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**Report Highlights:**

This report highlights certification requirements for food and agricultural products exported to Canada and supplements the FAIRS Country Report.

**Executive Summary** ..... 2

**Section I. Export Certificate Table** ..... 4

**Section II. Regulations and Types of Export Certificates** ..... 6

**Section III. Specific Attestations Required on Export Certificates** ..... 11

**Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements and Business Registrations** ..... 15

*Disclaimer:* This report was prepared by the Ottawa Office of Agricultural Affairs for exporters of U.S. food and agricultural products. While every possible care has been 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 PRODUCTS IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY’S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

**Executive Summary**

This report highlights export certificates issued by U.S. government authorities to comply with Canadian import standards and regulations. It is an update to the 2023 Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) Export Certificate Report. This is not intended as a compendium of Canadian import requirements, but rather as a supplement to the most recent

FAIRS Country Report 2024-0022. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, this information is provided only as guidance. Requirements may have changed since this report's preparation.

FAS/Canada strongly recommends U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements through the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's [Automated Import Reference System \(AIRS\)](#) that serves as a reference guide on Canadian importing requirements for several commodities. It is good business practice for U.S. companies to consult with their Canadian customers to ensure products meet the latest Canadian import requirements. U.S. exporters need to acknowledge 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.

The USDA's [Electronic Trade Document Exchange](#) allows for exporters and importers to access trade forms and certificates to be downloaded and completed. Document submissions may be uploaded into a USDA customized portal and digital signatures are accepted. All users must create an [E-Authentication](#) account, located at the bottom of the page under 'quick links.' The eAuthentication help desk is available at [authdesk@usda.gov](mailto:authdesk@usda.gov) or 1-800-457-3642. After creating an account, an in-person meeting may be required to verify identification. Please check with the nearest USDA [Local Registration Authority Offices](#) in the United States. Alternatively, if in Canada, an authorized USDA Foreign Service Officer may be able to authorize credentials at the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa (contact [tyler.babcock@usda.gov](mailto:tyler.babcock@usda.gov)).

FAS Canada, encourages all U.S. exporters to work closely with their current federal and state inspectors in the issuance of various attestations and certificates. A number of [State Department of Agriculture's](#) maintain their own inspection programs and cooperative agreements with USDA to assist in in facilitating and executing

## Section I. Export Certificate Table

	Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Purpose/ Attestation	Issuing Authority	Authority Requiring Certificate
A.	All U.S.- Origin Products Eligible for Preferential Treatment Under USMCA	<a href="#">United States Mexico Canada Certification of Origin</a>	Certify origin of product so the items can qualify for USMCA tariff rates	Importer, exporter, or producer can make the certification	Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)
B(i).	Meat and Poultry	United States Meat and Poultry Certificate for Wholesomeness:  <a href="#">Canada   Food Safety and Inspection Service (usda.gov)</a>  <a href="#">FORM 9060-5EP and Instructions</a>	Certify meat products are safe and wholesome	Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)	Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)
B(ii).	Certain Products of Meat Origin  (Broth, Flavor, or Extract)	U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) Certificate to a Foreign Government  <a href="#">CFSAN eCATS</a>	Attestation concerning product safety. Ensures product meets U.S. Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act Requirements	FDA	CFIA
B(iii).	Meat and Poultry Labelling Certification	<a href="#">FSIS Labelling Certification</a>  Reference: <a href="#">CFIA Labelling Tool</a>	Ensures product labels meet the requirements listed on the <a href="#">CFIA Industry Labelling Tool website</a>	FSIS	CFIA
B.(iv)	Egg Products	Egg Products Export Certificate of Wholesomeness and Listing of Approved Establishments <a href="#">Form 9060-5EP</a> <a href="#">Form 2630-9, Declaration of Veterinarian</a>	Wholesomeness	FSIS	CFIA

	Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Purpose/ Attestation	Issuing Authority	Authority Requiring Certificate
	Fresh Eggs	<a href="#">Letterhead Certificate for Unpasteurized Eggs</a>  <a href="#">Letterhead Certificate for Pasteurized Eggs</a>	Veterinary Health Attestation	FSIS	CFIA
	Processed Egg and Egg Products	<a href="#">Processed Egg and Egg Products Export Verification Certificate</a>  <a href="#">LPS-234</a>	Processed egg products and hard-cooked eggs are wholesome for export	Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)	CFIA
C.	Ready-to-eat meat and poultry products	<a href="#">Microbiological Testing of Ready-To-Eat (RTE) Products Destined for Canada</a>  <a href="#">FSIS Form 5200-6</a>	Meet microbiological testing criteria to ensure food safety	AMS FSIS	CFIA
D.	Bison (Buffalo)	<a href="#">USDA Beef Export Verification (EV) Program Product Conformity Attestation on Shipping Documentation</a>	To attest to eligibility to export bison to Canada	AMS	CFIA
E.	Pet Food	<a href="#">Export of pet foods with animal products</a>  <a href="#">Veterinary Export Certificate</a>	U.S. origin and veterinary health attestations	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)	CFIA
F.	Fresh Fruits, Horticulture and Vegetables	<a href="#">Phytosanitary Certificates</a>  <a href="#">U.S. – Canada Greenhouse-Grown Plant Certification Program</a>	Grading and Quality	APHIS	CFIA

	Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Purpose/ Attestation	Issuing Authority	Authority Requiring Certificate
G.	Live Animals, Honeybees, Aquatic animals	<a href="#">Veterinary Export Health Certificate</a>	Animal Health	APHIS	CFIA
H.	Fish and Seafood	<a href="#">Canada – Aquaculture Commodities Aquatic Animal Health Export Certificate</a> <a href="#">National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Seafood Inspection Program</a> <a href="#">NOAA Listing of Requirements</a>	Sanitation, Grading, Food Safety, Wholesomeness, Animal Health, Eligibility of Species	NOAA, APHIS, FWS	CFIA, CBSA, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
I.	Selected Products, broth, extracts, flavors derived from beef, pork, and poultry.	<a href="#">CFSAN</a>	Meet food safety, production standards that includes required heat treatment	FDA	CFIA
J.	Organic Equivalency	<a href="#">U.S. National Organic Program (NOP)</a>	Products meet standards, practices, and all requirements set by NOP	AMS	CFIA

## Section II. Regulations and Types of Export Certificates

- A. To obtain preferential treatment on food products under [The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement \(USMCA\)](#), a trilateral agreement among Canada, Mexico, and the United States, exporters must complete the certificate of origin form allowing most products to enter Canada

duty free. There is no prescribed USMCA form to be completed. To claim preferential treatment, the [following elements](#) need to be stated on the commercial invoice:

- Name and information about the exporter and producer of origin
- Name and information about the importer
- The harmonized tariff code
- Origin criteria
- The period the certification
- Authorized signature and date

The identification is required on the commercial invoice. Exporters are to go to the [U.S. Census Bureau Schedule B Search](#) engine and look up their 10 digit Harmonized Tariff Schedule Code Number (HTS). Additional guidance and information is available on the U.S. Customs and Border Protection [website](#). USMCA-related questions and concerns can be addressed to Customs and Border Protection at [USMCA@CBP.DHS.gov](mailto:USMCA@CBP.DHS.gov)

Assistance is available through local [State Departments of Agriculture](#) or through USDA's State Regional Trade Groups (SRTGs) represented [here](#).

## **B. Meat, Poultry and Processed Egg Products**

The USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is responsible for certification of all fresh, frozen, and packaged meat, poultry, and processed egg products. More information on export requirements for Canada are available on the FSIS export library [here](#).

### **B(i). Meat and Poultry**

All meat and poultry items must present a [Meat and Poultry Certificate of Wholesomeness](#). Since 2022, both FSIS and CFIA only accept digital signatures as they are generated through the Public Health Information System (PHIS).

Prior to generating the above mentioned certificates, exporters will need to enroll with [USDA](#) by setting up an e-authentication on-line account. Further questions on PHIS client enrollment, exporters may call 1-800-473-9135 or email [PHISTechnicalQA@usda.gov](mailto:PHISTechnicalQA@usda.gov).

Only [registered](#) USDA meat and poultry establishments with USDA 's FSIS are eligible to export to Canada. As noted in Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Country Report (FAIRS, CA2024-0022). Additionally, exporters are to ensure their establishments are listed on the [CFIA's Foreign Establishment Library](#) as well, prior to exporting. All export requirements can be reviewed in the FSIS Export Library under the header [Canada](#). Detailed information is provided on regulations concerning product eligibility for certification, as well as slaughter, processing, labelling, marking, and all other documentation requirements.

**Tip:** Exporters are to provide six-digit export certificate. This exact number needs to coincide with the number on the stickers adhered to each carton. Any type of inconsistencies will delay the shipment or be rejected by Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA).

#### **B(ii). Certain Products of Meat Origins**

Shipments to Canada of several meat and poultry-containing products regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), such as meat and poultry-derived ingredients like broths, extracts, bouillons, flavors, and certain soups and noodles must have an FDA-issued “Certificate to a Foreign Government,” (CFG). To obtain the certificate, exporters are to register online at [Export Certificates for Food](#).

#### **B (iii). Meat and Poultry Label Verification**

[FSIS provides guidelines](#) in the use of terms that clearly identify the product. In addition, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has set forth specific [labelling requirements](#) that include bilingual labelling in French and English for meat and poultry products. Labels that deviate from U.S. domestic requirements must be submitted, along with supporting documentation verifying Canadian government acceptance of the deviation, to the FSIS Labeling and Program Delivery Staff (LPDS). LPDS recommends U.S. exporters obtain an e-authentication account and process label approval requests through the online [Label Submission and Approval System \(LSAS\)](#).

