

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## Mexico

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

### FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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**Report Highlights:**

This report identifies export certificates presently issued by the competent United States government agencies, to comply with Mexican import standards and regulations or to attest that the corresponding agricultural products are subject to U.S. regulation. There are no significant changes to certificate requirements since Post's 2013 FAIRS report. However, the reader should keep in mind that at the time of revising this report: USDA agencies and Mexican officials continue to discuss how to fully implement electronic certificates, and APHIS has new nomenclature in the health certificate for live animals.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document was prepared by the Agricultural Trade Office of the Foreign Agricultural Service in Monterrey, Mexico. The objective of this document is to provide U.S. exporters with updated information on current certificates issued by government agencies of the United States, required by Mexican authorities, in order to export agricultural products and food into Mexico. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be complete and the information may have been updated since publication. Policies may have changed since this report was prepared, or clear and consistent information about these policies may not have been available at the time of report preparation. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their customers in Mexico, 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 MEXICAN BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.**

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

<b>Product</b>	<b>Title of Certificate</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Requesting Ministry</b>
All products	NAFTA Certificate of Origin	Product Origin/Preferential Tariff Treatment	Secretariat of the Treasury and Public Credit (SHCP)/Aduanas (Customs)
Meat and Poultry Products	FSIS Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness and Related Letterhead Certificates	Animal Health/Food Safety/Free Sale Certificate	Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA)
Animal Casings	FSIS Animal Casings Export Certificate	Health Certificate	Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA)
Animal Products for Human Consumption (e.g., Dairy, Gelatin, Food Preparations Containing Less than 2 percent meat ingredients)	Export Certificate for Animal Products	Health Certificate	Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA)
Animal Feeds/Foods and Animal-origin items for manufacturing (e.g., animal fats; feed additives; balanced pet foods; etc. containing animal inputs)	APHIS Export Certificate for Animal Products (Animal Feeds, Foods, and Products for Industrial Use)  **Note: Feeds with no animal content do not require an APHIS certificate	Health Certificate	Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA)
Table Eggs, Pasteurized Eggs, and Eggs for Industrial Use	AMS Shell Egg Certificate and Disease Free Statement	Grading and Health Certificate	Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA)
Hatching Eggs	APHIS Hatching Eggs Protocol and Health Certificate	Health Certificate	Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA)
Live Animals and Germplasm (e.g., Breeding Cattle; Horses for Slaughter; Swine, Sheep, and Goat Semen)	APHIS International Health Certificate	Health Certificate	Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA)
Fish and Processed Fish Products	Export Health Certificate and Certificate of Origin (NOAA / National Marine Fisheries Service)	Health Certificate	Federal Commission for the Protection Against Sanitary Risk (COFEPRIS) / Secretariat of Health
Crustaceans: Lobster, King Crab, Crayfish, Shrimp (Frozen, Chilled, or Raw)	Export Health Certificate and Certificate of Origin (NOAA / National Marine Fisheries Service)	Health Certificate	Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA)
Wood products and processed wood products	APHIS Phytosanitary Certificate-Plant Protection and Quarantine	Health Certificate	Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT)

Plant and plant products – fruits and vegetables	APHIS Phytosanitary Certificate-Plant Protection and Quarantine	Health Certificate	Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA)
Egg and Egg Food Products	Food Preparations as it pertains to Egg Products (AMS)	Sanitation Certificate	Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA)
Grocery Food Items, Frozen Foods  Processed products:	Certificate of Free Sale *HTS defines type of document required For example canned beans with meat containing meat require USDA certificate  Certificate of Health or Sanitation and/or Certificate of Free Sale. Note: For some products a quality control certificate issued by the manufacturer is accepted *HTS defines the required documentation	Health certificate	COFEPRIS- Federal Commission for Protection Against Sanitary Risks of the Secretariat of Health (SSA).  Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA)

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

### North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Certificate of Origin

This is a trilaterally agreed upon form used by Canada, the United States, and Mexico to certify that goods qualify for the preferential tariff treatment accorded by NAFTA. The Certificate of Origin must be completed by the exporter and is required by the Mexican Treasury Secretariat's Customs offices.

This document certifies that the listed products originated in the territory of the exporting company and comply with the origin requirements specified for those goods. A sample is available on the U.S. government export portal: [http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/aes/exporttraining/videos/nafta\\_cert\\_of\\_origin.pdf](http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/aes/exporttraining/videos/nafta_cert_of_origin.pdf)

### Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness

The Meat and Poultry Export Certificate is issued by the Field Operation Staff of the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), USDA. This document certifies that the meat products included in the shipment are from animals that received both ante mortem and postmortem inspection and were found sound and healthy. In the case of poultry and poultry products, this document certifies that the birds were officially inspected and are wholesome and fit for human consumption. This document is issued to the exporter and also includes the general data of the consignee. Other data included in the form are the district office, country of destination, folio number, plant number and city, type of facility, total marked net weight, total containers, and products as labeled with their individual market weight, number of packages and plant number. The slaughter date, packing date, and lot number are included in the remarks section of the certificate. The name of the species on the product description line is also required (for example, hot dogs, beef, pork, or turkey). There are various sanitary statements required in the remarks section, as well.

