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Belgium-Luxembourg

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

Certification Guide

2006

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Report Highlights: This report lists the required export certificates for exports to Belgium, which are not yet EU harmonized.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
The Hague [NL1]
[BE]

DISCLAIMER: This report has been prepared by the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in The Hague, The Netherlands for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural product. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, the 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 Belgian customer (importer), who is normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. Final import 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.

Notes for using the Guide

Belgium, as a member of the EU, conforms to all EU regulations and directives. We therefore recommend that this report is read in conjunction with the EU Certification Guide produced by the US Mission to the EU in Brussels, Belgium: Gain Report Number: E36071
<http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/attacherep/default.asp>

Unfortunately for exporters, the EU's rules on certification for imports are complicated and are not always harmonized across Member States. This report lists the required export certificates for exports to Belgium, which are not yet harmonized.

Belgian Competent Authorities

Both veterinary inspection and food inspection are within the domain of the Federal Agency for Food Safety (FAVV). The FAVV belongs to the Ministry of Social Affairs, Health and Environment. The Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment of this Ministry is in charge of policy and legislation on food issues. Regulation 2004/882/EC sets out the standards for control of compliance with the General Food Law (2002/178/EC).

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U.S. Competent Authorities, issuing Export Certificates

The U.S. issuing agencies are identified by their acronyms. Following is a list of these and the relevant websites of each agency for further information.

USDA / FSIS: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA

Export Requirements for the European Union:

www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/European_Union_Requirements/index.asp

USDA / APHIS: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

USDA International Animal Export Regulations:

www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie/iregs/animals/ee.html

International Animal Product Export Regulations:

www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie/iregs/products/pr_ee.html

Export Services:

www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/pim/exports/

USDA/ AMS: Agricultural Marketing Service

USDA European Union Health Certification Program: www.ams.usda.gov/dairy/eu_prgm.htm

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

www.fda.gov/cber/gdlns/expcert.htm#iv

USDA / FGIS: Federal Grain Inspection Service;

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

www.usda.gov/gipsa/international/intl-services.htm

NOAA: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/trade/EUCONTENTS.htm>

Related reports from FAS offices in the EU:

Visit the USEU website: the website www.useu.be/agri/usda.html provides a broad range of useful information on EU import rules and food laws and allows easy access to USEU reports, trade information and other practical information. More information on certification can be found at <http://www.useu.be/agri/usda.html>.

Report Number	Title	Date Released
BE6007	Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Country Report - Belgium	07/31/2006
E36071	EU Certification Guide – Update	05/02/2006
These reports can be accessed through the FAS website: http://www.fas.usda.gov/scriptsw/attacherep/default.asp		

List of non Harmonized Export Certificates

Product	EU Legislation	Belgian Legislation	Belgian Model Certificate	U.S. Issuing Agency	U.S. Agency Form	Title	Comments
"Other Products of Animal Origin"	1992/118/EC (a)	Not implemented in Belgian legislation	Not available	FSIS			Meat products which are not harmonized in 1977/99/EC are harmonized in 992/118/EC. For these products a harmonized EU certificate is not always available. Contact FAS The Hague for latest status.
Dairy Products	1992/46/EC (b)			APHIS		www.ams.usda.gov/dairy/international/dyint.htm	AMS must first endorse the Public Health Attestation and then the exporter should take the Certificate to APHIS for endorsement.
Colostrum	1992/46/EC (b)			APHIS		www.ams.usda.gov/dairy/international/dyint.htm	The declaration needs to correspond with the EC health certificate required for the import of heat treated milk for human consumption with the exception of: -11.1a sub VI regarding the cell count and the number of somatic cells -11.1c regarding the requirements for the heat treatment. The FDA and AMS are, however, not able to certify such a certificate for colostrum. Contact FAS The Hague for latest status.

(a) Available at http://europe.eu.int/eur-lex/en/consleg/pdf/1992/en_1992L0118_do_001.pdf

(b) Available at http://europe.eu.int/eur-lex/en/consleg/pdf/1992/en_1992L0046_do_001.pdf

N.A. = Not Applicable