The first point of contact is [LSAS@usda.gov](mailto:LSAS@usda.gov) or calls are received at 301-504-0837. Paper applications are still being accepted ([FSIS Form 7234-1](#)) can be mailed to:

**USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD**  
Labeling Distribution Unit  
Stop Code 3786, Patriots  
Plaza III, 8-168 1400  
Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

#### **B(iv). Table Eggs and Processed Egg Products**

Eggs and egg products are import controlled products and subject to a tariff rate quota (TRQs) system in Canada. U.S. exporters must work with a [Canadian importer](#) that has available ‘quota’ to legally import eggs. Similar to approved meat establishments, only USDA [approved establishments](#) may export to Canada. It is upon the exporter to double check that their plant is on [CFIA’s Foreign Approved Establishments](#) as well. Please take note that requirements for U.S. egg product exports to Canada may vary from state to



state, and those establishments restricted from exporting are listed on FSIS page under the tab [egg products](#). U.S. exporters may review all [requirements on FSIS Export Library](#). Additionally, a certificate of wholesomeness is required as stated in B(i).

Processed eggs and egg products are urged to register for the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) of the USDA and FDA's [Processed Egg and Egg Products Export Verification \(PEEPEV\) Program](#). The list of approved exporters in the Export Verification program can be reviewed [here](#).

For further questions concerning shipments of FDA-regulated products, exporters can contact FSIS at 1-855-444-9904 or e-mail at: [importexport@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:importexport@fsis.usda.gov).

### **C. Ready-to-Eat Meat and Poultry products (Closed -Face Sandwiches)**

Health Canada maintains a requirement that closed-faced sandwiches, which include breakfast sandwiches, must be produced under a [Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point \(HACCP\) and Listeria monocytogenes control plans](#). Only those [manufacturing establishments](#) participating in this EV program are eligible to export to Canada. For more information on the EV program, please refer to the [Microbiological Testing Program for RTE products](#).

### **D. Bison - USDA Export Verification (EV) Program**

Meat and meat products derived from bison are eligible for export to Canada. These products must qualify under the American Marketing Service's (AMS/USDA) [Bovine, Ovine, and Caprine Export Verification Program](#). American Marketing Service (AMS Export Verification Program).

Once approved by the EV Program, the supplier will be listed under the USDA Bovin EV of [approved processing establishments](#). Additionally, exporters need to double check their plant is listed with [CFIA](#) too.

### **E. Pet Foods**

#### **Thermally Processed Pet Food/Pet Treats/Compound Chews**

[Canada maintains specific guidelines on pet foods](#) and treats containing animal by-products that are heat processed, shelf stable pet food, pet treats, and compound. They are referred to as [thermally processed pet foods/et treats/compound chews](#). Export Certificates are required and issued by a USDA/APHIS veterinarian and can be used for multiple shipments for up to 30 days provided an [Importer's Statement of Compliance](#) accompanies the shipment. To obtain a certificate, contact your local [APHIS Veterinarian Offices](#).

#### **Unprocessed (Raw) or Minimally Heat-Treated Pet Food and Treats.**

CFIA defines biologically appropriate raw food (BARF) diets as “biologically appropriate raw food or bones and raw food diets.” A typical BARF diet is made up of 60-80 percent raw meaty bones, that is bones with about 50 percent meat (e.g., chicken necks, backs, and wings) and 20-40 percent fruits and vegetables, offal, meat, eggs, or dairy. CFIA requires all facilities involved in the production of raw, unprocessed BARF pet foods or diets to be inspected and approved by APHIS VS prior to issuance of the [APHIS certificate and export to Canada](#).

#### **F. Fresh Fruit, Horticulture, and Vegetable - Inspection Certificate**

APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) Division is responsible for issuing the [phytosanitary certificate attesting that](#) plants or plant products ensuring they are free from pests and diseases. This may include produce, seeds, grains, cotton, lumber, and other specialty crops. APHIS offers an [Export Manual Guide](#) on-line which outlines the various commodities in their scope.

All rooted produce requires a APHIS issued [Phytosanitary Certificate](#). Exporters are urged to go on to the [Automated Import Reference System \(AIRS\)](#) to determine if a certificate is required.

Apples, onions and potatoes are specific grading, labelling, and quality standards that must be met for sale in Canada as noted in Canada’s [Safe Food for Canadian Regulations](#) (Division 6).

The importation of leafy green vegetables from California and Arizona are limited to those growers and suppliers that have met the Leafy Green Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) food safety guidelines and are a signatory to the [California Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement](#) and the [Arizona Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement](#). Guidelines on import requirements for leafy greens from Arizona and California are found on the [CFIA webpage](#).

Horticultural exporters are asked to review the [list of permissible plants](#) into Canada prior to securing paperwork. Plants with soil can only be imported from continental United States. Those plants that are part of the [Canadian Growing Media Program \(CGMP\)](#) may be considered for exports into Canada.

[A U.S. -Canada Greenhouse-Grown Plant Certification Program \(GCP\)](#) was established in December of 2023 by APHIS and CFIA facilitating shipments between the U.S. and Canada. The program permits an Export Certification Label (ECL), known as the *GCP sticker* to be adhered/used on the product replacing a phytosanitary certificate.

#### **G. Live Animals and Live Reproductive Organisms - Animal Health Export Certificate**

APHIS VS issues health certificates certifying the herd and animal health status for live animals and live reproductive organisms exported from the United States. In addition, export health certificates are needed for aquatic animals to Canada. Depending on the type of animal, additional tests and vaccinations may be required.

