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GAIN Report

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Spain

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification

FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:

This report only focuses on Spanish specific certification requirements when they differ or are additional to EU-harmonized certification. This report should be read in conjunction with the [EU-28 FAIRS Export Certificate report](#) prepared by the FAS Office in the U.S. Mission to the European Commission (USEU).

Disclaimer: This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Madrid, Spain 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 confirm requirements with local authorities, before any goods are shipped.

FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

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General information

As an EU member since 1986, Spain applies EU harmonized regulations on export certificates for plant or animal products whether or not they are intended for human consumption. However, in the absence of an EU-harmonized certificate, Spain may **require certain specific health certificates and occasionally the lack of specific details in the governing regulation also provides significant leeway for border inspectors to interpret.**

Competent authorities on certificates vary depending on the type of products. While the Ministry of Health, Social Welfare and Gender Equality (MSSSI) is responsible for all products intended for human consumption, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment (MAGRAMA) is responsible for agricultural products for purposes other than human consumption.

There are a number of border inspections points in Spain that carry out [plant health inspection](#) (MAGRAMA) and veterinary inspection for products [intended](#) (MSSSI) and animal products [not intended](#) (MAGRAMA) for human consumption.

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

The imports of animal origin products, for purposes other than food (including live animals, semen, ovules and embryos) are subject to specific Spanish certification requirements. There is also a specific certificate for used kitchen oil intended for use in biodiesel production. All models of Import Certificates that are not harmonized at the EU level can be found in the [Ministry's website](#). Forms can be obtained also in the following links (certificates are bilingual):

Product
ALIVE ARTHROPODS (INSECTS AND ARACHNIDS) AND THEIR EGGS TO BREED
REPTILES EGGS
LIVE SNAILS FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES
FELINE SPERM BRED IN CAPTIVITY
REPTILE SKINS
SEMEN OF RODENTS FOR EXPERIMENTATION
NON-UNGULATES AND NON-BIRDS WILD GAME TROPHIES
ANNELIDS FOR FISHING BAIT
INVERTEBRATES DESTINED TO ORNAMENTAL CLOSED FACILITIES
REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS
SEMEN FROM CETACEOUS
BRINE ANS SHRIMP AND THEIR EGGS WITH ORNAMENTAL PURPOSES
USED KITCHEN OIL INTENDED TO BIODIESEL PRODUCTION¹
DECLARATION FOR THE IMPORT INTO SPAIN OF FISHING BAITS
ANIMAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE TO IMPORT CANINE SPERM INTO SPAIN
ANIMAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR THE IMPORT INTO SPAIN OF RODENTS TO EXPERIMENTATION
ANIMAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR THE IMPORT INTO SPAIN OF RODENT EMBRYOS FOR EXPERIMENTATION

Source: MAGRAMA (Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment)

The above listed Veterinary Certificates, requested by the MAGRAMA (Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment), require the signature of an Official Veterinarian.

¹ *Cooking oil intended for biodiesel production can be imported under the requirements set by Spain since no harmonized requirements have been established yet. No declaration of processing method is required for this type of product.*

Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

With the exception of specific requirements identified in this report, imports of food and agricultural products into Spain are not subject to special certification other than that of the European Union. European Union legislation calls for many health and supervisory requirements that are meant to guarantee that imports meet the standards of production in Member States.

Spain, as an EU Member State, follows all rules and regulations that govern food legislation, including certification, within the European Union. While certification requirements are developed at the EU level, Spanish authorities are responsible for the enforcement of the regulations. Nevertheless, it is important to note that when EU-wide legislation is incomplete, not harmonized or absent, Spain might require certain specific health certificates as identified in the **Section I** Table. Additionally, sometimes applicable regulations provide significant leeway for border inspectors to interpret.

Certification requirements are developed at the EU level. However, Member State inspection services are responsible for enforcement. Spain is among the most vigilant of EU Member States with respect to enforcement of the import requirements. While purely administrative mistakes such as minor typographic mistakes can sometimes be rectified, a zero tolerance policy can be assumed for those mistakes that affect the identity and traceability of the shipment (e.g. wrong establishment number). According to General Principles for Certification, the certificate must be issued before the consignment to which it relates leaves the control of the competent authority of the country of dispatch. As a consequence, Spain's Authorities have no tolerance for health certificates issued after the day of shipping.

For additional information on EU-Harmonized Certification Requirements, please consult the [EU-28 FAIRS Export Certificate Report](#). Under this report, you may find information on the U.S. competent authority that is authorized to issue the food and agricultural import certificates required by the EU. This report can also be accessed through the [FAS website](#). An overview of legally required certificates in the EU and references to the U.S. authority issuing these certificates is available at in the [USEU website](#).

For more information on food standards and regulations, please consult the [Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standard Report for the EU-28](#).

Special Import Permits

- **Samples without Commercial value to Spain**

For sanitary reasons, food products imported into the EU, even if they are not intended for commercial sale, must meet certain requirements on food hygiene and animal health. On September 2011 Spain's Ministry of Health, Social Services and Gender Equality (MSSSI) implemented a procedure to authorize the import of samples of food products for human consumption without commercial value. To guarantee the access of samples without commercial value, prior or at the arrival of the product, the Common Entry Document ([CED](#)) has to be presented and filled in specifying "Other" in the "For internal market" field. Other required documents include a copy of the invoice, documentation proving the non-commercial destination of the product (trade show information or research institute to which the samples are shipped), and the original [Declaration of Destination](#).

