



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food Safety
and Inspection
Service

Washington, D.C.
20250

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Dear Facility Owner:

This letter is intended for an owner or operator of a warehouse that exports meat, poultry, or **egg** products from the United States (i.e., a facility that does not conduct slaughter or processing operations). Owners or operators of such facilities have a responsibility to follow applicable federal statutes and regulations, thereby ensuring that the product is safe and wholesome, and to ensure that the products meet the requirements of the foreign government. These requirements are set out in the Food Safety and Inspection Service's (FSIS) Export Library.

When the industry, including export warehouses, do not comply with a foreign government's requirements the foreign government can, and frequently has, halted exports from the United States, resulting in costly disruptions to trade. In an attempt to prevent disruptions in trade, FSIS is providing the following information on what steps an exporter should follow in exporting meat, poultry, and egg products.

For every export, an exporter needs to review **the applicable** foreign government requirements that are set out in the FSIS Export Library. Because the requirements of foreign countries change daily, the export library should be reviewed regularly. You can access the export library from the following link:

[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations & policies/Index of Import Requirements by Country/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations%20&%20policies/Index%20of%20Import%20Requirements%20by%20Country/index.asp).

A country's requirements may include specific forms or statements that need to accompany shipments, or limitations on the types of products or the establishments that can export to the country. Some countries' requirements have caused the U.S. Department of Agriculture to establish special Export Verification (EV) programs for beef and mutton products that must be **adhered** to for **product** to be **eligible** to go to the country in **question**. **Information on** EV programs, including which countries require EV certification, can be found at the following link:

[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations & Policies/Export Requirements EV Countries/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations%20&%20Policies/Export%20Requirements%20EV%20Countries/index.asp).

EV programs are established by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). AMS has **information** about EV programs on its Web site at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/arc/bev.htm>. If approval **by** an EV program is required to satisfy a foreign country, each exporter must apply and be approved by AMS either directly or through an approved producing firm where the products destined for export were produced and processed. Under an EV program, only certain products **and/or** product codes are allowed (example: beef **ribeyes** 123 might be listed as approved, but beef **ribeyes** 234 are not listed). **As** an exporter, if you are exporting XYZ company's product, not all product from XYZ company may be eligible for export to a particular country. Only product on an approved list can be exported.

This list can be obtained **from** the producing establishment. This list is available to government officials including FSIS inspection program personnel during the certification process.

In addition to AMS approval of establishments and products under an EV program, certain countries require that establishments be registered on an approved establishment list. Information on the specific countries with an approved establishment list, along with information on how to register, can be found at the following link:

[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations & Policies/Eligible US Establishments by Country/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations%20&%20Policies/Eligible%20US%20Establishments%20by%20Country/index.asp).

If the product is eligible for export to the specific country, obtain a current copy of **FSIS** Form 9060-6, Application for Export Certificate, from the FSIS inspection program personnel at the establishment or warehouse **from** which the product is being exported.

- Read the form **carefully** because it requires the exporter to certify that the products meet the requirements of the country to which the products are being exported. Failure to properly meet requirements can disrupt trade between the countries, and may subject the establishment, warehouse, or the person making the certification to additional penalties as allowed by law.
 - A complete list of the names and codes of the product to be exported must be supplied on the export application (FSIS Form 9060-6) to the FSIS inspection program personnel, so the inspection program employee can check the list to ensure the product is eligible for export.
 - If an EV program is involved, ensure all products meet the requirements (AMS requirements, including a statement of verification (SOV) and inspection).
 - **Include** a current list of all required forms that will be needed per the country requirements and type of product.
 - List any additional certifications, seals, etc., that are needed.
- Once the inspection program employee certifies a shipment no changes are permitted.

In closing, meeting the export requirements of a foreign **government** is the responsibility of the exporter. The exporter's failure to meet a foreign country's requirements may well result in, and in a number of cases has resulted in, costly disruptions in trade. FSIS may also deny or withdraw export certification services **from** your facility. Thus, exporters need to carefully examine country requirements for each export to ensure that:

1. products **are** eligible (insure FSIS inspection has the correct information on all product);
2. establishments are eligible (on an approved list if necessary);
3. all parts of an Export Verification program are being met (AMS certifications are in order) and;
4. all documents are completed properly.

Exporters must do their part in making sure that these disruptions, which are not in anyone's best interest, do not occur in the future. Exporters are responsible for communicating the above expectations and requirements to the foreign country's importers of record.

Sincerely,



Kenneth E. Petersen, D.V.M., M.P.H.

Assistant Administrator

Office of Field Operations