

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

Required Report - public distribution

Date: GAIN Report Number:

Philippines

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification

FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:

This report outlines Philippine government requirements for the importation of food and agricultural products. The report aims to assist U.S. exporters by providing information on labeling, packaging, permitted ingredients and other relevant information. It also provides points of contact for key Philippine government authorities, U.S. government agencies and trade associations.

Section I. List of All Export Certificates Required by the Philippine Government

Note:

DA – Department of Agriculture DOH – Department of Health BAI – Bureau of Animal Industry

NMIS - National Meat Inspection Service

BPI – Bureau of Plant Industry

FDA – Food and Drug Administration

BFAR – Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry	
Poultry & Poultry Products	FSIS 9060-5, Meat & Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness (Annex-I)	see Section III.A	Food Safety	BAI/NMIS	
Meat & Meat Products	FSIS 9060-5, Meat & Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness	see Section III.B	Food Safety	BAI/NMIS	
Beef & Beef Products	FSIS 9060-5, Meat & Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness	see Section III.B	Food Safety	BAI/NMIS	
Live Animals	VS Form 17-37, Certificate of Inspection of Export Animals/U.S. Origin Health Certificate (Annex-II)	see Section III.E	Health	BAI	
Milk & Milk Products	International Health Certificate	see Section III.B	Health	BAI	
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	PPQ 577, Phytosanitary Certificate (Annex-III)	see Section III.C	Free from quarantine pests and conform with current phytosanitary requirements.	BPI	
Fish & Seafood Products	International Health or Sanitary Certificate (Annex-IV)	see Section III.D	Health	BFAR	
Pet Food & Animal Feedstuff	PPQ 578, Phytosanitary Certificate (Annex V)	see Section III.F	Safety	BAI	

Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

All imported food and agricultural products are required to comply with the Philippines' food, health and phytosanitary laws. All food and agricultural products, including plant products that enter the Philippines, are required to pass through procedures designed to check that they are not contaminated with any pest and that they are fit for their intended use.

The health and phytosanitary regulations and procedures applied to imported agriculture and food products are broadly similar

for all types of products. Under Philippine import laws, it is the responsibility of the importer to ensure that any product entering the Philippines customs territory is in full compliance with Philippine health and phytosanitary regulations.

The enforcing authorities will check for compliance by inspecting the goods and relevant import/export documentation and decide on whether the goods may enter the Philippines.

In cases of non-compliance, the goods may be required to be treated before being released or they may be rejected and ordered destroyed or disposed of outside the Philippines.

Section III. Specific Attestation Required on the Export Certificate(s)

A. Poultry Products: All U.S. poultry products must be accompanied by an FSIS Meat & Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness (FSIS 9060-5).

SPECIFIC CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. **Poultry Feet:** "This certifies that the poultry feet specified above come from birds that were subject to official ante-mortem inspection and handled in a sanitary manner while in FSIS inspected establishments, with verification by FSIS of plant processing requirements as defined by the Philippines to be fit for human consumption."

Note: The procedures in the Processing Requirements section and the above documentation procedure is implemented by agreement and neither the procedure nor the above statement is applicable to other countries unless specified in the FSIS Export Library.

2. **Poultry for Further Processing and Re-export to Japan:** "The meat and meat products described herein were processed under sanitary conditions in accordance with laws and regulations of the United States which have been deemed to be equivalent to the inspection laws of Japan"

"There have been no outbreaks of fowl pest (fowl plague) for at least 90 days in the United States. Further, in the area where birds for export (meat) were produced (such an area being within a minimum radius of 50 kilometers from the production farm), Newcastle disease, fowl cholera, and other serious infectious fowl diseases, as recognized by the United States, have not occurred for at least 90 days."

Note: The slaughter date, name, address and official establishment number of the U.S. production plant must also be provided in the remarks section of the FSIS certificate or separately on a FSIS letterhead certificate.

B. Red Meat and Red Meat Products: All U.S. meat and meat products must be accompanied by an FSIS Meat & Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness (FSIS 9060-5).

SPECIFIC CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Beef and Processed Beef Products: "The meat or meat products were not derived from the following specified risk materials: the brain, skull, eyes, trigeminal ganglia, spinal cord, vertebral column (excluding the vertebrae of the tail, the transverse processes of the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, and the wings of the sacrum), and dorsal root ganglia of cattle 30 months of age or older, and the tonsils and distal ileum of the small intestine of any cattle regardless of age."

"The meat or meat products were not derived from non-ambulatory disabled cattle offered for slaughter."

2. **Products Made with Beef Imported from Australia and New Zealand:** "The beef was derived from beef legally imported into the United States from Australia or New Zealand."

In addition the product must be accompanied by copies of the health certificates issued by Australian and New Zealand inspection officials.