Visit the [APHIS Export of Live Animals to Canada](#) with a complete summary of requirements for embryos, horses, cattle, goats, and other live animal exports to Canada. A list of accredited veterinarians can be found [here](#).

### **Travelling with and Shipment of Pets to Canada**

Health Certificates are not required for dogs older than eight months, but proof of rabies vaccination is required. Those dogs younger than eight months may require a [health certificate](#) issued by a licensed veterinarian. No certification is required for cats.

The latest information related to pets entering Canada is on [the CFIA webpage](#).

As of August 1, 2024 dogs vaccinated in the U.S., but living in Canada and returning into the U.S., may be required to complete additional requirements as outlined by the [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#).

### **H. Fresh, Frozen Fish and Seafood**

APHIS regulates fish and seafood exports. A [zoosanitary health certificate](#) will be required by the CFIA. All products must meet the [Safe Food for Canadian Regulations](#). Certain Fish and Seafood products must meet standards of identity and grades.

## **Section III. Specific Attestations Required on Export Certificates**

See matrix above for required Attestations.

## **Section IV. Government Certificates Legal Entry Requirements**

### **Business Registrations and Food Licenses on Imported Food into Canada**

Every shipment clearing the border (no matter the commodity), must have an [importer of record](#). Those exporters responsible for clearing their own products at the border and/or shipping it to the shipment to a distribution center in Canada are deemed as the importer of record and must apply for [Safe Food For Canadian import license](#) (SFC) under the [Safe Food for Canadians Regulations](#). One of the purposes of the SFC license is to ensure proper safety controls are in place and should there be any product recalls, the producer/supplier can be identified. These regulations do not apply to producers shipping directly to a distribution center in the U.S. for a Canadian buyer.

For those U.S. exporters with no physical address in Canada will apply as a [Non-Resident Importer \(NRI\)](#). The process to obtain a SFC license is two steps. The first step is to apply for a 9-digit [Business Number \(BN\)](#) with the Canada Revenue Agency. Once the BN is obtained then the second step is to apply on-line for the [import license through CFIA](#). This may take two to six weeks.

CFIA in coordination with [Canada Border Services Agency](#) has established a [Pre-arrival Review System \(PARS\)](#) allowing importers, NRIs, and [custom brokers](#) to submit, review, and process all required digital documentation.<sup>1</sup> Submission are made to CFIA-PARS with minimum of four hours to a maximum of 30 days' notice. It is recommended those products such as fresh, frozen, and live animals be submitted early allowing for the maximum days of review. Once approved the importer or customs broker will be notified. All approvals are listed on CBSA's [Release Notification System](#). To obtain more information contact the [National Import Service Centre \(NISC\)](#) at 1-800-835-4486.

## **Food Irradiation and Attesting to the Radioactivity of Imported Food**

Food irradiation is the treatment of food with a type of radiation energy known as ionizing radiation. Ionizing radiation may be used for various reasons depending on the food: it may be used to kill microorganisms that can cause human illness or cause food to spoil; to control insect or parasite infestation; or to slow the ripening or sprouting of fresh fruits and vegetables. The permitted amounts of ionizing radiation are too low to negatively affect the nutritional quality of food and they are too low to cause radioactivity in food.

In Canada, [food irradiation is strictly regulated](#) under the Food and Drug Regulations. Division 26 (Part B) of these Regulations includes a table that lists the foods that may be irradiated and sold in Canada. The table identifies the permitted types and sources of ionizing radiation, the purpose of treatment, and the permitted absorbed dose of ionizing radiation. Labelling requirements for irradiated foods are set out in Division 1 (Part B) of the Regulations.



Only the following irradiated foods: (1) potatoes, (2) onions, (3) wheat, flour, whole wheat flour, (4) whole or ground spices and dehydrated seasoning preparations, and (5) ground beef (fresh and frozen) are currently permitted for sale in Canada.

Canada does not require a Certification in Relation to Radioactivity for food and/or beverage items exported from the United States.

### **All Products: USMCA Certification of Origin**

As mentioned above in Section II, the [commercial invoice](#) is sufficient in providing the name of the producer, location, and the origin of the goods of the producer. Shipping papers may be submitted and signed electronically to CBSA, through a customs broker. Shipments with an estimated duty value of CAD\$3,300 (USD\$ 2,400 est.) do not need a certification of origin but is recommended, particularly for food samples.

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<sup>1</sup> Documentation includes, commercial invoice, all required certificates, declarations, cargo numbers and other entry requirements.

## **A. Meat, Poultry and Processed Egg Products**

In addition to the export certificates mentioned in Section II (B), the [CFIA has specific labelling requirements on meat and poultry products](#). Attention should be made to the differences in nutritional labelling formats, grade names, levels of water retention, and required bilingual labelling for both retail and food service products and other components.

## **C. Ready-to-Eat Meat and Poultry Products**

Heath Canada remains vigilant on the control measures for *Listeria Monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat foods. U.S. exporters are urged to review the [2023 Overview](#) to maintain compliancy.