The complete volume of required attestations are listed in the Mexican Import Requirement Sheet or Hoja de Requisitos Zoosanitarios (HRZs) for any given product. The reader should be aware that FSIS is periodically modifying the Letterhead Certificates for certain poultry, beef, pork, sheep and goat and multiple species products and their derivative products (e.g. offals and edible tallows) in order to comply with SENASICA's Import and Export General Directorate new dispositions. These Letterhead Certificates have been posted on USDA's FSIS Export Library- Requirements by Country and the Spanish requirements are posted on SENASICA's website under the Modulo de Consulta de Requisitos Zoosanitarios para la Importacion (MCRZI).

### Animal Casings Export Certificate

The FSIS issued animal casings health certificate certifies that the animal casings were derived from animals that received USDA ante-mortem and post-mortem veterinary inspection at the time of slaughter and that the casings are sound, healthful, wholesome, and otherwise fit for human food as required by the Mexican Zoosanitary Health Requirements sheet (known as HRZ in Spanish) issued by SENASICA. In addition to this form which is known as FSIS Form 9060-7, an FSIS issued Letterhead Certificate for Pork Casings is required to accompany shipments (see Documentation Requirements section D. Pork Products numeral 8). This Letterhead Certificate attests among other things that the United States is a country free of classical swine fever (hog cholera).

### Export Certificate for Animal Products (Human Consumption and Animal Feed/Food)

International health certificates for the export of animal products for human consumption as well as for animal feed and certain industrial products containing animal components are issued by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). These certificates are completed by an accredited veterinarian on VS Form 16-4 and, if necessary, VS Form 16-4A, with the appropriate and required attestations for food safety and animal health. Complete and signed international health certificates must be endorsed by a USDA/APHIS Veterinary Services area office in order to be valid.

For more information on Mexican SENASICA regulations for animal products for human consumption, visit APHIS website for International Animal Product Export Requirements. From that site, interested participants can view the requirements for: Complements, supplements, additives, and flavorings (bovine and porcine gelatin and blood ingredients) for human consumption; Food preparations with less than 2 percent meat ingredients for human consumption; Gelatin and collagen: Hydrolized bovine bone-derived gelatins for human consumption; Gelatin and collagen: Hydrolized proteins (bovine skin-derived gelatin and collagen) for human consumption; and Milk and dairy: Milk and/or Dairy Products (Bovine Origin) for Human Consumption. In addition, from that site, interested participants can view the requirements for: Animal fats for animal feeding or industrial uses; Animal feeds and food: Balanced animal feeds (not including dogs and cats); Animal feeds and food: Balanced feeds containing porcine and poultry ingredients and intended for aquatic species; Animal feeds and food: Balanced pet foods for dogs and cats; Animal feeds and food: Pet Treats and Similar Products Not Containing Animal Product Ingredients; Animal origin hormones for animal use or manufacturing; Blood and Blood Products for Diagnostics and Research, including Fetal Bovine Serum; Bovine and porcine blood products for animal feeding; Complements, supplements, additives and flavorings (bovine and porcine gelatin and blood ingredients) for human consumption; Feathers; Feed Additives with Aquatic Animal Ingredients for Animal Feeding;

Hides and skins: Cervid Hides and Skins for manufacturing; Hides and skins: Limed bovine hides and skins for manufacturing or animal feeding; Hides and skins: Salted Bison/Bovine Hides and Skins for Manufacturing Purposes; Hides and skins: Salted Ostrich Hides and Skins for Manufacturing Purposes; Hides and skins: Salted Porcine Hides and Skins for Manufacturing Purposes; Hides and skins: Salted Rawhide for Manufacturing Purposes; Hides and skins: Salted Sheep and Goat Pelts and Skins; Dairy products for animal feeding; Pig bristles; Porcine pancreatin; Processed Egg Products for Animal Feeding; Rendered Meals;

Rendered Meals: Porcine and/or poultry meals also containing fish meals; Swine offal (meat, offal, viscera, and pastes) for pet food manufacturing; and Trophy materials (unfinished).

### Shell Egg Grading Certificate

Shell eggs (fresh and pasteurized) exported to Mexico must be accompanied with signed affidavit issued by an accredited veterinarian that the source flocks show no evidence of communicable avian diseases.