- 3. Other Red Meat and Red Meat Products: "No specific language required"
- **C. Fresh Fruits and Vegetables:** All fresh fruits and vegetables from the United States must be accompanied by an APHIS Phytosanitary Certificate (PPQ 577). Only Federal Phytosanitary Certificates issued by a duly authorized Plant Quarantine Officer from the country of origin will be accepted by Philippine authorities.

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- 1. The shipment must be absolutely free from soil.
- 2. The shipment must be free from Mediterranean Fruitfly (Ceratis Capitata), Mexican Fruitfly (Anastrpha Ludens), West Indian Fruitfly (Anastrepha Obliqua), Sapochilla Fruitfly (Anastrepha Serpentina), Oriental Fruitfly (Bactrocera Dorsalis) and Coddling Moth (Cydia Pomella).
- **D. Fish and Seafood Products:** All fish and seafood products must be accompanied by an International Health or Sanitary Certificate executed by a competent Authority from the country of origin.

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

The following information should appear on the packaging and on the accompanying documents:

- 1. the country of origin written out in full;
- 2. species of fish/fishery products weight and content;
- 3. address of supplier; and
- 4. BFAR Inspection stamp mark (frozen fishery/aquatic products imported in bulk intended for further processing are not covered by this requirement)
- **E. Live Animals:** All live animals from the United States must be accompanied by an APHIS Certificate of Inspection of Export Animals (VS Form 17-37) and/or a U.S. origin Health Certificate.

For complete import requirements please visit:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/sa_export_from_us/ct_animal_and_animal_product export information/

Live Horses: Horses must be accompanied by a U.S. Origin Health Certificate issued by a veterinarian authorized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and endorsed by a Veterinary Services (VS) veterinarian. The certificate shall contain the name and address of the consignor and the consignee and a complete identification of the animals to be exported. The following information should be included:

CERTIFICATION STATEMENTS

- 1. The United States is free of contagious equine metritis (CEM), glanders, dourine, and African horse sickness.
- 2. The animals were born or raised or have been in the United States for at least 6 months prior to export.
- 3. The animals originated from premises where there have been no outbreaks of the following diseases for the last 6 months and individual animals are free from clinical evidence of such diseases: ulcerative lymphangitis, equine infectious anemia, equine encephalomyelitis, equine influenza, equine rhinopneumonitis, equine viral arteritis, vesicular stomatitis. Salmonella abortivoequina, strangles, and piroplasmosis prior to export.
- 4. The animals were treated against internal and external parasites on _____ (date) with _____ (name of product) within 30 days prior to export.
- 5. The animals were not vaccinated with any live or attenuated vaccine within 14 days of export.
- 6. The animals were maintained in isolation so as to have no direct contact with other non-tested animals from the time the testing began until export.
- 7. The animals have been vaccinated for equine encephalomyelitis using killed vaccine not less than 15 days and not more than 6 months prior to export.

For complete import requirements please visit the following link.

Live Swine: The swine must be accompanied by a U.S. Origin Health Certificate issued by a veterinarian authorized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and endorsed by a Veterinary Services (VS) veterinarian. The certificate must provide the names and addresses of the consignor and consignee, the names of the ports of embarkation and destination, complete identification of the animals, and the total number of animals. It must also provide the following certification statements and the dates and results of the indicated testing:

CERTIFICATION STATEMENTS

- 1. The United States is free of African swine fever, classical swine fever (hog cholera), and foot-and-mouth disease.
- 2. The premises of origin and the swine have been free of clinical evidence of atrophic rhinitis, erysipelas, leptospirosis, parvoviral disease, pseudorabies, swine dysentery, swine influenza, transmissible gastroenteritis (TGE), and vesicular stomatitis for the last 180 days prior to export.
- 3. The swine originate from brucellosis-free States or validated brucellosis-free herds.
- 4. The swine originate from pseudorabies-qualified herds.
- 5. The swine originate from premises where tuberculosis has not been diagnosed for the last 12 months prior to export.
- 6. The swine have been isolated from any additions to the herd for the last 30 days prior to export.
- 7. After due inquiry, I am satisfied that the swine have not been fed garbage at any time.
- 8. The swine will be transported to the port of embarkation in cleaned and disinfected vehicles.
- 9. The swine have not been vaccinated against pseudorabies.
- 10. The swine were injected on______, which is within 7 days prior to export, with long acting oxytetracycline at a rate of 20 mg/kg.

[Note: this statement is not required for swine tested for leptospirosis as prescribed below.]

11. The swine have not been vaccinated for parvoviral disease.

OR

12. The swine	e were vaccinated for parvoviral disease on
with	, a USDA-licensed, inactivated vaccine.
[Note: the	swine must not have been vaccinated with a live parvovirus vaccine.]

