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Report Highlights:

The National Plant, Animal Health and Food Safety Service (SENASA) is the regulatory agency in Honduras that is responsible for the inspection of all agricultural products that enter the country. The Sanitary Regulation Agency (Agencia de Regulacion Sanitaria-ARSA) oversees product registration, authorizations for import of raw materials, and additives for food processing, surveillance and inspection of food products approved for sale in the retail or wholesale market in Honduras. The certificates requested by these two agencies are described in this report along with recent changes to rules for license permits, sanitary authorizations and import permits.

Disclaimer:

This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, 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.

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Executive Summary:

This document offers U.S. exporters updated information on the certificates required by Honduran authorities for shipments of U.S. agricultural products to Honduras. It includes details on accreditation requirements, the purpose of specific export certificates, legal entry criteria, and necessary attestations on those certificates.

Since the 2018 FAIRS Certificate Report, there have been no major changes to certification requirements. However, in January 2021, SENASA introduced an online request option for import permits and new requirements for obtaining an ARSA sanitary registration number. Additionally, new sanitary authorizations are now required for imported raw materials and additives used in food processing. The Honduras Secretary of Economic Development (SDE) also requires a license permit for all poultry, rice, and onion imports.

SECTION I. LIST OF ALL EXPORT CERTIFICATES REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT (MATRIX).

Live animals	-Export Certificate for Animal Products: (APHIS VS form 16-4) -Certificate of Origin	None	Health Certificate	Agriculture (SENASA)
Bovine meat and processed bovine meat	-Meat and Poultry Export Certificate: (FSIS Form 9060-5) -Certificate of Origin	None	Health Certificate	Agriculture (SENASA)
Pork meat and processed pork meat	-Meat and Poultry Export Certificate: (FSIS Form 9060-5) -Certificate of Origin	None	Health Certificate	Agriculture (SENASA)
Poultry meat and processed 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 (SENASA)

Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
Dairy	-Health/Export Certificate: (APHIS) and (FDA) -Certificate of Origin	None	Health Certificate	Agriculture (SENASA)
Fish and Crustaceans	-Health/Export Certificate (NOAA Form 89-807) -Certificate of Origin	None	Health Certificate	Agriculture (SENASA)
Siluriform Fish, including Catfish	-Export Certificate of Wholesomeness (FSIS Form 9060-5S) -Certificate of Origin	None	Health Certificate	Agriculture (SENASA)
Grains (other than Rice)	-Phytosanitary Certificate (APHIS) PPQ Form 577 -Certificate of Origin	None	Health Certificate	Agriculture (SENASA)

Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
Fresh fruits and vegetables	-Phytosanitary Certificate: (APHIS) PPQ Form 577 -Certificate of Origin	None	Health Certificate	Agriculture (SENASA)

Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
Onions	-Phytosanitary Certificate (APHIS) PPQ Form 577 -Certificate of Origin	Free from “Ditylenchusdipsaci”	Health Certificate Origin Registry	Agriculture (SENASA)
Plants and plant products	-Phytosanitary Certificate (APHIS) PPQ Form 577 -Certificate of Origin	Some products require an additional declaration. The import authorization will indicate which requirement is needed	Health Certificate	Agriculture (SENASA)
Planting seeds	-Phytosanitary Certificate (APHIS) PPQ Form 577 -Certificate of Origin -Quality Certificate	Some products require an additional declaration. The import authorization will indicate which requirement is needed	Health Certificate	Agriculture (SENASA)
Potatoes seed	-Phytosanitary Certificate (APHIS) PPQ Form 577 -Certificate of Origin	-Free from dirt, dirt and sand clods -Free of the following Nematodes: -Globodera rostochiensis -Ditylenchus dipsaci -Ditylenchus destructor -Aphelenchoides fragaie -Meloidogyne chitwoodi	Health Certificate	Agriculture (SENASA)

Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
Potatoes for consumption	-Phytosanitary Certificate (APHIS) PPQ Form 577 -Certificate of Origin	-Free from dirt, dirt and sand clods -Anti-sprouting treatment -Free of the following Nematodes: -Globodera rostochiensis -Ditylenchus dipsaci -Ditylenchus destructor -Meloidogyne chitwoodi	Health Certificate	Agriculture (SENASA)
Processed foods and beverages	-Certificate of Free Sale (FDA or State) -Certificate of Origin -Product's Specification Report	None	Food Safety	ARSA
Sugar	-Certificate of Free Sale -Certificate of Origin	Must have vitamin "A" added	Health Certificate	ARSA
Salt	-Certificate of Free Sale -Certificate of Origin	Must have iodine added	Health Certificate	ARSA

Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
Honey	-Health /Export Certificate -Certificate of Origin	Must indicate the bee species	Health Certificate	Agriculture (SENASA)
Bottled water	-Certificate of Free Sale -Certificate of Origin -Product's Specification Report	Physical, chemical, biological and microbiological laboratory analysis	Health Certificate	ARSA

SECTION II. PURPOSE OF SPECIFIC EXPORT CERTIFICATE(S)

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

For imports, the Government of Honduras (GOH) requires that the certificates and other shipment documents be clear, with the same information and names of the importer and exporter, amounts, product description, origin, point of shipping, name, date, and signature of the official issuing such certificate.

