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Global Agricultural Information Network

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## **Croatia**

### **Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification**

#### **FAIRS Export Certificate Report**

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**Report Highlights:**

This report provides information on the export certificates required by the Government of Croatia. This annual report was updated in November 2015.

## **Section I. List of All Export Certificates Required By Government (Matrix) :**

Disclaimer: This report was prepared by USDA/FAS' Office of Agricultural Affairs in Zagreb, Croatia, for exporters of U.S. food and agricultural products. While every possible care has been 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 foreign customers, who are 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.

Croatia as a member of the European Union follows the EU directives and regulations. It is therefore recommended that this report be read in conjunction with the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (EU-28 FAIRS) export certificate report produced by the US Mission to the European Union in Brussels, Belgium:

[EU-28 FAIRS Report](#)

or search:

[GAIN Reports](#)

The document requirements for exporting animals, plants and food to the EU are extensive. Appendix 1 of the EU-28 FAIRS export certificate report gives an overview of the required EU health certificates for products imported into or transiting through the European Union. It should be noted, however, that model certificates may not be available for products that have never been exported to the EU before. References to the EU legislation that forms the basis for the health certificate are also provided in the EU-28 FAIRS.

While certification requirements are developed at the EU level, the Member State (MS) inspection service is responsible for enforcement of the EU legislation through inspection of imported goods and the corresponding certificates. Contact information for those services in the Republic of Croatia can be found in Appendix I of this report. Also, FAS Zagreb's website ([FAS Zagreb](#)) has information by product category.

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. Import certificates must be in the official language of Croatia, which is Croatian. For the time being, the English version of certificates is being accepted by the inspection team although it is expected that goods should start arriving with bilingual certificates (English and Croatian).

## **Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)**

Import requirements for animals and animal products are harmonized across the EU in a three-part process. First, the EU must recognize a country as eligible to export a particular animal or animal product. For several products, the EU has lists of approved establishments based on submissions from U.S. government agencies. Only those products processed at approved establishments may enter the EU. The U.S. agencies involved in developing official establishment lists are the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Approved establishments may be subject to EU inspection. All EU-approved establishment lists are available on the [USEU Web](#) and the links for the U.S. agencies can be found below in Section V. Competent Authorities.

The EU imposes a number of general requirements for all veterinary certificates. The U.S. regulatory agencies which issue health certificates (FSIS, APHIS and AMS) have all included pertinent requirements in their export libraries. Lastly, animal or public health certificates based on the model certificates published by the European Union and signed by U.S. officials must accompany all shipments. The U.S. certifying agency will delete any statements in the model certificate that are not applicable.

The EU import requirements for plants and plant products also have been harmonized and are published in a single directive. Unlike veterinary products, there is only one model certificate for all plant products in accordance with international regulations laid out by the International Plant Protection Convention of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (see: <http://ephyto.ippc.int/>). Phytosanitary certificates are issued by APHIS inspectors, who attest to specific requirements of EU legislation by making additional declarations in the relevant boxes.

### **Products Subject/Not Subject to Veterinary Certification – Composite Products**

In order to have a more harmonized Member State application of EU legislation, Commission Decision 2007/275/EC publishes a list of animals and animal products that are subject to veterinary checks. Products subject to veterinary checks typically need to be accompanied by a veterinary certificate, issued by the competent authority in the United States. This regulation also provides clarification on which composite products are subject to veterinary checks.

Composite products are defined 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 lasagna. While the United States is eligible to ship hormone-free meat, dairy products, egg products, and fishery products separately, shipping the composite products that combine these eligible ingredients is a more complicated matter. All composite products containing a processed meat product are subject to a veterinary check. Generally speaking, composite products that have more than 50 percent of animal origin products also require a certificate and there are certification requirements concerning heat treatment for all dairy products. The EU has created a model health certificate for imports of composite products, which was implemented in 2012. A detailed Product Decision Tree to clarify the scope of the legislation was published in 2013. This guidance greatly expanded the number and types of products affected by the legislation.

Commission Decision 2007/275/EC also lists certain composite products that are not subject to veterinary checks, provided they are shelf stable and properly packaged and labeled. These are the following: biscuits; bread; cakes; chocolate; confectionery (including sweets); unfilled gelatin capsules; food supplements packaged for the final consumer containing small amounts of animal product, and those including glucosamine, chondroitin, or chitosan; meat extracts and meat concentrates; olives stuffed with fish; pasta and noodles not mixed or filled with meat product; soup stocks and flavorings packaged for the final consumer, containing meat extracts, meat concentrates, animal fats, or fish oils, powders or extracts ([2007/275/EC, Appendix II](#)).

### **Section III. Specific Attestations Required on Export Certificate(s)**

Whenever the EU publishes model veterinary certificates for use by eligible third country suppliers, US regulatory agencies will cross-out any statement that refers to health situations that are not relevant to the United States.

