

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

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Global Agricultural Information Network

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Norway

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification

FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:

Norway applies EU regulations on export certificates. In addition to certificates required by the EU, Norway applies the same specific sanitary certificate requirements with regard to salmonella for imports of fresh meat, meat preparations and eggs.

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

Being a member of the European Economic Area (EEA), most of the Norwegian food legislation including food safety standards have been fully harmonized with the European Union. The relevant EU provisions have thus been completely integrated into Norwegian law, following from the EEA framework.

In addition to those certificates required by the EU, Norway also has specific salmonella certificate and testing requirements for fresh meat, meat preparations or minced meat (with the exception of heat-treated meats) and eggs exported to Norway. These requirements are regulated in Regulation (EC) No 1688/2005. According to EU Decision 2008/752, a declaration on the veterinary certificate for meat products is enough to certify that the salmonella tests have been conducted according to 1688/2005 [1]. With regard to eggs and egg products, the specific salmonella requirements only apply to fresh eggs. Heat treated egg products may be imported without salmonella certification. There are, however, no establishments in the US approved for exports of fresh eggs to the EU.

For a list of EU-required export certificates and the products they cover, please refer to the USEU Export Certificate Report available at: <http://useu.usmission.gov/agri>

^[1]The model certificates in this regulation are intended for internal trade within the EU but were previously also used for external trade with third countries. After the implementation of EU Decision 2008/752, however, a declaration on the veterinary certificate for meat products is enough to certify that the salmonella tests have been conducted according to EU Regulation 1688/2005.

Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

Salmonella Guarantees

The purpose of the salmonella guarantee is to provide consumer protection. Under their terms of accession to the EEA, Norway, Sweden and Finland received a derogation allowing them to apply stricter salmonella controls than other EEA member countries. These countries were granted additional salmonella guarantees covering trade in fresh meat from cattle and hogs, fresh poultry meat and table eggs, which were extended to minced meat. All consignments containing fresh meat, meat preparations or minced meat (with the exception of heat-treated meats) are subject to salmonella control. These requirements do not apply to imports from Sweden and Finland, since these countries have the same salmonella regulations as Norway.

New Methods Approved for Salmonella Testing

The EU Commission has approved new testing methods for salmonella in fresh meat (beef, pork and poultry) imported from another EU country. Commission Decision 2003/470/EG approves alternative analytical methods for salmonella testing than those referred to in Decisions 95/409/EG and 95/411/EG. Importers who wish to use other test methods for salmonella are required to provide documentation to the National Food Administration Mattilsynet demonstrating that the method used is valid and in accordance with Decision 2003/470/EC.

^[1]The model certificates in this regulation are intended for internal trade within the EU but were previously also used for external trade with third countries. After the implementation of EU Decision 2008/752, however, a declaration on the veterinary certificate for meat products is enough to certify that the salmonella tests have been conducted according to EU Regulation 1688/2005.

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

Salmonella – Meat/Eggs

The specific declaration (attestation) required on the veterinary certificate certifies that the product to be imported into Norway fulfils the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1688/2005, implementing Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards special guarantees concerning salmonella for consignments to Finland and Sweden of certain meat and eggs.

Section IV. Government Certificate's Legal Entry Requirements

A. General requirements as regards health certificates

- Does the original certificate need to accompany the product at the time of entry?

Yes. Normally, Norway does require export certificates to be issued in both the language of the country of origin and in Norwegian. However, for U.S. exporters English language version is deemed satisfactory.

- Can the certificate be applied to multiply shipments?

No. The Certificate follows the individual consignment.

- Will Norway accept a Supplier's or Manufacturer's Export Declaration as proof of compliance regarding salmonella occurrence ?

Yes for meats this can be done. The certificate for eggs must, however, be issued by the competent authority in the U.S.

- Will Norway accept a U.S. State issued export certificate?

Yes, provided that it has been drawn up in accordance with the Model Certificates.

- Will Norway derogate export certificates?

The EU has a bilateral mutual equivalency veterinary trade agreement with the United States facilitating import procedures. Through its EEA affiliation imports to Norway is also simplified. However, the above mentioned salmonella specific certificate requirements must always be respected.

Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements

Approved Establishment in the United States

Foods of animal origin (meat, fish, milk, eggs and products thereof) must come from an EU-approved establishment in the country of origin and be accompanied by a health certificate as described in Section I.

The list of approved U.S. export facilities can be found on the website of the Foreign Agricultural Service U.S. Mission to the European Union at:

<http://www.useu.be/agri/estab.html>

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