This can be done on the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Certificate Disease Free Statement and on the AMS Form PY210S Shell Egg Grading Certificate as required by SENASICA. For information on the required attestations, visit the AMS website for Export Requirements for Mexico.

### Hatching Eggs Protocol and Health Certificate

For the importation of hatching eggs into Mexico, SENASICA requires a health certificate attesting to the health and origin, including sampling and testing procedures specified in the voluntary National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP). This certificate is issued by APHIS. For more information, visit the APHIS International Animal Export Regulations website and the specific language in the Hatching Eggs Protocol.

### Health Certificates for Live Animals and Germplasm

Mexican import regulations for live animals and germplasm stipulate that a health certificate must be presented to SAGARPA SENASICA officials at port of entry. APHIS issues international health certificates for the export of animals from the United States. These are completed by an accredited veterinarian who certifies herd and animal health status, conducts tests, and records test results for the individual animals being exported. Complete and signed international health certificates for the export of animals from the United States must be endorsed by a Veterinary Services area office in order to be valid. For more information on U.S.-Mexico live animal protocols and Mexico's import regulations, please see the International Animal Export Regulations website. From that site, interested participants can view the requirements for: Breeding Cattle – Protocol and Health Certificate; Rodeo Bulls on Temporary Exportation from the United States; Bovine Semen Health Certificate; Bovine Embryos/Oocytes Health Certificate; Horses for temporary entry (sport, exhibition, transit); Horses for permanent entry; Horses returning to Mexico after temporary entry to the United States; Horses (slaughter); Birds Protocol and Health Certificate; Adult Gallinaceous Birds – protocol and health certificate; Wild Birds for Breeding and Exhibition; Sheep and Goats (Slaughter) – Protocol and Health Certificate; Caprine semen; Ovine semen; Swine semen Protocol and Health Certificate; Swine slaughter Protocol and Health Certificate; Swine breeding Protocol and Health Certificate. In addition to the above mentioned Protocols and certificates, there are also certificates for pets (dogs, cats, ferrets, birds, and aquatic species) along with other animals (including zoological animals).

### Export Health Certificate and Certificate of Origin (NOAA)

Mexico's import regulations for seafood products require that exporters present an export certificate attesting to health and origin of the product. This certificate is issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce/NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). NOAA's Seafood Inspection Program offers export certification to facilitate trade of seafood products that meet the requirements of the importing country. NOAA certifies that the products presented for inspection are from the United States, comply with U.S. regulations, and are wholesome. At present SAGARPA regulates the import of crustaceans such as lobsters, crabs, crayfish and shrimps. Other seafood products, including processed products, have to comply with import regulations established by COFEPRIS. Importers should consult the HTS to verify specific regulations. For additional information on the NOAA Seafood Inspection Program and NOAA certificates visit the following links:

[http://www.seafood.nmfs.noaa.gov/Export\\_Certification.html](http://www.seafood.nmfs.noaa.gov/Export_Certification.html)

[http://www.seafood.nmfs.noaa.gov/EU\\_Certificates.html](http://www.seafood.nmfs.noaa.gov/EU_Certificates.html)

For detailed requirements and COFEPRIS import regulations see: <http://www.cofepris.gob.mx>

#### Phytosanitary Certificate-Plant Protection and Quarantine-PPQ

Mexico requires a phytosanitary certificate attesting to the health of plants and unprocessed plant products. This certificate is available through APHIS. The phytosanitary certificate is issued by the Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) office to the exporter. This document certifies that plants or plant products, including wood and processed wood products, have been inspected and/or tested according to appropriate procedures, are considered to be free from quarantine pests, and conform to the current phytosanitary requirements of the importing country. For more information, visit the following links: [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/plants/plant\\_exports/export\\_certificates\\_forms.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/plant_exports/export_certificates_forms.shtml)  
[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/plants/manuals/index.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/index.shtml)  
[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/plants/plant\\_exports/faqs.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/plant_exports/faqs.shtml)

#### Egg and Egg Food Products Sanitation Certificate

Mexico requires a zoosanitary certificate (health certificate) for food products containing eggs or egg ingredients. For egg products produced by a facility/plant under FSIS supervision, FSIS can provide export certification.

For egg products and egg food preparations produced by a facility/plant audited by the Grading Services of AMS, AMS can provide export certification. Points 26-31 in Mexico's HRZ for Food Preparations for Human Consumption (098-13-241-USA-USA) refer to these products to be covered by AMS certificate. For egg food products produced by a facility that is not inspected by FSIS or audited by AMS, please refer the exporter to AMS for guidance on export certification. Questions about the certification of egg food products exporters should be referred to Will Stone, email [William.Stone@ams.usda.gov](mailto:William.Stone@ams.usda.gov) or telephone 202-720-3100.

