

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY
USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT
POLICY

Voluntary Public

Date: 4/10/2012

GAIN Report Number: UAE 2012 -3

United Arab Emirates

Post: Dubai

UAE removes Legalization for Health and Halal Certificates

Report Categories:

Market Development Reports

Approved By:

Jude Akhidenor

Prepared By:

Mohamed Taha

Report Highlights:

Effective immediately, original Health and Halal certificates accompanying food shipments to the UAE are no longer required to be notarized by the UAE Embassy/Consulate and the Arab American Chamber of Commerce in the United States.

General Information:

Notarization of health and Halal certificates are no more required

After many years of discussions between the Office Agricultural Affairs in Dubai and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) health authorities, effective immediately, the UAE has agreed to accept U.S. original health and Halal certificates accompanying food shipments without having to be notarized by the UAE Embassy/Consulate and the Arab American Chamber of Commerce. Although the UAE did not issue an official decree announcing the change in policy, the new requirement has been confirmed in writing to OAA Dubai by senior officials at the Dubai Municipality Health Department. Apparently, the decision was agreed during the meeting of the UAE National Food Safety Committee.

For years, food exporters from the United States were required to send their health and Halal certificates to the Arab American Chamber of Commerce and the UAE Embassy/Consulate in Washington, D.C., for legalization (to be notarized) by both entities. This requirement was a burden on U.S. food suppliers, while increasing the cost of their food shipments to the UAE. They estimated that it took about 2 weeks to complete the process.

The health certificate notarization requirement only applied to food imports from the United States, China and Brazil. Under the new requirements, original health and Halal certificates accompanying food shipments from the 3 countries do not have to be notarized.

OAA Dubai evaluation of this development: The removal of the burdensome and costly food export certificate notarization requirement will reduce U.S. food suppliers' cost of shipping products to the UAE. Consequently, their products will be more price competitive leading to increased sales.