For complete import requirements please visit:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie/iregs/animals/rp_po.pdf

Live Cattle: The cattle must be accompanied by a U.S. Origin Health Certificate issued by a veterinarian authorized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and endorsed by a Veterinary Services (VS) veterinarian. The certificate must provide the names and addresses of the consignor and consignee, the names of the ports of embarkation and destination, complete identification of the animals, and the total number of animals. For complete import requirements please visit:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/downloads/rp_cattle_14.pdf

Live Birds/Day-Old-Chicks/Eggs: All imported fowl, day-old-chicks, eggs and/or hatching eggs should be accompanied by a valid health certificate issued shortly before shipment by the Veterinary Authority at the point of embarkation.

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR DOMESTIC POULTRY

- 1. That the domestic poultry are free of any signs of infectious and contagious disease.
- 2. That the domestic poultry are hatched from eggs from accredited pullorum-free flock and had not been exposed to dangerous communicable disease for 60 days (an accredited pullorum-free farm is one in which all birds over four months are tested with whole blood agglutination test with negative results). Random sampling should be carried out thereafter to ensure the pullorum-free status. Bacterial culture for Salmonella pullorum, when needed, should be attempted using approved methods.
- 3. That no case of Fowl Plague, Newcastle Disease, Avian Encephalomyelitis, Avian Leucosis, Marek's Disease, Infectious Bursal Disease, Duck Virus Enteritis, Duck Virus Hepatitis or any infectious and contagious disease has occurred in the farm of origin for the last six months.
- 4. The domestic poultry are hatched in an incubator in which no eggs from fumigated flocks have been introduced and hatched and the incubator is fumigated or disinfected prior to setting and hatching.

5. The domestic poultry are packed directly from the incubator into new boxes for export and have no contact with any birds other than the domestic poultry.

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR EGGS

- 1. The eggs come from an accredited pullorum-free flock and from known duck virus hepatitis-free flock.
- **F.** Animal Feed Stuff: All animal feed stuff made mainly from grains and grain products must be accompanied by an APHIS Processed Plant Product Certificate (PPQ-557) or APHIS Phytosanitary Certificate (PPQ-578). There is no specific certification language required for U.S. animal feed products.

Section IV. Government Certificate Legal Entry Requirements

Import Regulations for Meat and Meat Products: Philippine regulations require that all importers secure a Veterinary Quarantine Clearance (VQC) certificate from BAI <u>prior</u> to importing meat and meat products. VQCs for imports from the United States are valid for 60 days. Moreover, the date of shipment of goods, as reflected in the bill of lading/airway bill, should not be earlier than the date the VQC was issued.

Beef and Beef Products: In September 2007, the Philippine Department of Agriculture issued Memorandum Order No. 16 (MO 16), which allows all beef and beef products from the United States to be imported into the Philippines without any restrictions. All beef and beef products, including boneless and bone-in beef, processed beef products and beef offal must be sourced from healthy ambulatory cattle and devoid of any specified risk materials (SRMs). Moreover, the production or slaughter date of the cattle must be provided on the packaging label.

Beef Tallow: The DA also allows the importation of protein-free tallow certified as having insoluble impurities below 0.15% in weight.

Others: Products derived from beef from Australia or New Zealand must be certified as having been legally imported from said countries. For collagen casings of bovine origin, BAI requires additional FSIS certification that the product was prepared from hides and skins other than that coming from the head.

Import Regulations For Fish and Seafood: In 1999, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) issued the implementing rules and regulations for Republic Act 8550 (RA 8550) or the Fisheries Code. This order now requires all importers to obtain quarantine permits prior to importation. Moreover, the importation of fresh/chilled/frozen fish and fishery/aquatic products is allowed only when certified as necessary by the Secretary of Agriculture. Only the importation of fresh/chilled/frozen fish and fishery/aquatic products for canning and processing purposes and those undertaken by institutional buyers is exempt from such certification. Further, all importation must satisfy the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) standards as provided under Section 67 of RA 8550.

Additional information may be downloaded on fish and fish product importation from http://www.bfar.da.gov.ph/

Fish and fishery/aquatic products to be imported into the Philippines shall meet the following standard and requirements:

- a. International Health Certificate Fish and fishery/aquatic products coming into the Philippines intended for distribution and for further processing shall be certified by authorized or competent regulatory agency from the country of origin. The International Health certificate shall be issued on the basis that the following requirements have been met:
 - 1. Fish and fishery/aquatic products meet the quality of fresh fish prior to freezing shall be graded accordingly to size.
 - 2. The fishery products must be handled and processed hygienically in processing plants and/or freezer vessels
 - 3. Frozen fishery products must be kept and maintained at -18°C or lower during transport.