## **D. Bison – USDA Export Verification (EV) Program**

Shipping documentation (bills of lading, shipping manifests, or letters of guarantee) must contain the following information:

- Clearly identified product type and quantity
- One of the following applicable statements:
  1. “Product Meets EV Program Requirements for Canada” for finished products eligible for export.
  2. “Product Meets EV Program Requirements for Canada excluding final fabrication requirements” for products that must be further fabricated to meet all requirements prior to being eligible to export.

## **E. Pet Foods**

### **i. Veterinary Export Certificate for Heat-Processed, Shelf-Stable Pet Foods, Treats, and Compound Chews**

As the APHIS Veterinary Certificate for Heat-Processed, Shelf-Stable Pet Foods, Treats, and Compound Chews can cover multiple shipments within a 30-day window, original copies of the export certificate are not required upon entry. Every shipment should be accompanied by a copy of the endorsed export certificate. Each shipment imported into Canada with a USA Multiple Shipment Export Certificates must be accompanied by an [Importer’s Statement of Compliance](#), containing the shipment specific information. Import conditions and the information required on the Importer’s Statement of Compliance can be found in the CFIA’s [Import Policy for Pet food and Treats Containing Animal Products and By- Products](#).

**ii. Veterinary Sanitary Certificate for Export of Unprocessed (Raw) Pet Foods from a Bovine Approved Facility to Canada**

For APHIS Veterinary Services to certify U.S.-origin pet foods using the Veterinary Sanitary Certificate for Export of Unprocessed (Raw) Pet Foods from a Bovine Approved Facility to Canada:

- The exporter must present a valid, current [import permit](#) issued by CFIA ( see Section V, business registrations) allowing entry of the products to be exported;
- If the exporter is not the approved manufacturing facility, the exporter must provide documentation to show that the pet foods for export were manufactured in facilities approved by APHIS/VS; and
- The VS Area Office must verify that the manufacturing facility(ies) has/have been approved by VS and are listed in the APHIS internal database as being approved to export the pertinent product to Canada with a last validated inspection date in the previous 365 days.

**iii. Labelling**

The Competition Bureau of the Canadian government provides guidelines on [labelling and advertising of prepackaged pet food](#) for dogs and cats (but does not apply to pet treats nor other food for other pets).

**F. Fresh Fruit, Horticultural and Vegetable – Phytosanitary Certificates**

The original certification should accompany the product at the time of entry for all government-issued certificates for each shipment. See Section II (F) above.

Shipments must be accompanied at the Canadian port of entry by an original serially numbered certificate issued by APHIS.

Authorized certifying officials at the county, state or federal level may sign required phytosanitary certificates to accompany shipments of U.S. plants and plant materials to Canada. Exporters should consult with CFIA [AIRS System](#) to confirm the latest requirements for fresh products to be exported.

**G. Live Animals and Live Reproductive Organisms - Animal Health Export Certificate**

For all commodities other than Aquaculture / Aquatic Animals to Canada, USDA Accredited Veterinarians may issue health certificates electronically through the online Veterinary Export Health Certification System (VEHCS). APHIS-endorsed, printed paper copies of appropriate export certificates and required additional forms must accompany the shipment at port of entry. Certain animals may only pass through certain ports of entry. For animal-specific requirements, exporters are encouraged to consult the [APHIS IRegs website](#).

## Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements and Business Registrations

### H. Fish and Seafood

In addition to the zoosanitary certificate mentioned above under Section II(H). [The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#) maintains an inspection program offering inspection services and export certificates which cover sanitation inspection, grading system and process audits, and other services.

In recent years, particularly in the fish and seafood industry, consumers have taken notice of sustainable fishing practices. These certifications are conducted by third party organizations and are strictly voluntary, such as the Marine Stewardship Council, Aquaculture Stewardship Council, and others.<sup>2</sup>

### I. Products Regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

Firms exporting products from the United States are often asked by foreign customers or foreign governments to supply a written export certification for products regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). FDA may provide this certification in a form the agency determines appropriate. For food products, FDA provides written certification for exports in the form of certificates and lists of eligible exporters for specific products or destinations.

For more information on FDA-Issued Export Certificates go to FDA's website for [Food Export Certificates](#). Export Certificates include Certificate to a Foreign Government, Certificate of Exportability, Certificate of Free Sale, Certificate for Cosmetics, and health certificates for collagen and gelatin for products intended for export to the European Union.

For certain exported food products, some foreign food safety authorities require certification in the form of publicly available lists of establishments eligible for export. For more information on FDA Food Export Lists go to FDA's website for [Food Export Lists](#).

For more information, contact [export certification offices](#) within CFSAN and visit the [FDA Food Export Certificates webpage](#).

### J. Organic

The United States and Canada maintains an [organic equivalence arrangement](#). The equivalence arrangement allows products to bear either the USDA Organic seal and/or the Canadian organic logo on the food product and will be recognized and accepted in both countries. Those organic product shipments are to be accompanied by the organic certificate issued by an AMS [U.S. accredited certifying agent](#). The certificate will need the following attestation

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<sup>2</sup> USDA do not endorse any one third party certification body.

statement: "Certified in compliance with the terms of the US-Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement."

