

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

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## **Honduras**

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

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

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**Report Highlights:**

The Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG) has the National Plant and Animal Health Service (SENASA) as the main regulatory agency responsible for the inspection of all agricultural products that enter Honduras. The Secretariat of Health (MOH) has the General Directorate of Surveillance of the Health Normative Framework (DGVMN) as the responsible agency for the sanitary registration and inspection of processed food products at the retail and wholesale levels. The Certificates requested by SENASA and the DGVMN are described in the report.

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

<b>Product(s)</b>	<b>Title of Certificate</b>	<b>Attestation Required on Certificate</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Requesting Ministry</b>
Live animals	- Export Certificate for Animal Products (APHIS VS form 16-4) - Certificate of Origin	None	Health Certificate	Agriculture
Bovine meat	- Meat and Poultry Export Certificate (FSIS Form 9060-5) - Certificate of Origin	None	Health Certificate	Agriculture
Pork meat	- Meat and Poultry Export Certificate (FSIS Form 9060-5) - Certificate of Origin	None	Health Certificate	Agriculture
Poultry meat	- Meat and Poultry Export Certificate (FSIS Form 9060-5) - Certificate of Origin	Additional declaration indicating that "All fresh/frozen poultry meat, including mechanically deboned meat (MDM), comes from an area free of high or low pathogenic Avian Influenza"	Health Certificate	Agriculture
Dairy Products	- Health/Export Certificate -Certificate of Origin (APHIS (AMS (FDA	None	Health Certificate	Agriculture
Fish and Crustaceans	- Health /Export Certificate (NOAA Form 89-807) - Certificate of Origin	None	Health Certificate	Agriculture
Grains	- Phytosanitary Export Certificate - Certificate of Origin	None	Health Certificate	Agriculture

Fresh fruits and Vegetables	- Phytosanitary Export Certificate (APHIS) - Certificate of Origin	None	Health Certificate	Agriculture
Onions	- Phytosanitary Export Certificate - Certificate of Origin	Free from "Ditylenchus dipsaci"	Health Certificate	Agriculture
Plants and Plant products	- Phytosanitary Export Certificate - Certificate of Origin (APHIS)	None	Health Certificate	Agriculture
Planting Seeds	- Phytosanitary Export Certificate - Certificate of Origin - Quality Certificate	None	Health Certificate	Agriculture
Processed Food Products	- Certificate of Free Sale - Certificate of Origin - Product's Specification Report	None	Health Certificate	Health Agriculture
Sugar	- Certificate of Free Sale - Certificate of Origin	Must have vitamin "A" added	Health Certificate	Health Agriculture
Salt	- Certificate of Free Sale - Certificate of Origin	Must have iodine added	Health Certificate	Health

Honey	- Certificate of Free Sale - Certificate of Origin	Must indicate the bee species	Health Certificate	Health Agriculture
Bottled water	- Certificate of Free Sale - Certificate of Origin - Product's Specification Report	Physical, chemical, biological and microbiological laboratory analysis	Health Certificate	Health

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

Under the United States – Central America – Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR), Honduras recognizes the U.S. inspection services as equivalent to the ones in Honduras. This equivalence eliminates the requirement of a certification by Honduras of the U.S. plant to export to the Honduran market.

The purpose of certificates most widely used is as follows:

**1. Certificate of Origin:** The certificate is from the place where the product was produced or manufactured. Products made in the United States, and shipped from any port must have a certificate indicating the United States as the country of origin. The producer, exporter, or importer could issue the Certificate of Origin.

In the case of products not made in the United States, but distributed by U.S. companies, the United States Chambers of Commerce can issue a Certificate of Origin which indicates the country of origin of the product.

When similar products come from different countries, three options could be used. The first option is to submit separate Certificates of Origin for each country. The second option is to submit the information in the same Certificate of Origin, indicating the quantity of the product that is brought from each country. The third, the Certificate of Origin be issued by competent authority that the product originated. SENASA reports that often importers are confused about “country of origin” and “point of shipping”, this might cause errors in the documents presented for the import permit.

The main purpose of the document is to certify the origin of the product, so that SENASA confirms that the product complies with the sanitary requirements established by Honduras. In addition, the Certificate of Origin states that the product imported originated in the United States, which in turn allows it to receive the preferential tariff treatment agreed upon in CAFTA-DR. Further information can be found on the GAIN Report for Honduras: Exporter Guide Report Number HO1405, Section II. “Demonstrating Eligibility for Preferential Tariff Treatment” at [www.fas.usda.gov](http://www.fas.usda.gov).

