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Report Name: Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards
Export Certificate Report

Country: Bulgaria

Post: Sofia

Report Category: FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:

Report Highlights: As a European Union (EU) Member State, Bulgaria applies EU regulatory requirements for all animal- and plant-origin food and agricultural imports. Bulgarian regulatory authorities may be consulted, on a case-by-case basis, regarding import requirements for some categories of non-harmonized products.

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Prior to shipment, U.S. exporters should confirm with their Bulgarian importers that the consignment will be allowed to enter with the documentation accompanying the consignment. If there is any doubt regarding or lack of clarity, or if EU requirements are not listed, the Bulgarian importer contact the pertinent border inspection points (BIP) with a description of the proposed import including any animal-origin contents, and the intended use in Bulgaria. The approved BIPs for non-animal origin food and feed imports, as per Regulation (EU) 884/2014, can be found here. The Bulgarian officials will respond to the importer in writing.	8

Bulgaria is a member of the EU and conforms to all EU regulations and directives. Therefore, this report should be read in conjunction with the FAS USEU’s FAIRS Certificate Report (<https://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/certification/fairs-export-certificate-report/>) which can be also accessed through the FAS website. 8

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BFSA requires the seal number of the container to be printed on the veterinary certificate. If no seal number is present on the certificate, border inspectors will make efforts to do identity checks based on other supporting documents. However, a physical inspection may be necessary to verify the identity of the shipment. For some veterinary certificates, additional statements (declaration of BSE/TSE) need to be included..... 9

Section IV. Government Certificate’s Legal Entry Requirements 9

Since 2017, the EU has allowed electronic certification in the EU’s Integrated management System for Official Control. However, U.S. regulatory agencies do not issue electronic certificates in this system and continue to use paper certificates. Please, see FAS USEU’s FAIRS Certificate Report (<https://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/certification/fairs-export-certificate-report/>) for specific requirements regarding paper certificates. 9

Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements 9

Health certificates are mandatory for animal product imports, as are phytosanitary certificates for most plant product imports. In some cases, there are additional certificates (e.g. organic products). Some voluntary certificates (e.g. almonds) expedite the import process. Please, see more details here. 9

Appendix I. Electronic Copy or Outline of Each Export Certificate 9

See FAS USEU’s website here, as well as USEU’s FAIRS Certificate Report (<https://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/certification/fairs-export-certificate-report/>)..... 9

The following links on USDA/FSIS/AMS/APHIS websites contain most important samples of import certificates (in English or in English/Bulgarian) required for various products..... 9

- Live animals and animal genetics (APHIS); Currently, the most frequently used certificates used for Bulgaria are APIS animal health certificates for bovine semen/embryos, equine semen, hatching eggs, day-old chicks, and pet dogs and cats. APHIS also provides information on the animal health requirements that must be met by travelers taking their pet to Bulgaria (see here). 9
- APHIS certificates for animal products; At present, the most frequently used is the certificate for exports of beef, collagen and gelatin (for human consumption), pet food and trade samples. 9
- FSIS certificates for meat, poultry and egg products; FSIS website/Export Library (here) is updated on a regular basis to incorporate all developments in EU import requirements for all products under FSIS jurisdiction. The meat and poultry should be slaughtered, processed and stored at EU approved establishments. Exporters should verify that the shipping date on any export certificate or accompanying shipping documents does not precede the FSIS signature date on the certificate. Failure to do so can result in the detention of the shipment at the Port of Entry into the European Union. The letterhead certificate for each product type, in one shipment, should have a unique number in Box I.2, which is the serial number of the corresponding 9060-5, Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness. Beef exports requires FSIS 9060-5 Export Certificate for

Wholesomeness and animal health/official certificate for fresh meat from bovine animals; please, see the respective certificates for pork, poultry, meat preparations and eggs and egg products;..... 9

- Dairy Products (AMS); Dairy products fall under FDA jurisdiction, however, FDA has delegated authority to sign health certificates to USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). 10
- APHIS plant health certificates;..... 10
- AMS Certification for Seeds for Sprouting; 10
- AMS Certification for Honey; 10

For additional information concerning market entry, other import requirements, and a current importer list, U.S. exporters of agricultural products and commodities should contact:..... 10

Office of Agricultural Affairs..... 10

16 Koziak Street..... 10

Sofia 1407, Bulgaria 10

Tel: (+3592) 939 5720 10

E-mail: agsofia@fas.usda.gov 10

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DISCLAIMER: This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA) at the U.S. Embassy in Sofia, Bulgaria, for U.S. exporters of domestically produced food and agricultural products. While every possible care has been taken in the preparation 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 IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCTS IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY’S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.**

Executive Summary

Bulgaria follows EU regulations and model certificates. Bulgarian food safety inspectors at border points of entry are generally helpful and can be consulted in advance when U.S. exporters and Bulgarian importers have questions regarding appropriate certificates for specific products. Border inspectors consult with the European Commission (EC) with questions. They also regularly contact the OAA if there are issues with U.S.-origin shipments. U.S. exporters are encouraged to consult with Post prior to shipping consignments to Bulgaria.