U.S. firms are reminded that the import and sale of organic food products in Canada are governed by the same rules and regulations that apply to non-organic food products. No distinction is made between organic and non-organic food regarding import requirements. Currently, all Canadian packaging and labeling, grade, and inspection regulations apply equally to organic and non-organic foods.






## Appendix I. Electronic Copy of Selected Export Certificates Examples

### Example of USMCA Certification of Origin

UNITED STATES MEXICO CANADA AGREEMENT (USMCA) CERTIFICATION OF ORIGIN						
1. CERTIFIER TYPE (INDICATE "X")					BLANKET PERIOD (MM/DD/YYYY)	FROM:  TO:
	IMPORTER		EXPORTER		PRODUCER	
2. CERTIFIER NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE, AND EMAIL NAME ADDRESS COUNTRY PHONE EMAIL TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER			3. EXPORTER NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE, AND EMAIL NAME ADDRESS COUNTRY PHONE EMAIL TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER			
4. PRODUCER NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE, AND EMAIL NAME ADDRESS COUNTRY PHONE EMAIL TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER			5. IMPORTER NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE, AND EMAIL NAME ADDRESS COUNTRY PHONE EMAIL TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER			
6. DESCRIPTION OF GOOD(S)	7. HTS	8. ORIGIN CRITERION	9. PRODUCER (YES/NO)	10. METHOD OF QUALIFICATION	11. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	
SEE ATTACHED CONTINUATION SHEET(S)						
I CERTIFY THAT THE GOODS DESCRIBED IN THIS DOCUMENT QUALIFY AS ORIGINATING AND THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT IS TRUE AND ACCURATE. I ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROVING SUCH REPRESENTATIONS AND AGREE TO MAINTAIN AND PRESENT UPON REQUEST OR TO MAKE AVAILABLE DURING A VERIFICATION VISIT, DOCUMENTATION NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THIS CERTIFICATION.						
THIS CERTIFICATE CONSISTS OF <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 10px;"> </span> PAGES, INCLUDING ALL ATTACHMENTS.						
12.	12a. AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE			12b. COMPANY		
	12c. NAME			12d. TITLE		
	12e. DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)		12f. TELEPHONE NUMBER	12g. EMAIL		

USMCA CERTIFICATE V3

**Example: FSIS Form 9060-5EP, Certificate for Wholesomeness for Meat and Poultry**

<b>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE FIELD OPERATIONS EGG PRODUCTS EXPORT CERTIFICATE OF WHOLESOMENESS</b>		A knowingly false entry or alteration of any entry on the certificate may result in a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than five years or both (18 USC 1001). Additional Prohibited Acts and Penalties exist under the Egg Product Inspection Act [21 USC 1037 (e) (2), (3), and (6), 21 USC 1041] for an unauthorized or false alteration or misuse of this certificate.		
DISTRICT OFFICE		COUNTRY OF DESTINATION  <b>EPA- 000006</b>		
EXPORTED BY (Applicant's Name and Address including ZIP Code)		PRODUCT EXPORTED FROM EST. / PLANT NUMBER (if applicable)		
		CITY		
CONSIGNED TO * (Name and Address including ZIP Code)		<input type="checkbox"/> WAREHOUSE <input type="checkbox"/> PROCESSING PLANT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Please Specify)		
TOTAL MARKED NET WEIGHT		TOTAL CONTAINERS		
PRODUCT AS LABELED	MARKED WEIGHT OF LOT*	NUMBER OF PACKAGES IN LOT*	SHIPPING MARKS / LOT NUMBER *	EST. / PLANT NUMBER ON PRODUCT
*As stated by the applicant or contractor <b>REMARKS</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> I CERTIFY that the egg products specified on this form have been inspected and passed in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations of the United States Department of Agriculture and are wholesome and fit for human consumption.				
<b>NOT VALID UNLESS SIGNED BY A FSIS INSPECTOR</b>				
By order of the Secretary of Agriculture		INSPECTOR AND DISTRICT		Date Signed (MM/DD/YYYY)
This certificate is receivable in all courts of the United States as prima facie evidence of the truth of the statement herein contained. This certificate does not excuse failure to comply with any of the regulatory laws enforced by the United States Department of Agriculture.				



Revision date - 08/15/2015)

ORIGINAL

**Example: Pet Food ,Thermally Processed Pet Food/Treats/Compound Chews (1 of 3)**

**VETERINARY EXPORT CERTIFICATE FOR THERMALLY PROCESSED<sup>1</sup> PET FOOD/PET TREATS/COMPOUND CHEWS CONTAINING ANIMAL PRODUCTS AND BY-PRODUCTS EXPORTED FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO CANADA**

Consignor (Name and Address):	Consignee (Name and Address):
Processing Plant (Name and Address) and USDA-APHIS approval number if applicable <sup>2</sup> :	Description of product(s): <input type="checkbox"/> Pet foods and/or pet treats with no bovine-origin ingredients except exempt ingredients (e.g., milk or milk products, hide-derived gelatin or collagen, and tallow with a maximum level of insoluble impurities of 0.15% by weight). <input type="checkbox"/> Pet foods and/or pet treats with non-exempt bovine-origin ingredients.
Intended end use :	RESALE
Port of Entry:	Any Canadian Port of entry
Date of Endorsement: mm/dd/yyyy	Date of Certificate Expiration <sup>3</sup> : mm/dd/yyyy
Means of transportation:	<input type="checkbox"/> Truck <input type="checkbox"/> Rail

