

REPUBLIC OF PANAMA
PANAMANIAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY

PRESS RELEASE

“Translation into the English language of the general sanitary requirements for the import of animal origin foods for human consumption”

WHEREAS, Decree Law 11 of February 22nd, 2006 creates the Panamanian Food Safety Authority (AUPSA), as the rector of the State that ensures compliance and enforcement of laws and regulations on the safety introduction of food into the national territory, strictly based on scientific and technical criteria.

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Panamanian Food Safety Authority to approve the Sanitary and Phytosanitary eligibility of countries, regions, areas, production chains and/or production plants for food exported to the Republic of Panama.

WHEREAS, Article 38, paragraph 1 of Decree Law 11 of February 22nd, 2006 states that it is the role of the National Directorate of Food Imports Regulations, to issue sanitary, Phytosanitary, food safety, and quality requirements to be met by foods for their introduction into the national territory, based on the provisions of the laws and conventions or treaties ratified by the Republic of Panama.

WHEREAS, there are diseases relevant to animal health, which control is essential for the protection of livestock assets in the country.

WHEREAS, the application of the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) system and its prerequisite programs (GMP and SSOP) on these foods, prevent the appearance of biological, chemical or physical hazards that may affect the health of the consumers, and it is the responsibility of the Panamanian Food Safety Authority, to verify that they do not exceed the appropriate level of health protection.

WHEREAS, the Panamanian Food Safety Authority, based on a risk analysis for the import of animal foods, has established health requirements and additional provisions specific to the import of products for human consumption, described in this resolution.

After the above considerations,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Article 1: To issue a translation into the English language of a general sanitary requirement for the import of animal origin foods for human consumption.

Article 2: The plants or establishments that handle and process foods of animal origin for human consumption, have been authorized by the competent authority of the exporting country and the Panamanian Food Safety Authority, to introduce their products into the Republic of Panama (RESOLUTION AUPSA-DINAN-092-2007 March 2, 2007).

Article 3: These foods should be covered by a health certificate issued by the competent authority of the exporting country attesting compliance of the following requirements:

1. The country has been recognized by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) in the Republic of Panama as free of exotic diseases, related to animal origin foods for import purposes.

Note: This condition must be supported by the Panamanian Food Safety Authority.

PARAGRAPH: For Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs), including scrapie of sheep, provisions from the OIE Health Code for Terrestrial Animals are admitted.

2. The country maintains official programs, in accordance with the provisions of the OIE Health Code for Terrestrial Animals, for the prevention, control and eradication of important diseases.
3. Animals slaughtered for the production of these products have been born and bred only in the exporting country; otherwise, it should originate in countries acknowledged as eligible by the AUPSA.
4. These foods have been processed in establishments approved for export purposes by the competent authority of the exporting country.
5. The exporting country's competent authority has verified that the establishment has documented and implemented the system of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) and prerequisite programs (GMP and SSOP), in accordance with the recommendations set out in the OIE Health Code for Terrestrial Animals and the FAO/OMS Codex Alimentarius.
6. The products were treated according to the provisions of the OIE Health Code for Terrestrial Animals, for the inactivation of important diseases.

Article 6: The products must be properly packed and sealed in new packages, identified with the information required by the current labeling standards of the Codex Alimentarius.

Article 7: The containers, prior to shipment, have been inspected to verify that they are in a sanitary condition and that the materials used for packaging and/or buffering do not contain vegetable fibers or other pests host material.

Article 8: The containers have been pre-sealed (strapped) and sealed, so that these seals can only be removed by the Panamanian Food Safety Authority, upon arrival to the country.

Article 9: The importer is required to notify the Panamanian Food Safety Authority, electronically, through the Import Notification Form, with a minimum of 48 hours prior to the arrival of the product to the point of entry.

Article 10: Food or food products must be covered with the following supporting documentation in each shipment:

- a) Import notification form.
- b) Health certificate issued by the official authority of the country of origin of the product with the additional statements outlined in Section 5.
- c) Certificate of origin of the product, according to the trade agreements signed by the Republic of Panama.
- d) Copy of the product's commercial invoice
- e) Pre-customs or customs declaration.

Article 11: The Panamanian Food Safety Authority reserves the right to take the required samples at any point of the food chain for the analysis of organoleptic characteristics, contaminants, additives, toxic waste, verification of species and microbiological analysis or any other analysis required.

Article 12: These requirements are exclusive to the import of general sanitary requirements for the import of animal origin foods for human consumption. However, it is not exempt from compliance with national standards for marketing in the country.

Article 13: This resolution repeals any other provisions contrary to it.

Article 14: The present resolution shall take effect upon its signature and shall be published immediately in the Official Gazette.

LEGAL BASIS: Decree Law 11 February 22, 2006.

BE IT HEREBY COMMUNICATED, AND EXECUTED.

HUMBERTO A. BERMÚDEZ R.
National Director of Food Import Regulations

EMILIO CASTILLO VÁSQUEZ
Secretary General

**THIS DOCUMENT IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND
DOES NOT POSE ANY LEGAL OBLIGATIONS. PLEASE REFER TO
OUR IMPORT REQUIREMENT RESOLUTIONS FOR THE LEGAL
BACKGROUND.**