Section I. List of All Export Certificates Required by Government (Matrix)

Bulgaria follows closely the EU legislation and requires the same export certificates for the U.S. products as the other EU member states. The purpose of these required certificates is food safety. The institution in charge of border control is the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency (BFSA) under the Ministry

of Agriculture. The specific products with the respective titles of the certificates and attestations are listed below, please, see Appendix I.

Following an update of the EU’s Animal Health Law ([Regulation \(EU\) 2016/429](#)), which entered into force on April 21, 2021, the EU has updated all required certificates for products of animal origin. Models of the new certificates for food of animal origin were published in [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) No 2020/2235](#), as amended by [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/1471](#). The transitional provisions of Regulation 2020/2235 allow for the continued use of the old certificates until March 15, 2022, provided that the certificates are signed before January 15, 2022. See FAS USEU’s FAIRS Certificate Report (<https://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/certification/fairs-export-certificate-report/>) for more specific information.

U.S. Government agencies had not yet switched to any of the new models. FAS cooperates closely with the regulatory agencies to ensure that their export libraries are up-to-date and that the currently applicable certificate versions are made available to exporters. Post recommends that U.S. exporters consult with the OAA in Sofia for any questions related to import requirements, import certificates, or issues about Bulgaria-specific import regulations.

Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
Products of Animal Origin	Health Certificate	Attestation is dependent on the product. Detailed attestation can be found in the model certificates available at EURhttp://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html under the relevant regulations (e.g. dairy products, pork, beef, etc.) – accepted until March 15, 2022. Models of the new certificates for food of animal origin were published in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 2020//235 , as amended by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1471 .	Food Safety	Bulgarian Food Safety Agency (Veterinary Service/ Border Control) under the Ministry of Agriculture
Composite Products	Health Certificate	Regulation (EU) 2019/625 defines composite products.	Food Safety	Bulgarian Food Safety Agency (Veterinary Service/ Border Control) under the Ministry of Agriculture
Plant Products	Phytosanitary	APHIS inspectors, attest to	Plant	Bulgarian Food

which can introduce pests	Certificate	specific requirements of EU legislation by making additional declarations in the relevant phytosanitary certificate boxes. These declarations are specific for different plant species, and they are subject to change, thus the shipper needs to check for the most recent change before export.	Health	Safety Agency (Phytosanitary Service/Border Control) under the Ministry of Agriculture
Various Plant Products	Other than Phytosanitary Certificate	e.g. aflatoxin levels in almonds: Use of the PreExport Checklist Program Certificate (the PEC Certificate) is not mandatory but the EU regulation mandates that consignment with this certificate are controlled for aflatoxin levels at less than 1%. USDA/AMS is the competent authority for the PEC program.	Food Safety and Quality	Bulgarian Food Safety Agency (Veterinary Service/ Border Control) under the Ministry of Agriculture

A. Export Certificates/Requirements for Live Animals and Animal Genetics

The EU imposes general requirements for all veterinary health certificates. [Directive 2002/99/EC](#), Annex IV.6, stipulates that certificates must be issued before consignments leave the control of the competent authority. Non-compliance will lead to rejection of the shipment at the EU border entry point.

Prior to April 2021, bilingual Bulgarian/English health certificates were available for some commodities/species on the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service’s (APHIS) website (bovine semen and equine semen). Since April 20, 2021, English version certificates are accepted in accordance with [Regulation \(EU\) 2016/429](#) and [Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2020/692](#), please, refer to the English versions [here](#). Supplementary information regarding the export certificates is available on in FAS USEU’s FAIRS Certificate Report (<https://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/certification/fairs-export-certificate-report/>) and at FAS USEU’s [website](#).

B. Export Certificates/Requirements for Animal Products

In general, the EU requires health certificates for all imported animal-origin products. There are three main requirements:

- (1) EU recognition of a country as eligible to export a particular product. [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/404 of 24 March 2021](#) outlines the list of third countries, territories or zones thereof from which the entry into the Union of animals, germinal products and products of animal origin is permitted in accordance with [Regulation \(EU\) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and the Council](#). [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/405](#) outlines the list of third countries or regions

thereof authorized for the entry into the Union of certain animals and goods intended for human consumption.