Certificates for plants and plant products are issued by APHIS inspectors, who attest to the specific requirements of EU and Croatian legislation with the necessary declarations in the space provided on the phytosanitary certificate. These declarations are specific for different plant species and they are subject to change, thus the shipper needs to check before actual export. A list of the current declarations can be found in Croatian in the *Regulation on Measures to Prevent the Introduction and Spread of Organisms Harmful to Plants, Plant Products and Other Supervised Objects with Measures to Control these Organisms* and its amendments at: [NN 74/06](#), [NN 84/10](#), [NN 1210/11](#), [NN 46/14](#), [119/14](#).

A link to the required format in the Official Journal of each export certificate is provided (if available) in Appendix 1.

### **Section IV. Government Certificate's Legal Entry Requirements**

The original version of the certificate must accompany consignments at the point of entry into the EU. Each shipment should be accompanied with an original certificate; that is, certificates cannot apply to multiple shipments. Certificates must normally be drawn up in the language of the country of dispatch (English for the United States) and the Member State (MS) in which the border inspection takes place and the final destination. Member States may agree to accept certificates in another official EU language other than their own.

For Croatian market and border crossings, certificates must be in the official language of the Republic of Croatia, which is Croatian, as well as the MS where the border inspection occurs, if the product is not exported directly to the Republic of Croatia. According to Croatia's "Act on the Import of Food from Third Countries" (NN39/2013); the responsible party in the import procedure must provide the inspectors with the analytical reports and certificates in the Latin alphabet and translated into the Croatian language. However, for the time being, Croatia's inspectorate is accepting English language certificates although it is advised to use bilingual English/Croatian certificates. All the certificates can be found in Croatian on the EU Official Journal website (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html>) under the relevant regulation.

For example: Croatian - <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/Croatian Text>

English - <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/English Text>

## **Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements**

There are no additional Croatian certificates (other than EU certificates) for food products derived from plants and animals.

There is a voluntary aflatoxin certificate for almonds (Pre-Export Checks – PEC for almonds certificate) that may facilitate the border clearance process on the EU level. The EU legislation does not require that treenuts and peanuts be accompanied by an aflatoxin certificate. However, almond shipments with PEC certificate are only randomly sampled upon entry in the EU. The PEC program for aflatoxins, which is voluntary, means that shipments of relevant products accompanied by this certificate should only be subjected to less than 1% controls at the border.

### **U.S. Competent Authorities**

The following is a list of US agencies that issue certificates along with a link to the relevant pages on their websites:

- AMS: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

AMS certification and verification programs support American exporters by ensuring that products meet specific export requirements for countries around the world, including in the European Union (dairy, eggs, pork, non-hormone treated cattle program, etc...).

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/services/imports-exports>

- APHIS: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA

APHIS provides certification relating to animal and plant health diseases and pests.

International Animal Export Regulations and International Animal Products Export Regulations

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/importexport>

Plant Export Services

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/plants/plant\\_exports/index.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/plant_exports/index.shtml)

- FDA: Food and Drug Administration

FDA provides export certificates for food, food additives and seafood if needed.

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/ImportsExports/Exporting/default.htm>

- FSIS: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA

FSIS provides certification for products of animal origin (meat, poultry and eggs).

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs/exporting-products/export-library-requirements-by-country/european-union>

- NOAA: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The NOAA Seafood Inspection Program is the competent authority within the U.S. Government for issuance of certain certificates required for the export of fish and fish products to the European Union (EU).

[http://www.seafood.nmfs.noaa.gov/export/export\\_certification/euexport.html](http://www.seafood.nmfs.noaa.gov/export/export_certification/euexport.html)

### **Croatian Competent Authorities**

- Croatian Border Veterinary Inspection

<http://www.veterinarstvo.hr/>

Government of the Republic of Croatia

Ministry of Agriculture

Planinska ulica 2a,

10000 Zagreb

Veterinary Directorate

Tel. +385 1 6443 540

Fax. +385 1 6443 899

E mail: office@mps.hr

web page: [www.mps.hr](http://www.mps.hr)

- Croatian Border Sanitary Inspection

[http://www.zdravlje.hr/uprava\\_za\\_unaprjedenje\\_zdravlja](http://www.zdravlje.hr/uprava_za_unaprjedenje_zdravlja)

Government of the Republic of Croatia

Ministry of Health

Ksaver 200a

10 000 Zagreb

Directorate for Health Improvement, Sanitary Inspection

Tel. +385 1 4607 622

Fax. +385 1 4607 631

<http://www.zdravlje.hr/>

- Croatian EFSA Focal Point

<http://www.hah.hr/en/>

Croatian Food Agency

I. Gundulića 36b,

31000 Osijek

Croatia

Tel: +385 31 214 900, +385 31 227 600

Fax: +385 31 214 901

e-mail: [info@hah.hr](mailto:info@hah.hr)

### **Appendix I. Electronic Copy or Outline of Each Export Certificate**

There are no additional Croatian certificates (Other than EU certificates) for food products derived from plants and animals for the time being.

The Phytosanitary Certificate:

- List of specific “declarations” for particular plant species:

*the Regulation on Measures to Prevent the Introduction and Spread of Organisms Harmful to Plants, Plant Products and Other Supervised Objects with Measures to Control these Organisms* and its amendments at:

[NN 74/06](#) , [NN 84/10](#) , [NN 1210/11](#) , [NN 46/14](#) , [119/14](#) .