Further details about requirements to import samples and to send parcels with food items to Spain can be found at the following [link](#) (Information only available in Spanish language).

- **Imports of biological material**

The import of biological material has to be approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment (MAGRAMA) or the Ministry of Health depending on the nature of the potential risk. In those cases where the biological material could potentially pose a threat in human health, the MOH will be responsible for the import approval. In those cases where the potential risk would affect to animal health, the Ministry of Agriculture (MAGRAMA) will oversee the import.

In those imports under MAGRAMA's rule, only an import permit is required. On February 2012 the MAGRAMA reviewed the procedure to authorize the import of biological material of animal origin for research purposes. More detailed information can be found in the [link](#) (Information only available in Spanish language) as well as the pertaining [form](#) to request the import permit to the competent authority (Sub directorate General for Sanitary Agreements and Border Control).

The request must be prior to the arrival of the goods to the Border Inspection Post (BIP). Otherwise, they may be retained until the end of the process. The importing researcher investigator must complete the import of biological material for research form and present it to the competent authority.

According to Royal Decree 65/2006, those non-commercial biological material imports under MOH rule, an import authorization is required. The importer/exporters may request the authorization to the following email address mbiologicas@msssi.es. More detailed information can be found in the [link](#) (Information only available in Spanish language) as well as the pertaining forms necessary to request the import authorization to the competent authorities (Dirección General de Salud Pública, Calidad e

Innovación).

- **Imports of planting seeds to Spain**

To import planting seeds to Spain a request has to be submitted by the local importer to Spain's Plant Varieties Authorities. Forms for notification or authorization, [forms](#) are available in the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment website. Additional information can be found in the [link](#) (Information only available in Spanish language).

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment

Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente

Planting Seeds and Nursery Products (import requirements, seed registration and certification, and commercial seed catalogs)

Oficina Española de Variedades Vegetales

C/ Almagro 33, 7a

28010 Madrid

Tel.: +34-91-347-6659

Fax: +34-91-347-6703

Website: <http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/agricultura/temas/medios-de-produccion/semillas-y-plantas-de-vivero/>

Email: oevv@magrama.es

- **Imports of zoo and circus animals to Spain**

To import zoo animals to Spain a request using the official [form](#) (page 2) should be addressed to the Subdirector General for Sanitary Agreements and Border Control (by email to sgsveget@magrama.es or by FAX to 91 347 82 48).

The requests are studied individually and potential risks are assessed. If import of the animals is deemed appropriate, an import license would be issued. Additional documentation such as an international animal health certificate could be required. More information can be found in the [link](#) (page 1) (only available in Spanish language).

Responsible Authorities for Health and Veterinary Certificates:

While the Ministry of Health and Social Services and Gender Equality (MSSSI) provides information on imports of products intended for human consumption, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment (MAGRAMA) is responsible for agricultural products for purposes other than human

consumption.

Ministry of Health and Social Services and Gender Equality

Ministerio de Sanidad, Servicios Sociales e Igualdad
Dirección General de Salud Pública, Calidad e Innovación
Subdirección General de Sanidad Exterior
Paseo del Prado, 18 and 20
28014 Madrid
Tel.: +34-91-596-1000
Fax: +34-91-596-4480
Website: <http://www.msssi.es>
E-mail : saniext@msssi.es; areacim@msssi.es

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment

Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente
Dirección General de la Sanidad de la Producción Agraria
Sub directorate General for Sanitary Agreements and Border Control
Almagro, 33. 3ª planta
28071 Madrid
Tel.: +34-91-347-8241
Fax: +34-91-347-8248
Website: <http://www.magrama.gob.es/app/CPRP/CPRP1.aspx>
Email: sgsveget@magrama.es

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

See Section II. For additional information, please consult the [EU-28 FAIRS Export Certificate Report](#).

Section IV. Government Certificate's Legal Entry Requirements

See Section II. For additional information, please consult the [EU-28 FAIRS Export Certificate Report](#).

Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements

The use of special required certification may also affect the control regime upon import. For instance, almonds must be accompanied by a Voluntary Aflatoxin Sampling Program – VASP certificate issued by laboratories approved for the VASP program. The presence of such certificate determines the

percentage of shipments tested upon entry in the EU.

See Section II. For additional information, please consult the latest [EU-28 FAIRS Export Certificate Report](#).

Appendix I. Electronic Copy or Outline of Each Export Certificate

See Section I. For additional information, please consult the latest [EU-28 FAIRS Export Certificate Report](#).

Appendix II. Other Key Contacts

USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service Office for Spain and Portugal, located in Madrid, can also assist U.S. exporters in obtaining specific national legislation on all food product directives. You may contact us at the following address:

Foreign Agricultural Service

Office of Agricultural Affairs

American Embassy Madrid

C/ Serrano, 75 – Box 20

28006 Madrid

Spain

Tel.: +34-91-587-2555

Fax: +34-91-587-2556

Email: AgMadrid@fas.usda.gov

[Website link](#)