## Example: Pet Food and Treats Certificate (2 of 3)

Health Certificate Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Page \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_

I, the undersigned Official Veterinarian of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), certify that this office has on file a valid APHIS approval(s) of the manufacturing facility(ies) to verify the accuracy of the statements below:

1. The certified pet food and/or pet treats were processed in a facility or facilities located in the USA or Canada and authorized by the official competent veterinary authority in the country of origin to manufacture pet food containing animal products and by-products.<sup>2</sup>
  2. The certified pet foods and/or pet treats in the shipment may include the following [check all that apply]:
    - Pet foods and/or pet treats with no bovine-origin ingredients except exempt ingredients (e.g., milk or milk products, hide-derived gelatin or collagen, and tallow with a maximum level of insoluble impurities of 0.15% by weight).
    - Pet foods and/or pet treats with non-exempt bovine-origin ingredients.
  3. In the case of pet foods or pet treats containing tallow, the tallow used is protein-free with a maximum level of insoluble impurities of 0.15% by weight.
  4. In the case of pet foods or pet treats containing bovine meat, offal, or any bovine ingredients other than exempt ingredients, they meet the following requirements:
    - a. Bovine-origin raw materials [meat/offals]:
      - i. were harvested in the United States from U.S.-origin bovine or legally imported bovine that:
        - were presented live for slaughter AND
        - were not subjected to a stunning process prior to slaughter, with a device injecting compressed air or gas into the cranial cavity, or to a pithing process, and were humanely rendered unconscious prior to being bled
    - AND/OR [check all that apply]:
      - ii. Were legally imported from a country or countries recognized by the CFIA to be of:
        - Negligible BSE Risk Status<sup>4</sup> OR
        - Controlled BSE Risk Status [Insert name of country or countries]:  
\_\_\_\_\_ and that:
          - do not contain AND
          - have not been contaminated with bovine specified risk materials (SRMs)<sup>5</sup>.
    - b. All bovine-origin rendered protein materials<sup>6</sup> originate only from countries of Negligible BSE Risk Status.
5. The certified pet foods and/or pet treats were sufficiently heat processed to ensure the destruction of pathogens that represent a risk to public or animal health.
6. Precautions were taken to prevent cross-contamination of the finished products with any animal origin product or by-product derived from animals of a lesser zoosanitary status.

## Example: Pet Food and Treats Certificate (3 of 3)

Health Certificate Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Page \_\_\_ of \_\_\_

Official Seal	_____
	Signature of Official Veterinarian
	_____
	Name of Signatory (in capital letters)
	_____
	Title of Signatory (in capital letters)
	_____

### Notes:

- 1: "Processed" includes only heat treated and shelf-stable products.
- 2: In the case of multiple pet food manufacturing facilities, please attach addendum with complete list of names and either addresses OR USDA-APHIS approval numbers (if applicable).
- 3: This certificate will be valid for 30 days after veterinary endorsement. Shipments of thermally processed pet food/chews/treats certified under this protocol must arrive at the Canadian port prior to the expiration date.
- 4: The CFIA follows the OIE categorization of countries for BSE Risk Status
- 5: The term SRM refers to Specified Risk Materials of bovine animals originating from countries other than Negligible BSE Risk Status. SRMs include: the skull, brain, trigeminal ganglia, eyes, spinal cord and vertebral column (excluding the vertebrae of the tail, the transverse processes of the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae and the wings of the sacrum), the palatine tonsils from bovine animals aged 30 months and older and the distal ileum from bovine animals of all ages.
- 6: Bovine-origin animal proteins /processed proteins include those bovine-origin products produced in rendering facilities, including animal origin meals such as rendered meals, protein digests, hydrolysates, etc.

# Example: SC-205 – USDA AMS Specialty Crops Program Export Form Certificate



OMB No. 0581-0143  
Exp. 09/30/2018

## SPECIALTY CROPS PROGRAM EXPORT FORM CERTIFICATE X-EXAMPLE

**NOTICE TO APPLICANT/SHIPPER: APPLES and GRAPES:** This certificate must accompany export shipments and be presented to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Service (CBP). Electronically scanned version must be submitted with entry documents to CBP's Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) system. If the original does not accompany shipment and is not loaded to CBP's ACE system, the shipment may be denied exit from U.S. Commerce or placed under detention.

**SHIPMENTS to CANADA:** The original of this certificate must accompany regulated shipments and be presented to Canada Customs for entry. If the original does not accompany shipment, the shipment may be denied entry or placed under detention for failure to comply with Agriculture Canada's Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations.

**WARNING:** Any person who knowingly shall falsely make, issue, alter, forge, or counterfeit this certificate, or participate in any such actions, is subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.

