

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Italy

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification

FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:

Italy as part of the European Community has implemented EU regulations for the import of products of animal and plant origin. The US export certification requirements for most products destined for the EU have been harmonized. The few products not yet harmonized are subject to Italian national regulations. For information on the export certifications for the EU market, please see the USEU Brussels report which can be found on their website: <http://www.usda-eu.org/reports/>

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DISCLAIMER: the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Rome, Italy prepared this report 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.

Italy as part of the European Community has implemented EU regulations for the import of products of animal and plant origin. The export certification requirements for most products destined for the EU market have been harmonized. The few products not yet harmonized are subject to Italian national regulations. The competent Italian 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 Italy, food safety is the primary responsibility of the Italian Ministry of Health, while food production is the primary responsibility of the Italian Ministry of Agriculture.

Export certificates must be in the official language of Italy, which is Italian. The import of special products like blood, blood products, and non-human primate samples must be approved by the Italian Ministry of Health. Usually the importer (or possibly the US exporter) applies to the Ministry with all the 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 Italian) 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/IPPEn/default.htm

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/>

Responsible Authorities for Health Certificates - Food and Animal Products:

Italian Ministry of Health

Direzione Generale per l'Igiene Alimenti e la Nutrizione
Via Giorgio Ribotta 5,
00144 Roma
Tel: +39 06 5994
<http://www.ministerosalute.it>

Plant Products:

Italian Ministry of Agriculture
Via XX Settembre 20
00187 Roma
Tel: +39 06 46651
<http://www.politicheagricole.it>

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