The purpose of the most widely used certificates is as follows:

1. Certificate of Origin:

Products made in the United States and shipped from any port must clearly indicate a U.S. address on the certificate, showing the United States as the country of origin. It is issued by the U.S. producer or exporter, or Honduran importer. In the past, multiple addresses and non-U.S. addresses, as well as different signatures on certificates on documents have caused confusion and delays.

The document also provides the harmonized tariff code of the goods. The Certificate of Origin is the document that allows U.S. products to receive preferential tariff treatment under CAFTA-DR. Further information can be found on the GAIN Report [Exporter Guide for Honduras](#).

In the case of products not produced 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. However, this certificate does not comply with the requirement to demonstrate eligibility for preferential tariff treatment under CAFTA-DR.

In the case of animal products and sub-products, SENASA requests that the Certificate of Origin indicates the name of the establishment where it was processed and provides the Certificate of Origin where the product originated. Currently, tilapia fillets with a certificate of origin from the People's Republic of China are not allowed entry into Honduras.

SENASA reports that importers are often confused about "country of origin" and "point of shipping". This might cause errors in the documents presented for the import permit.

When similar products come from different countries, there are two options. The first option is to submit separate Certificates of Origin issued by the competent authority of each country that the product originated from. The second option is to submit the information in the same Certificate of Origin, indicating the product, quantity, and the name of the establishment where the product originated from.

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: USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) or U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

SENASA requires that the certificates be filled out completely. The information and names of the importer and exporter, amounts, product description, origin, point of shipping, written name, date, and signature of the official issuing such certificates must be consistent across all documents. SENASA reported and investigated several cases of receiving forged USDA export certificates in 2023 and 2024.

SENASA requested that USDA add an Additional Declaration (AD) to the FSIS Certificate (Form 9060-5) for exports of U.S. fresh/frozen and cooked poultry products. The AD in the Certificate 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 provide updates to SENASA concerning outbreaks by state, as well as their status. However, SENASA has emphasized that it is the importers and exporters' responsibility to stay abreast of outbreaks so they can assure SENASA of the AI status in the area of origin.

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:

This 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 FSIS (FSIS form 9060-5). The certificate is required by SENASA.

4. Export Certificate for Animal Products:

This certificate provides 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 import of live animals and animal products. The certificate is issued by the APHIS (VS form 16-4). The certificate is required by SENASA. For additional information, see USDA's [International Regulations \(IRegs\) for Animal Product Exports](#), [Export Animal Products to Honduras | Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service \(usda.gov\)](#), and VS Form 16-4 for submission to VS. Exporters.

5. Export Health Certificate:

This certificate confirms that the product was inspected and found to follow 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 crustacean exports from the United States, the certificate is issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA form 89-807). The certificate is required by SENASA.

6. Certificate of Free Sale (CFS):

The certificate indicates that the exporter has a permit to produce, manufacture, distribute and pack food products for human consumption. It states that the products are freely sold and consumed in the United States, as well as exported. ARSA reviews that the information in the CFS, such as the product's name, trademark, manufacturer and country of origin, is the same information provided in the request for sanitary registration and on the label. The certificate is issued by the official federal (FDA), [state-level authorities](#) or Chambers of Commerce. The certificate is requested to obtain the product registration of processed foods and beverages with ARSA.

As of October 1, 2018, FDA issues the following two new certificates: the Certificate to a Foreign Government and the Certificate of Exportability (for export-only food products) to U.S. manufacturers and exporters who choose to use them. For additional information, please visit FDA's food guidance regulations at the following address:

<https://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/ImportsExports/Exporting/ExportCertificates/default.htm>

or email: CFSANexportcertification@fda.hhs.gov

7. Quality Certificate:

This 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 was done within the last six months. For additional information contact: www.aosaseed.com.

SECTION III. SPECIFIC ATTESTATIONS REQUIRED ON EXPORT CERTIFICATE(S)

The certificates and attestation (declaration) listed in Section II above provide information needed by SENASA 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 both the importer and exporter to stay up to date 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 CERTIFICATES LEGAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Honduran institutions involved in the import of food and agricultural products include the National Plant, Animal Health, and Food Safety Service (SENASA) and the Sanitary Regulation Agency (ARSA). SENASA issues import permits and regulates the inspection of all food and agricultural products. At present there is no attestation of radioactivity required or radiation monitoring for imports into Honduras.