4. Fish and fishery/aquatic products must be subject to visual inspection for parasite check. Fish infested with parasites, must be removed from the batch.

The International Health Certificate shall be supported with the following laboratory test results, which shall not exceed the indicator organisms, such as:

- Total viable count 10/gram
- E. coli 10 to 100/gram
- Salmonella absent in 25 gram sample
- Shigella absent
- Vibrio cholerae absent

The International Health Certificate shall accompany the consignment of fish and fishery/aquatic products and shall be presented as part of the documentation requirements upon arrival.

- b. Special Health Control Requirements Fish and fishery/aquatic products covered by the following families: Scombridae (tuna and tuna-like species and mackerel) and Clupeidae (sardines) shall be subject to chemical analysis for histamine. Examinations shall be carried out in accordance with internationally recognized methods. The results of the test shall not exceed 20 mg/100 gm. And shall be included in the Health certificate requirement.
- c. Packing and labeling requirements Fish and fishery/aquatic products must be packed under hygienic condition to preclude contamination from lubricants, oils, fuels or any hazardous substances. Packaging materials shall not impair the sensory attributes of the fishery products and shall not transmit harmful substances. Packaging materials used for fresh fish held under ice should be provided with adequate drainage for melted water.

The following information shall appear on the packaging and on the accompanying documents:

- the country of origin written out in full
- species of fish/fishery products weights and content
- address of supplier
- BFAR Inspection stamp mark

Frozen fishery/aquatic products imported in bulk intended for further processing are not covered by this requirement.

d. Storage and transport - Fish and fishery/aquatic products, during storage and transport, shall be stored at temperature requirement for specific products. Chilled fresh fish and fishery products shall be stored and maintained at 0 to 4°C. Frozen fishery products, with the exception of frozen fish in brine intended for canning shall be stored at -18°C or below during transport, allowing not more than 3 degrees upward fluctuation in temperature.

Import Regulations for Fresh Produce: The Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) regulates imports of fresh fruits and vegetables. All imports of fresh produce require a valid Plant Quarantine Clearance issued by BPI. These permits are applied for by the Philippine importer for each shipment. Shipments of fresh fruits and vegetables from the United States must be accompanied by a USDA Phytosanitary Certificate (PC) issued at the port of origin. Import permits for fruits and vegetables need to be secured prior to exportation from the United States. The date of shipment should not be earlier than the date the import permit was issued.

More information on import requirements for fresh fruits and vegetables may be downloaded from http://bpi.da.gov.ph/index.php?option=com content&view=featured&Itemid=101

Import Regulations for Pet Food: Requirements for pet food are similar to import procedures for meat and meat products. BAI requires foreign manufacturers of processed dog and cat food and/or Philippine importers to apply for accreditation and

to be registered with BAI prior to importation. All pet food products entering the Philippines need to be accompanied by a sanitary certificate issued by the relevant U.S. regulatory body. Like meat products, a VQC needs to be secured from the Animal Feeds Division of the BAI before the goods are shipped out of the United States.

Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements

Registration of Processed Food Products: All processed food products offered for retail sale in the Philippines must be registered with the Food and Drug Administration. Registration of imported products may only be undertaken by a Philippine entity, although some documentation and, for certain types of products, samples need to be provided by the exporter. Processed Meat Products must be registered with the National Meat Inspection Service.

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Annex V.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid CMB control number. The valid CMB control number for this information collection is 0579-0052. The time required to complete the information collection is estimated to average 03 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

PLACESAMPLE

DATE

P 340042

EXPORT CERTIFICATE

PROCESSED PLANT PRODUCTS

NAME AND ADDRESS OF EXPORTER

NAME AND ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE

SAMPLE

SAMPLE

MEANS OF CONVEYANCE

POINT OF ENTRY

DESCRIPTION OF CONSIGNMENT

PRODUCT (Kind, Quantity, and Weight)

SAMPLE

SAMPLE

IDENTIFICATION

SAMPLE

ORIGIN

WARNING: Any alteration, forgery, or unauthorized use of this certificate is subject to civil penalties of up to \$250,000 (7 U.S.C. Section 7734(b)) or punishable by a fine of not more than \$10,000, or imprisonment of not more than 5 years, or both (18 U.S.C. Section 1001).

This is to affirm that, based upon inspection of submitted samples and/or by virtue of processing received, the plant products described above are believed to be free from injurious plant pests.



NAME OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER

SAMPLE

SIGNATURE

No liability shall attach to the United States Department of Agriculture or to any officer or representative of the Department with respect to this certificate.

PPQ FORM 578 SEP 2001 Previous edition dated FEB 2001 may be used.

PART 1 - SHIPPER'S ORIGINAL