DATE CERTIFICATE ISSUED	M	M	D	D	Y	Y	COUNTRY OF DESTINATION:
APPLICANT/SHIPPER:							CITY/STATE:
RECEIVER:							CITY/PROVINCE/COUNTRY:
<input type="checkbox"/> CARRIER ID:							CERTIFICATE/WORKSHEET NUMBER:
<input type="checkbox"/> PLU No.:							

PRODUCT	NUMBER AND TYPE OF CONTAINERS	DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCT (BRAND, VARIETY, SIZE, ORIGIN, ETC.)	GRADE	CWT

EXAMPLE

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE CERTIFIED PRODUCT(S) MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE:

EXPORT APPLE ACT     EXPORT GRAPE AND PLUM ACT     EXPORT GRAPE AND PLUM ACT except for export to destinations in Europe, Greenland or Japan

CANADIAN IMPORT REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 35 (1) OF AGRICULTURE CANADA'S FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE REGULATIONS OR REQUIREMENTS OF MINISTERIAL EXEMPTION (EASEMENT) ISSUED BY AGRICULTURE CANADA AS FOLLOWS:

CONTRACT No.: \_\_\_\_\_ WITH AMENDMENT \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS:

FEE:	\$	I, the undersigned, a duly authorized inspector of the United States Department of Agriculture, do hereby certify that samples of the herein described product were inspected and the grades as shown by said samples were as herein stated.		
OVERTIME:	\$			
EXPENSES:	\$		INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE	ISSUING OFFICE
ESTIMATED TOTAL:	\$			

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information is 0581-0143. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing the instruction, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

## Example: PPQ Form 572 - Application for Inspection and Certification of Domestic Plants and Plant Products for Export

No Phytosanitary Export Certificate can be issued until an application is completed (7 CFR 355).  
FORM APPROVED OMB NO. 0579-0052

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0579-0052. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average .25 minutes/hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE <b>APPLICATION FOR INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION OF DOMESTIC PLANTS AND PLANT PRODUCTS FOR EXPORT</b>		INSTRUCTIONS: <b>APPLICANT</b> - Forward original to the Officer in Charge where inspections, treatment, and certification will be given (Item 4). Complete Items 1 thru 11. <b>OFFICER</b> - Complete Items 12 thru 17.	
1. NAME AND ADDRESS OF EXPORTER		3. NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT (or exporters agent)	
2. NAME AND ADDRESS OF FOREIGN CONSIGNEE		AREA CODE AND PHONE NO.	
		4. PLACE WHERE ARTICLES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AND/OR TREATMENT AND CERTIFICATION (Port and location)	
		5. APPROX. DATE OF DEPARTURE	6. PORT OF EXPORT
7. DESCRIPTION OF ARTICLES TO BE CERTIFIED			
3. QUANTITY AND NAME OF PRODUCE AND BOTANICAL NAME			
d. NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION OF PACKAGES			
c. DISTINGUISHING MARKS			
d. CERTIFIED ORIGIN			
8. DECLARED MEANS OF CONVEYANCE		I certify that the origin (place where grown) of the articles listed is as represented.	
9. DECLARED POINT OF ENTRY		10. SIGNATURE (applicant or exporters agents)	11. DATE
EXPORT INSPECTION DATA - (To be filled in by Plant Protection and Quarantine Officer)			
12. LOCATION OF ARTICLES		13. % OF MATERIALS EXAMINED	14. % OF MATERIALS INFESTED
15. FINDINGS AND/OR TREATMENT GIVEN (Use reverse if necessary)			
16. SIGNATURE		17. DATE AND TIME INSPECTED	

PPQ FORM 572  
(APR 2005)

## **Glossary of Acronyms**

AMS – Agricultural Marketing Service of USDA  
AIRS – Automated Import Reference System  
APHIS – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of USDA  
BN – Business Number (Canada)  
CBP – Bureau of Customs and Border Protection  
CBSA – Canada Border Service Agency  
CDC -Center for Disease Control  
CGMP – Canada Growing Media Program  
CFIA – Canadian Food Inspection Agency  
CFG – Certificate to a Foreign Government  
CFSAN – Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition  
CFSAN eCATS – CFSAN Export Certification Application and Tracking System  
COPR – Canada Organic Products Regulations  
EV – Export Verification  
FDA – Food and Drug Administration  
FSIS – Food Safety and Inspection Service  
FWS – Fish and Wildlife Service Export Program  
GCP – U.S.-Canada Greenhouse Certification Program  
HACCP – Hazard Analysis and Critical Control  
NOAA – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NOP – National Organic Program  
NRI – Non-Resident Importer  
PARS – Pre-Arrival Review System  
PEEPEV – Processed Egg and Egg Products Export Verification  
PHIS – Public Health Information System  
PPQ – Plant Protection and Quarantine  
RTE – Ready-To-Eat  
SFCA – Safe Food for Canadians Act  
SFCR – Safe Food for Canadians Regulations SRTG – State Regional Trade Groups  
USCOEA – United States-Canada Organic Equivalence Arrangement  
USMCA – United States-Mexico-Canada Free Trade Agreement



**Attachments:**

No Attachments