

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

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France

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification

FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:

France as a member of the European Community has implemented EU regulations for the import of animal and plant products. The US export certification requirements for most products destined for the EU have been harmonized, but a few products not yet harmonized are subject to French national regulations.

Author Defined:

Disclaimer : *This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign*

Agricultural Service in Paris, France for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care was 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 PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

France as part of the European Community has implemented EU regulations for the import of products of animal and plant origin and therefore export certification requirements for most products destined for the EU market have been harmonized. For information on the export certifications for the EU market, please see the [USEU Brussels FAIRS Certification report](#) which can be found on their website: <http://www.usda-eu.org/reports/> or on the GAIN Search engine :

<https://gain.fas.usda.gov/Lists/Advanced%20Search/AllItems.aspx>

A few products not yet harmonized are subject to French national regulations. More information on those products can be found in France FAIRS report (FR1803) The competent French authority needs to be consulted on a case-by-case basis to address requirements for non-harmonized products. Imported products must meet existing Member State requirements and products must be accompanied by the proper certification at 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. In France, food safety is the primary responsibility of Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

Contact for Import requirements can be addressed (in French) to

Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation, Direction Générale de l'Alimentation
Service d'inspection vétérinaire et phytosanitaire aux frontières (SIVEP)
Sous Direction des Affaires Sanitaires Européennes et Internationales (SDASEI)
251 rue de Vaugirard 75352 Paris cedex 15 France
Tel : +33(0)1 49 55 81 74 Fax : +33 (0)1 49 55 83 14
Email : sivep.sdasei.dgal@agriculture.gouv.fr

The database for import regulations is available (in French) on :

<https://teleprocedures.franceagrimer.fr/impadon/>

Export certificates must be in the official language of France, therefore in French.

Usually the importer (or possibly an exporter or a freight forwarder) applies to the authority with all relevant details. There is no set form for this kind of application. EU food legislation is translated into the 24 official languages in use in the EU-28 (including French) and is published in the Official Journal. The Eurlex website <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm> provides free access to European Union laws. EU plant and plant product import regulations 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. www.ippc.int/

This report should be read in conjunction with the [EU FAIRS Export Certificate report](#) prepared by the FAS Office in the U.S. Mission to the European Commission (USEU). For additional information on US export certifications for the EU market, please see the USEU Brussels website: <http://www.usda-eu.org/reports/>

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