**2. Phyto or Zoosanitary Export Certificates:** The certificate aims to protect the sanitary condition of the importing country and acknowledges that the plant or animal product is pest or disease free. In the

case of the United States, depending on the product, SENASA requires that the certificate be issued by the U.S. federal government authority that inspects the conditions of the plant where the product has been produced or processed such as:

- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s: Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) or the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS).
- U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

SENASA has requested that USDA add an Additional Declaration (AD) to the FSIS Certificate (Form 9060-5). Imports of U.S. fresh/frozen and cooked poultry products should indicate that "All fresh/frozen poultry meat, including mechanically deboned meat (MDM), comes from an area free of high or low pathogenic Avian Influenza". The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and APHIS provides updates to SENASA concerning outbreaks by state as well as their current status. However, SENASA has emphasized that it is the importers' as well as the exporters' responsibility to stay abreast of outbreaks so they can assure SENASA of the health status of the area of origination.

Further information can be found at: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs>

**3. Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness:** The certificate officially states that the meat or meat food product is derived from animals that received both ante mortem and postmortem inspections and were found sound and healthy. It also states that the product passed the inspection in compliance with applicable laws and regulations and is wholesome and fit for human consumption. The certificate is issued by USDA FSIS (FSIS form 9060-5). The certificate is required by SAG.

**4. Export Certificate for Animal Products:** The certificate states the names of the animal diseases that do not exist in the United States. It also declares that live animals are healthy with no pests or diseases. The certificate complies with the health regulations of Honduras for the importation of live animals and animal products. The certificate is issued by the USDA's APHIS (VS form 16-4). The certificate is required by SAG. For additional information contact: [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/sa\\_export\\_from\\_us](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/sa_export_from_us).

**5. Export Health Certificate:** The certificate confirms that the product was inspected and found to be in compliance with the applicable regulations. It also certifies that the product was found to be wholesome, edible, and fit for human consumption. In the case of fish and crustaceous exports from the United States, the certificate is issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA form 89-807). The certificate is required by SAG. For additional information contact: [http://www.seafood.nmfs.noaa.gov/Export\\_Certification.html](http://www.seafood.nmfs.noaa.gov/Export_Certification.html).

**6. Certificate of Free Sale:** This annual certificate indicates that the exporter has permit to produce, manufacture, distribute and pack food products for human consumption. It states that the plant where the product has been produced or processed is regularly inspected for compliance with all health and

sanitation requirements. It also certifies that the products are freely sold and consumed in the United States, as well as exported. The certificate is issued by the appropriate state-level health authorities or the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

The certificate is requested to register the processed food product with the DGVMN. For registration purposes, the Free Sale Certificate (FSC) should be accompanied by a document that provides an endorsement of the signatures that appear on the FSC. This document can be any of the following:

- a. An Apostille. It is a form issued by the designated state or health authorities of the state of origin of the FSC. The Apostille certifies that the FSC has been signed by a notary public of the state of origin of the FSC. The exporter or importer acquires the translation of the FSC and the Apostille. Afterwards, the importer should bring the translation of both documents for review and certification of the Translation Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the capital city of Honduras.
- a. An “*Autentica*” – notarized document. If an exporter cannot obtain an Apostille, he could request an *Autentica* from the FSC at the nearest Honduras Consulate in the United States. The Consulate will translate the document/form into Spanish and then provide an initial *Autentica*. The importer must bring the document to the Autentica Section at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the capital city of Honduras for final approval.

**7. Quality Certificate:** The certificate is issued by the Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA), an organization of member laboratories. Members include official state, federal, and university seed laboratories across the United States. SENASA requires that the analysis reflected in the certificate state that the seed has a germination of no less than 85 percent and that the seed analysis is no longer than six months. For additional information contact: [www.aosaseed.com](http://www.aosaseed.com).

**Product’s Specification Report.** The DGVMN requests a report for registering the product. The report provides qualitative and quantitative specifications of the processed product related to its ingredients. The information consists of organoleptic, physical, chemical, biological, and microbiological specifications of the processed product and its compliance with international food safety standards. The report is issued by the producer or manufacturing company of the product. An official translation of the report should be provided from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Honduras.

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

The certificates and attestation (declaration) listed in Section II; above provide information needed by SENASA and the DGVMN to comply with the import requirements of Honduras. Some specific attestations, however, will be requested when the animal or plant health conditions of the exporter country changes. SENASA indicates that it is the responsibility of the importer, as well as the exporter to keep updated on any animal or plant pests or diseases outbreaks. A detailed outline of the content of export certificates is provided in Appendix I of this report.