SDE requires an import registry procedure, and an import license permit for all poultry, rice, and onion imports into Honduras. Detailed information can be found at the respective decrees and agreements for these products at Executive Decree 020-2023 for poultry, Executive Decree 021-2023 for rice, and Ministerial Agreement 071-2024 for onions. More information can also be found at USDA's International Regulations (IREgs) for Animal Product Exports.

FAS Tegucigalpa suggests that stakeholders closely monitor the regulating agencies' official websites for policy updates that may impact their operations at <https://arsa.gob.hn/> and <https://www.senasa.gob.hn/>. Post will provide timely reports on revised and newly issued regulations with potential significant impacts on trade that enter Honduras. ARSA oversees the product registration, sanitary license and inspection of food and beverages approved to be sold at the retail and wholesale level. Starting October 2020, ARSA also issues a sanitary authorization for imported raw materials and additives for processed food and beverage manufacturing. Honduran Customs Administration (ADUANAS) officials review that the invoice complies with the GOH's revenue tariff.

SENASA issues import permits for plant, animal, processed, consumer ready food products, agricultural chemicals, veterinary products, and inputs used in food processing for human or animal consumption.

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 agricultural and economic interests of Honduras in both the domestic and international food and agricultural trade.

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

1. The product must have an import permit before entering the country. SENASA launched an on-line import permit system for plants, plant products and seeds, live animals, animal products and by- products. The system allows the importer to register with SENASA, enter all the data and required documents of the product to be imported, pay applicable fees, have the import permit in a few hours and store it in a dedicated cloud repository. Importers of plants, plant products and seeds, live animals, animal products and by-products can access SENASA's online system at: <http://importaciones.senasa.gob.hn/#/login>
2. The import permit request for food products of animal origin must be accompanied with a copy of the Zoosanitary Certificate, Certificate of Origin, and Pro-Forma Commercial Invoice. The import permit request for plant products should be submitted only with the Pro-Forma invoice.
3. The import permit is applied to one shipment, which could include up to ten products of animal origin, and up to five products of similar plant origin. The permit is valid for 30 days.
4. A sanitary authorization for importing raw materials and additives for processed food and beverage manufacturing must be obtained from ARSA. On April 2020, ARSA implemented the online submission for Sanitary Authorizations (SA) and Sanitary Registration Numbers (SRN). The instructions, supporting documentation requirements and application forms are published in ARSA's website at: <https://arsa.gob.hn/paginas/inicio>
5. SENASA delegated the responsibility of all quarantine inspections and treatments of agricultural imports to the International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health (OIRSA). OIRSA's Plant and Animal Protection Service (SEPA) inspectors are located at the borders, ports, and airports. To register their products for import, companies must obtain a Sanitary Registration Number (SRN) with ARSA. The instructions, supporting documentation requirements and application forms are published in ARSA's website at: <https://arsa.gob.hn/menu-virtual-sac/>
6. The original import permit approved by SENASA, and the supporting documents need to accompany the product at the time of entry. The compliance with requirements indicated on the import permit are reviewed. The documents must be clear, with consistent information

about the importer and exporter, amounts, product description, origin, point of shipping, name, date, and signature of the official issuing the certificate.

7. SENASA requested from FSIS in May 2015, that the production, expiration date, and lot number appear in Spanish on shipping carton(s). The dates must be provided in the Day/Month/Year format (DD/MM/YYYY). The requirement that the products have stamped the production and expiration dates is closely inspected at the ports of entry.

SECTION V. OTHER CERTIFICATION/ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS

Import registries and license permits for poultry, rice, and onions along with other import requirements can be found in the Honduras GAIN Report: Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) – Country Report and Exporter Guide Report at: [Search | USDA Foreign Agricultural Service](#) under Attaché Reports or contact FAS Tegucigalpa at: agtegucigalpa@usda.gov.

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
9. Total containers
10. Product as labeled
11. Marked weight of lot
12. Number of packages in lot
13. Shipping marks
14. Establishment/Plant number on product
15. Remarks
16. 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)

If you have questions regarding this report or need assistance exporting to Honduras, please contact the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Office at the following address:

Foreign Agricultural Service
U.S. Embassy
Avenida La Paz, Tegucigalpa,
Honduras
Phone: (504) 2238-5114, ext. 4544
Fax: (504) 2236-8342
E-mail: AgTegucigalpa@fas.usda.gov

For further information on exporting U.S. agricultural products to other countries, please visit the Foreign Agricultural Service's home page: <https://www.fas.usda.gov/>

Attachments:

No Attachments