(2) recognition of approved production establishments, which may be subject to EU audits (see the EU-approved list [here](#) and [here](#)); and

(3) animal or public health certificates based on the EC's published model. Models of the new certificates for food of animal origin were published in [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) No 2020/2235](#), as amended by [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/1471](#).

The EU requires veterinary and/or general health certificates with each meat and meat product shipment, to be signed and dated prior to export. The competent U.S. certifying agent will delete any statement appearing on the EU model certificate that is not applicable.

C. Export Certificates/Requirements for Plant and Plant Products

Import requirements for plants and plant products are harmonized at the EU level. The [International Plant Protection Convention](#) (IPPC) provides model certificates recognized by the EU. Unlike veterinary products, IPPC provides only one model export certificate and one re-export certificate for all plant products. For the United States, APHIS issues the required phytosanitary certificate with the requisite attestations to specific EU requirements.

D. Composite Products – Products Subject/Not Subject to Veterinary Checks and Certification

[Regulation \(EU\) 2019/625](#) defines composite products as foodstuffs intended for human consumption that contain processed products of animal origin and ingredients of plant origin. Composite products include a wide variety of products, including cheesecakes, high protein food supplements, pizza, and lasagnas. U.S. exports of “composite products” continue to be restricted due to burdensome certification requirements. While the U.S. is eligible to ship hormone-free meat, dairy products, egg products, and fishery products separately, it is often not possible to ship the composite products that combine these eligible ingredients.

Exporters should be aware that in parallel with the aforementioned changes to the composite product certificate that was triggered by an update of the EU's Animal Health Law, the EU also made changes to the categories of composite products that require U.S. Government-issued health certificates. The new system is no longer based on the percentage of ingredients of animal product in the final product, and goes into effect on January 15, 2022. It establishes three categories of composite products: (1) non-shelf stable composite products, (2) shelf stable composite products that contain meat products and (3) shelf stable composite products that do not contain meat products. All processed products of animal origin have to be sourced from EU-approved establishments. The EU continues to require composite product certificates for all non-shelf stable products and for shelf stable composite products with a meat ingredient.

For shelf stable products not containing meat, no certificates signed by the U.S. Government are required. For these products, the representative of the importer must declare that the goods meet the relevant EU requirements, using the “Private Attestation” model form.

E. Products Outside of Regular Commercial Channels

Products outside of regular commercial channels are often for research activities, samples for trade shows, and/or for personal consumption. [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2019/2122](#) is applied.

See FAS USEU's FAIRS Certificate Report (<https://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/certification/fairs-export-certificate-report/>) for more information.

F. Export Certificates/Requirements for Non-harmonized Products

Only a few products/by-products or exotic animals are not harmonized under EU legislation. In such cases, the National [Bulgarian Food Safety Agency](#) (BFSA) is the competent authority for providing the specific import conditions on non-harmonized products. Interested U.S. exporters should request additional guidance from the U.S. Embassy's OAA.

Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

Imported products must meet existing Bulgarian (as an EU member) requirements, and products must be accompanied by the proper certification at the port of arrival. In general, health certificates are required for all imported products of animal origin and phytosanitary certificates are needed for all plant products that could introduce pests into the EU.

The EU imposes a number of general requirements for all veterinary certificates. Of these, there is one in particular that has repeatedly caused rejections of shipments at EU borders. In accordance with [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2020/2235](#), certificates must be issued before the consignments to which they relate leave the control of the competent authority. The U.S. regulatory agencies that issue health certificates (FSIS, APHIS, AMS and NOAA) have all included this requirement in their export libraries.

In accordance with EU legislation, certain products may have quality certificates that allow for reduced import duties. Other voluntary EU certificates allow for less stringent import control regimes (for example the aflatoxin certificate for almonds).

Prior to shipment, U.S. exporters should confirm with their Bulgarian importers that the consignment will be allowed to enter with the documentation accompanying the consignment. If there is any doubt regarding or lack of clarity, or if EU requirements are not listed, the Bulgarian importer contact the pertinent border inspection points (BIP) with a description of the proposed import including any animal-origin contents, and the intended use in Bulgaria. The approved BIPs for non-animal origin food and feed imports, as per [Regulation \(EU\) 884/2014](#), can be found [here](#). The Bulgarian officials will respond to the importer in writing.

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BFSA requires the seal number of the container to be printed on the veterinary certificate. If no seal number is present on the certificate, border inspectors will make efforts to do identity checks based on other supporting documents. However, a physical inspection may be necessary to verify the identity of the shipment. For some veterinary certificates, additional statements (declaration of BSE/TSE) need to be included.