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

The legal entry requirements of imports of food and agricultural products are the following:

1. The product should have an import permit before entering the country. The permit is submitted by the importer to SENASA. The import permit request should be accompanied with a copy of the Phyto or Zoosanitary Certificate, Certificate of Origin, and Pro-Form Invoice. The request should be clear, with the same amounts, description, origin, and point of shipping in all documents.
2. The import permit process in SENASA takes from 24 to 72 hours if all documents are in order. The permit is applied to one shipment and is valid for 30 days. In case the permit is not used within 30 days of issuance, the importer requests a renewal five days before or five days after the expiration date of the import permit. SENASA will renew the import permit for an additional 30 days. However, after five days of the expiration date the importer has to submit a new import permit application. For additional information, please see the following GAIN Reports for Honduras: Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) Country Report Number HO1407; and Exporter Guide Report Number HO1405.
3. The original import permit approved by SENASA, and the original Phyto or Zoosanitary Certificate need to accompany the product at the time of entry. The compliance of requirements indicated on the import permit are reviewed such as: if the Additional Declarations requested is included in the Phyto or Zoosanitary Certificates, if the country of origin of the product is the one authorized on the import permit; and if it is the same origin in the label of the product entering the country.
4. SENASA does not accept a Suppliers or Manufacturers Export Declaration as proof of compliance.
5. Additional supporting papers during the inspection to collate data of the shipment's content and the documents submitted are: copies of the Bill of Lading, Commercial invoice and the Packing list. This help to streamline the entry process.

For further information, please see the following Honduras GAIN reports: Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) Country Report Number HO1407; and Exporter Guide Report Number HO1405 at [www.fas.usda.gov](http://www.fas.usda.gov) or contact FAS Tegucigalpa at [agtegucigalpa@fas.usda.gov](mailto:agtegucigalpa@fas.usda.gov).

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

Additional import requirements can be found in the Honduras GAIN Report: Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) Country Report Number HO1407 at [www.fas.usda.gov](http://www.fas.usda.gov) under Attaché Reports.

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

#### **Outline of Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness: (FSIS Form 9060-5)**

1. District Office
2. Country of destination
3. MPH number

4. Exported by (Applicant's name and address including ZIP code)
5. Establishment/Plant number
6. City
7. Consigned to (Name and address including ZIP code)
8. Total marked net weight
  1. Total containers
  2. Product as labeled
  3. Marked weight of lot
  4. Number of packages in lot
  5. Shipping marks
  6. Establishment/Plant number on product
  7. Remarks
  8. Inspector and District

**Outline of Health Certificate - Export Certificate - Animal products  
(APHIS VS form 16-4):**

1. Name and address of exporter
2. Name and address of consignee
3. Product (quantity, unit of measure, and kind)
4. Identification
5. Conveyance

**Outline of Certificate of Quality and Condition (Processed foods):**

1. Applicant
2. Address
3. Receiver or buyer
4. Address
5. Source of samples
6. Product inspected
7. Marks on containers
8. Principal label marks
9. Condition
10. Remarks
11. Address of inspection office
12. Signature of inspector

**Outline of Certificate of Free Sale, Health and Sanitation:**

1. Product/consumable item
2. Description
3. Weight
4. Quantity

**Outline of Export Health Certificate:  
(NOAA Form 89-807)**

1. Issuing office



2. Exported by (Applicant's name and address)
3. Consigned to (Name and address)
4. Shipped via
5. Port of embarkation
6. Port of debarkation
7. Identifying marks
8. Total containers
9. Total marked weight
10. Product
11. Class, type, style
12. Lot No. and code
13. Container size
14. No. cases
15. Lot weight
16. Label brand
17. Results – Remarks
18. Signature of inspector/Inspector No.
19. Official Stamp (Containers stamped with this mark)

**Author Defined:**

The Honduran Government (GOH) institutions involved in the importation of food and agricultural products are the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG) and the Secretariat of Health (MOH). SAG has the National Plant and Animal Health Service (SENASA) as its main regulatory agency. SENASA is responsible for the inspection of all agricultural products that enter Honduras.

The MOH agency responsible for regulations of foods products approved to be sold in Honduras was previously known as the Sanitary Regulation Directorate (SRD). The GOH changed the name of SRD to the “General Directorate of Surveillance of the Health Normative Framework” (Dirección General de Vigilancia del Marco Normativo en Salud) (DGVMN). The objective of the DGVMN is to secure the safety of processed food products that are sold to consumers, through sanitary registration, surveillance, and inspection of such products at the retail and wholesale levels.

Generally, import regulations and export certificate requirements describe and/or attest to animal and plant health or product safety, production, or processing methods. They attest to the status of the manufacturing or packaging establishment producing the food. Requesting a certificate is also geared toward avoiding fraud in transactions dealing with food and agricultural products, as well as protecting the agriculture and economic interests of Honduras in both the domestic and international food and agricultural products trade.