#### Certificate of Free Sale / Certificate of Health or Sanitation for Processed Products

Mexico's Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risk (COFEPRIS) import regulations stipulate that the importer (or, Mexican customs broker) must present a certificate of health or sanitation in order to obtain an import permit or a previous import notification from COFEPRIS. This document is issued by several state and federal government agencies and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) certified laboratories. It assures the authorities of the importing country that the products comply with U.S. requirements and are sold freely in the market of the country of origin. Health certificates must be issued by a U.S. Federal or State government health office. To learn more about product specifications and corresponding Mexican import regulations, exporters should consult the specific Harmonized Tariff System. For more information regarding COFEPRIS import regulations and import permits visit:

<http://www.cofepris.gob.mx>

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

Specific attestations required for the export of any food and agricultural products to Mexico from the United States can be referenced by visiting the appropriate certificates as mentioned in the section, above.

Meat, poultry, and egg products under FSIS authority can be found at the following USDA/FSIS website:

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

Information regarding the export of table eggs that are under an AMS program can be found at the following site:

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=stelprdc5093460>

Information regarding the export of hatching eggs can be found at:

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/animal\\_faq.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/animal_faq.shtml)

Additional information on the regulations and Mexico's necessary assessments for the export of live animals and APHIS-regulated animal products can be obtained from the following APHIS websites:

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/animal\\_mexico.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/animal_mexico.shtml)

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/products/product\\_mexico.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/products/product_mexico.shtml)

Additional information on how to obtain APHIS export certificates for plants and plant products can be obtained in the APHIS Export Program Manual at:

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/plants/manuals/domestic/downloads/xpm.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/domestic/downloads/xpm.pdf)

Note: The reader should take into consideration that FSIS and APHIS are transitioning to electronic export certification and thus formats and identification marks may vary from what is currently in use.

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

##### **Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness**

The document is not valid unless signed by an inspector of the USDA/FSIS Meat and Poultry Inspection Program, listing the name and the date. An original of the document is required and can be valid for multiple lots if the shipments enter at the same time at the port of entry.

##### **Phytosanitary Certificate-Plant Protection and Quarantine-PPQ**

An original of this document is required by Mexican Customs and can be valid for multiple lots if the shipments enter at the same time at the port of entry.

##### **APHIS Health Certificate for Animal Products**

In order to be valid, this document must be signed by a USDA/APHIS Veterinary Services official. An original of the document has to accompany each shipment presented for inspection.

##### **Certificate for Poultry or Hatching Eggs for Export**

The original certificate must be presented upon arrival to the inspection point at port of entry.

##### **International Health Certificate for Live Animals**

An original of this document is required and must be completed and signed by a USDA/APHIS Veterinary DVM. This certificate is valid for multiple lots if the shipments arrive at the same time for inspection at the corresponding livestock export pen on the U.S. side of the border.

##### **Certificate of Free Sale**

On July 25, 2007, Mexico's Secretariat of Agriculture posted revised requirements in the Federal

Animal Health Law for certificates of free sale for certain animal feeds, including pet food. Currently, exporters are required to present an original certificate of free sale upon entry of the product. For some products, SAGARPA will accept an original affidavit letter from the manufacturer indicating that the product is freely sold in the United States. For other products, Mexico requires a certificate issued by state health offices. Supplier or manufacturer export declarations are not accepted as proof of compliance.

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

For more information on food standards and regulations, please consult the 2014 Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Report for Mexico.

#### **Author Defined:**

For More Information

FAS/Mexico Web Site: We may be found at [www.mexico-usda.com](http://www.mexico-usda.com) or visit the FAS headquarters home page at [www.fas.usda.gov](http://www.fas.usda.gov) for a complete selection of FAS worldwide agricultural reporting.

Useful Mexican Web Sites: Mexico's government agency equivalent to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (SAGARPA) can be found at [www.sagarpa.gob.mx](http://www.sagarpa.gob.mx); the equivalent to the U.S. Department of Commerce (SE) can be found at [www.economia.gob.mx](http://www.economia.gob.mx) and the equivalent to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (SALUD) can be found at [www.salud.gob.mx](http://www.salud.gob.mx). The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) which regulates imports of forestry products including seeds and wood products can be found at: [www.semarnat.gob.mx](http://www.semarnat.gob.mx). Mexico's Agency for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA), which also inspects imported wood products, can be found at [www.profepa.gob.mx](http://www.profepa.gob.mx). Mexico's Customs Agency (ADUANAS, can be found at: [www.aduanas.gob.mx](http://www.aduanas.gob.mx). These web sites are mentioned for the readers' convenience but USDA does NOT in any way endorse, guarantee the accuracy of, or necessarily concur with, the information contained on the mentioned sites.