14. The importer company shall submit a letter in January every year from the social security authority containing information about the responsible veterinarian, an infrastructure conformity letter, and if there is any dealer or domestic distributor related documents.
15. The importer company's application for a competency certificate will not be approved if any of the documents listed above are missing. Further, the importer company's control certificate may be cancelled.
16. The importer company shall notify the Ministry of any changes to the documents within one month.
17. The importer company shall provide the Ministry with additional information and documents upon request.