



1400 Independence Avenue,
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Washington, DC 20250-0225

Dairy Program's Export Certification Program June 3, 2014 – Modified January 13, 2016

The United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service, Dairy Grading Branch (Dairy Grading Branch) offers certification services to assist in the export of dairy and related products. We will only provide certificates for products or conditions for which we have documentation or knowledge through plant and product inspections or grading. The Dairy Grading Branch issues Sanitary Certificates to U.S. exporters. Exported goods are manufactured in eligible plants on the following Federal Government lists:

- [Interstate Milk Shippers \(IMS\) list](#), maintained by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA);
- [FDA maintained European Union \(EU\) Dairy Plant Reference list](#); and
- [Dairy Plants Surveyed and Approved for USDA Grading Service](#), maintained by the Dairy Grading Branch (USDA).

Generally, USDA dairy sanitary export certificates cover dairy products found in Chapter 4 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule and other dairy products that are listed under the subheadings 1702.11, 1702.19, 1806.20, 1901.10, 1901.90, 1905.90, 2105.00, 2106.90, 2202.90, 3501.10, 3502.20, and 3504.00. The Dairy Grading Branch offers a general Sanitary Certificate which was designed in 1997 and has been accepted by numerous countries.

The Dairy Grading Branch assesses product composition when determining the proper export certificate issued to the European Union and China. Export certificates are compositionally grouped into two categories, namely dairy product and composite dairy product certificates. Dairy products must have a dairy content of 50 percent or more. Composite dairy products must have a dairy content of 10-49 percent. A food item with less than 10 percent is not a dairy product and AMS Dairy Grading Branch will not issue a dairy certificate for this product.

The Branch also offers country specific Sanitary Certificates that were negotiated between the U.S. Government and the importing country's government officials. The following partner agencies may have participated in these negotiations: the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS); the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS); USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS); the Food and Drug Administration (FDA); and the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR).

These countries have unique certificates with specifically negotiated language or format:

- Algeria
- Argentina
- Brazil
- Cuba
- Morocco
- Peru
- Tunisia
- Uruguay

Some countries have unique certificates with specifically negotiated language or format as well as specific plant lists requirements. These plant lists are maintained by the FDA. Exporters should contact Esther Lazar for listing information: Esther.Lazar@fda.hhs.gov

- European Union – including 28 member States, Iceland, Switzerland, Norway and Lichtenstein.
 - https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/sanco/traces/output/US/MMP_US_en.pdf
- Chile
 - <http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/ImportsExports/Exporting/ucm120245.htm>
- China
 - Dairy products - <http://www.cnca.gov.cn/ywzl/gjgnhz/jkzl/imports-list/dairy/America20150928.pdf>
 - Infant formula - <http://www.cnca.gov.cn/ywzl/gjgnhz/jkzl/imports-list/milk/America20150928.pdf>

General Sanitary Certificates

To request a general Sanitary Certificates, the exporter must e-mail a completed application form and a self-addressed courier label (Federal Express or UPS) to:
DairySanitaryCerts@ams.usda.gov

Forms for each type of Sanitary Certificate are available at:
<http://www.ams.usda.gov/services/imports-exports/dairy-sanitary-certificates>

USDA reviews E-mailed requests for Sanitary Certificates in the order received. Exporters should allow five days for processing.

The Dairy Grading Branch endorser reviews the supplied information and verifies that the plant number provided is found in the dairy plant database comprised of manufacturing facilities found on the eligible lists. If the plant number on the form is not in the database, the endorser checks the lists published online for updates if the plant is listed, the endorser will add the plant to the internal database to process the request. If the plant is not found on the published lists, the reviewer rejects the request.

European Union and China Certificates

The European Union (EU) Health Certificate requires an annual document review for traceability to the raw milk supply to verify that Somatic Cell and Standard Plate Counts comply with EU Regulations.

The EU Certification program instructions outlining applicant and manufacturer's responsibilities can be found at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/services/imports-exports/eu-dairy-exports>

To request EU Health Certificates and China Sanitary certificates, exporters must register to use the Electronic Trade Document Exchange System (eTDE). eTDE provides a secure environment for sharing trade documentation with governments and businesses across the supply chain. To work within this security framework, there are a number of actions that new users and companies must take:

- Each user must obtain a USDA e-authentication account to access the eTDE system. Users located in the U.S. need a Level 2 account, while users outside of the U.S. need a Level 1 account. You can find e-authentication information at <http://www.etde.usda.gov>;
- After submitting a request for a Level 2 account, users must go to the closest USDA service center with a government-issued ID to prove identity. USDA Local Registration Authority (LRA) locations are found at: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?type=lra>; and
- Once a user has e-authentication they must finish eTDE registration by establishing their company as an entity and associating staff to that entity. Further instructions on the eTDE system can be found in the [eTDE Dairy Owner User Guide](#).

Certificates are dated the day of approval in the eTDE system. The EU and many other countries require Health or Sanitary Certificates to be dated prior to the date of departure. It is the applicant's responsibility to submit requests with sufficient time for processing, keeping weekends and office closures for Federal Holidays in mind.

USDA reviews eTDE requests for EU and China Certificates in the order received. Exporters should allow 5 business days for processing.

The certificate endorser reviews the information supplied by the exporter and approves or rejects the request. It is the exporter's responsibility to monitor the status of their submitted requests in eTDE. If USDA rejects a certificate request, we add comments explaining the reason for rejection.

Certificate Numbering and Amending Procedures

When a certificate is approved a confirmation e-mail is sent to the e-mail address provided on the form, a unique certificate reference number is assigned and the exporter-provided account number is billed for the service. The endorser prints the certificate, signs it in blue ink, and stamps it with an official seal.

All certificate numbers assigned by the Dairy Grading branch begin with DX800, have six unique numbers, and end with -8, for example DX800123456-8. If an applicant requests a correction to a certificate, the Branch will generate an amendment by adding –A to the end --for example. DX800123456-8-A. A second amendment would then be assigned as –B, etc. The date on the certificate signifies the date the certificate is signed and will change with all amendments. In no case will a Sanitary or Health Certificate be “post-dated” or “pre-dated”. We add an attestation, “this certificate cancels and replaces DX800123456-8 dated DD-MMM-YYYY” to all amendments.

Sometimes the Dairy Grading Branch is asked to provide multiple original certificates or new certificates with the original number assigned due to loss. The branch will not provide multiple originals and the original number will be assigned only to the original. We can provide certified copies of our certificates or issue amendments to replace lost originals. We generate certified copies by copying the certificate from our files, stamping the copy with a blue ink stamp stating “Certified to be a true copy”, signing in blue ink, dating, and applying a seal. A certified copy will have the original date and copied signature as well as a new date, signature, and seal.

AMS Office Record Keeping

The Dairy Grading Branch sends the original certificate to the address provided by the applicant and maintains an electronically scanned copy for 3 years according to records management requirements.

For additional information contact:

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