



# Dairy Export Certification

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## Program Guide

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## Overview

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. AMS will not carry claims in the product description for Kosher, Halal, Organic, Extra Grade, etc. forward to the certificate. The Dairy Grading Branch issues Sanitary Certificates to U.S. exporters. The European Union and many other countries require certificates to be dated prior to departure. Certificates are dated the day the request is reviewed and the certificate is signed; it is the exporter's responsibility to make sure they request certificates with sufficient time for processing. Exported goods eligible to obtain AMS Dairy Sanitary Certificates must be manufactured in eligible plants on the following Federal Government lists:

- [Interstate Milk Shippers \(IMS\) list, maintained by the Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\);](#)

Interstate milk shippers who have been certified by Milk Sanitation Rating Officers (SROs) as having attained the identified milk sanitation compliance and enforcement ratings are indicated on the following IMS List. These ratings/certifications are based on compliance with the requirements of the latest revision of the USPHS/FDA Grade "A" Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO) and were made in accordance with the procedures set forth in the latest revision of the Methods of Making Sanitation Rating of Milk Shippers and the Certifications/Listings of Single Service Containers and/or Closures for Milk and/or Milk Products Manufacturers (MMSR).

- [FDA maintained European Union \(EU\) Dairy Plant Reference list;](#)

Currently, FDA provides Chile, China, and the European Union (EU) with a list of U.S. milk product manufacturers/processors that: 1) have expressed interest in exporting their products to these countries; 2) are subject to FDA's jurisdiction; and, 3) are not the subject of a pending judicial enforcement action (i.e., an injunction or seizure or a pending warning letter).

- [Dairy Plants Surveyed and Approved for USDA Grading Service, maintained by the Dairy Grading Branch \(USDA\).](#)

The dairy plants listed in this publication are inspected at least twice yearly by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Plant approval is determined by unannounced inspections covering more than 100 items, including milk supply, plant facilities, condition of equipment, sanitary practices, and processing procedures. USDA inspection and grading services are performed under the Regulations in 7 CFR Part 58, Subpart B Grading and Inspection, General Specifications for Approved Plants and Standards for Grades of Dairy Products administered by the Dairy Grading Branch of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service.

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.

## Product Composition

The Dairy Grading Branch assesses product composition when determining the proper export certificate issued to the European Union and China; however, the importing country ultimately determines the type of export certificate they will require to allow the product into their country. Export certificates are typically compositionally grouped into two categories, namely Dairy Products and Composite Dairy Products.

Dairy products must have a dairy content of 50 percent or more. These products include items such as milk, cheese, flavored whey protein concentrate blends, etc.

Composite dairy products must have a dairy content of 10 - 49 percent. These products include ice cream, cheesecake, flavored whey protein blends with less than 50% dairy, etc. 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.

## 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, UPS, or DHL) to:

[DairySanitaryCerts@ams.usda.gov](mailto: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 up to five (5) 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.

### Country Specific Sanitary Certificates

AMS 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).

The following countries have unique certificates with specifically negotiated language or format:

Algeria	Argentina
Brazil	Chile
Columbia	Cuba
Morocco	Peru
Tunisia	Uruguay

You can find the worksheets and guidelines for each country on the [Dairy Sanitary Certificates](#) website.

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](mailto: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](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/America20160831.pdf?utm\\_campaign=Global+Dairy+eBrief&utm\\_source=hs\\_email&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=33746940&hsenc=p2ANqtz--ThF4AzZlAR2OHTY\\_2ptYGrEN1qnEpLGT-4FriBJgq2k0OX881XKxmIMkOXKsgosncPV3cljus2HvDU1N4F9YVMB4CUA&hsmi=33746940](http://www.cnca.gov.cn/ywzl/gjgnhz/jkzl/imports-list/dairy/America20160831.pdf?utm_campaign=Global+Dairy+eBrief&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=33746940&hsenc=p2ANqtz--ThF4AzZlAR2OHTY_2ptYGrEN1qnEpLGT-4FriBJgq2k0OX881XKxmIMkOXKsgosncPV3cljus2HvDU1N4F9YVMB4CUA&hsmi=33746940)
  - Infant formula -  
<http://www.cnca.gov.cn/ywzl/gjgnhz/jkzl/imports-list/milk/America20150928.pdf>

## 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: <https://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:

- Step 1. 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>;
- Step 2. 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
- Step 3. 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 to allow sufficient time for processing during normal business hours (excluding weekend and holidays).

USDA reviews eTDE requests for EU and China Certificates in the order received. **Exporters should allow up to five (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

All certificate numbers assigned by the Dairy Grading branch begin with DX800, have six unique numbers, and end with -8, for example DX800123456-8.

When a certificate is approved a confirmation e-mail is sent to the e-mail address provided on the Sanitary Certificate Request 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 embosses the certificate with the USDA seal.

## Amendments

### Original certificate requested via Email

Make the changes you are requesting to the original file. Save the modified document to a new file name. Email the file and a PDF return label to [dairysanitarycerts@ams.usda.gov](mailto:dairysanitarycerts@ams.usda.gov). In the email subject box put “AMENDMENT request for certificate DX-XXXXXXX”, include only one amendment per email unless it is clear which file is amending which certificate (such as using the original certificate number for the file name).

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. An attestation, “this certificate cancels and replaces DX800123456-8 dated DD-MMM- YYYY” will be added to all amendments. The date on the certificate signifies the date the certificate is signed by the Export Certificate Coordinator and will change with all amendments. In no case will a Sanitary or Health Certificate be “post-dated” or “pre-dated”.

### Multiple Certificate Requests

The Dairy Grading 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.

## Service Fees

Service	Fees
Original Certificate	\$82.00
Amendment to Original Certificate	\$82.00
Certified Certificate Copy	\$41.00
Scanned .pdf Certificate (sent via e-mail)	\$41.00
Fax copy of Certificate (not certified)	\$4.00

Typing fee for Faxed requests

\$82.00

## AMS Records Management

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.

## Agency Contacts

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