



# EXPORT CERTIFICATION SERVICES



The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) Dairy Grading Branch offers many services on a voluntary, user fee basis that help provide the assurance of wholesome and high-quality milk and dairy products. The Dairy Standardization and Grading Branches work together to offer assistance with inspection and certification of dairy and related products for export.

International markets are increasing for United States dairy and related products. The following certifications or attestations are routinely required by importing countries:

- The products are fit for human consumption;
- Are produced under sanitary and wholesome conditions;
- Are free from animal diseases, and;
- Are Federally inspected.

## EXPORT CERTIFICATIONS AVAILABLE

Specific Lot Export Certificate

Export Certifications to the European Union (Council Directive 92/46/EEC)

Export Certifications for United States Military Installations in Europe

Dairy Export Incentive Program (DEIP) Certificates

Quality  
Wholesomeness  
Uniformity

Importers seek top quality in the products they import, and AMS can help with quality certifications. The Dairy Grading Branch has established standards or specifications for many dairy products. Products are inspected and graded according to quality. Importers can rely on Dairy Grading Branch third party certifications as reliable indications of quality. Letters of credit for payment of exported product often require a certification of quality by a Federal agency such as AMS.

AMS dairy services can direct exporters to processors who use the USDA grading system. Buying from recognized companies saves time while assuring consistent high quality in the purchased products.

Before a dairy product can even be inspected, graded or certified the processing plant must meet specifications for quality and sanitation. For many processing facilities a USDA dairy inspector checks the plant, incoming raw products, and processing procedures to assure protection of the public health and wholesomeness. For other plants, the Dairy Grading Branch coordinates with the Food and Drug Administration to assure that public health measures are maintained. Additionally, certifications for freedom from animal diseases are coordinated with the USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

Dairy product grading generates uniformity. All products with the same USDA grade meet the same standard of quality and wholesomeness. Importers can be assured of consistent product quality on subsequent purchases that are USDA certified as to quality.

**Lot Evaluation:**

AMS services can be used to inspect the actual shipments of products that are exported. AMS can certify for export any dairy or related product provided the sources of the product can be appropriately identified.

**Compositional and Microbiological Analysis:**

Laboratory service consists of analytical and quality control tests. Services include all chemical and bacteriological determinations needed to evaluate class, quality, condition, and keeping properties.

**Condition of Container:**

AMS can check the condition of the packaging to be sure that containers properly protect the product to maintain its quality.

**Test Weighing and Check Loading:**

AMS can weigh products to make sure that they comply with stated net weight. Shipments can be check loaded to verify count, and product and lot identity



## For More Information

For more information about USDA dairy services, write to: USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs, Dairy Grading Branch, Room 2746-South Building, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-0230, or call the Dairy Grading Branch at 202-720-3171, fax 202-720-2643 or e-mail at [Carrie.Sayasithsena@usda.gov](mailto:Carrie.Sayasithsena@usda.gov).

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