Section IV. Government Certificate's Legal Entry Requirements

Bulgarian (and EU) food legislation changes frequently. All new changes and amendments are published in the EU Official Journal. The Eur-lex [website](#) provides free access to EU laws.

Since 2017, the EU has allowed electronic certification in the EU's Integrated management System for Official Control. However, U.S. regulatory agencies do not issue electronic certificates in this system and continue to use paper certificates. Please, see FAS USEU's FAIRS Certificate Report (<https://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/certification/fairs-export-certificate-report/>) for specific requirements regarding paper certificates.

Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements

Health certificates are mandatory for animal product imports, as are phytosanitary certificates for most plant product imports. In some cases, there are additional certificates (e.g. organic products). Some voluntary certificates (e.g. almonds) expedite the import process. Please, see more details [here](#).

Appendix I. Electronic Copy or Outline of Each Export Certificate

See FAS USEU's website [here](#), as well as USEU's FAIRS Certificate Report (<https://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/certification/fairs-export-certificate-report/>)

The following links on USDA/FSIS/AMS/APHIS websites contain most important samples of import certificates (in English or in English/Bulgarian) required for various products.

- [Live animals and animal genetics \(APHIS\)](#); Currently, the most frequently used certificates used for Bulgaria are APIS animal health certificates for bovine semen/embryos, equine semen, hatching eggs, day-old chicks, and pet dogs and cats. APHIS also provides information on the animal health requirements that must be met by travelers taking their pet to Bulgaria (see [here](#)).
- [APHIS certificates for animal products](#); At present, the most frequently used is the certificate for exports of beef, collagen and gelatin (for human consumption), pet food and trade samples.
- [FSIS](#) certificates for meat, poultry and egg products; FSIS website/Export Library ([here](#)) is updated on a regular basis to incorporate all developments in EU import requirements for all products under FSIS jurisdiction. The meat and poultry should be slaughtered, processed and stored at EU approved establishments. Exporters should verify that the shipping date on any export certificate or accompanying shipping documents does not precede the FSIS signature date on the certificate. Failure to do so can result in the detention of the shipment at the Port of Entry into the European Union. The letterhead certificate for each product type, in one shipment, should have a unique number in Box I.2, which is the serial number of the corresponding 9060-5, Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness. Beef exports requires FSIS 9060-5 Export Certificate for Wholesomeness and animal health/[official certificate](#) for fresh meat from bovine animals; please, see the respective certificates for [pork](#), [poultry](#), [meat preparations](#) and [eggs and egg products](#);
- [Dairy Products \(AMS\)](#); Dairy products fall under FDA jurisdiction, however, FDA has delegated authority to sign health certificates to USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS).
- [Certificates for Seafood \(NOAA\)](#); FDA has delegated authority for export certification of fish and fishery products to Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration (NOAA). For additional information on exporting seafood, please see [Procedures to request EU Health Certification to the EU](#) available from the NOAA website and consult the [U.S. Commercial Service Guide for How to Export to the EU](#).

- FDA Certificates. Please, see [Certificates issued by FDA for gelatin and collages for human consumption](#), as well as the EU approved lists for [collagen](#) and [gelatin](#) establishments. (also see FAS USEU's FAIRS Certificate Report (<https://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/certification/fairs-export-certificate-report/>);
- [APHIS plant health certificates](#);
- [AMS Certification for Seeds for Sprouting](#);
- AMS Certification for [Honey](#);
- AMS Certification for Eggs [here](#). The [AMS Livestock, Poultry and Seed Division](#) issues the certificates based on exporter request in the form of a worksheet: [Processed Egg and Processed Egg Products Worksheet](#) (EU only).
- Pedigree and Zootechnical Certificates - [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2020/602 of 15 April 2020](#) amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/717 as regards the model forms of zootechnical certificates for breeding animals and their germinal products.

For additional information concerning market entry, other import requirements, and a current importer list, U.S. exporters of agricultural products and commodities should contact:

Office of Agricultural Affairs

16 Koziak Street
Sofia 1407, Bulgaria
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Appendix II. Bulgarian Competent Authorities

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Tel.: (+359) 2-985-11858
Fax: (+359) 2-981-7955
Website: <http://www.mzh.government.bg>

Bulgarian Food Safety Agency
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Tel.: (+359) 2-915-98-20
Fax: (+359) 2-954-9593
E-mail: bfsa@bfsa.gov
Website: <http://www.babh.government.bg/en/>

Bulgaria Customs Agency, Ministry of Finance
Str. Rakovski 47, Sofia 1202
Tel.: (+359) 2-9594-210
Fax: (+359) 2-9859-4528

E-mail: pr@customs.bg
Website: <http://customs.bg>

Attachments:

No Attachments