Information for Exporters of Pet Food to Israel

Model Official Certification of Plants
Producing Pet Foods Intended for Export to Israel

The government of Israel requires this form for all U.S. pet food manufacturers desiring to export pet food to Israel. Endorsement of this form by APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) is done on the basis of inspection of the manufacturing facility by APHIS VS. Annual reinspection and completion of this form is necessary for APHIS VS to continue endorsing export certificates for the applicable pet food manufacturer. While it is APHIS understanding that the government of Israel requires annual submission of this form, exporters should have their importers verify the required frequency of submission.

Statement #3 on the above form asks for a list of the source species of all the low risk materials processed on the premises of the pet food manufacturing facility. Please note the following restrictions and requirements for this certification:

1) With the exception of commodities identified by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) as essentially BSE risk-free (e.g., milk products), bovine ingredients sourced from the United States (or any country considered affected with BSE by the government of Israel) are prohibited. Due to scrapie, ovine ingredients sourced from the United States are also prohibited. U.S. origin venison meat and parts are permitted as ingredients in pet foods being exported to Israel.   No prohibited materials will be considered low risk.
2) The government of Israel considers raw materials to be "low risk" if they do NOT present any risk of spreading communicable diseases to animals or humans. To be considered low risk, the materials must NOT be obtained from stillborn or unborn animals or animals not presented for slaughter (at FSIS or State-inspected facilities) that a) died as a result of disease; or 2) were killed or euthanized in the context of disease control or eradication efforts. Also excluded from inclusion as "low risk" are parts or materials condemned in the slaughter process due to residues or prohibited substances or disease conditions communicable to animals or humans.
3) Low risk materials can include parts of slaughtered animals that passed post mortem (PM) inspection (or poultry heads, feet, or intestines that did not pass PM inspection). This includes parts of slaughtered animals which are condemned for or not used for human consumption but are not affected with conditions transmissible to human and animals and which are derived from carcasses that passed PM inspection. Also considered "low risk" are hides from animals that passed ante mortem (AM) inspection; blood from animals that have passed AM inspection; animal byproducts derived from the production of products for human consumption; milk or dairy products; fresh caught fish; fishmeal; eggs and egg byproducts; and rendered meals produced from slaughtered animals.
4) Upon request, pet food manufacturers must be able to provide enough information to enable APHIS VS to determine if the raw materials used in the production of pet foods for Israel qualify as low risk.

Statement #4 requests information about raw materials of mammalian origin (excluding milk products) used for the production of pet food for export to Israel. Please note the following restrictions and requirements for this certification:

1) Local (U.S.) origin mammalian ingredients must <u>exclude</u> ovine and bovine ingredients (with the exception of those commodities identified by the OIE as being essentially BSE risk free).
2) Bovine and ovine ingredients (including lamb meal) legally imported from Australia and/or New Zealand are permitted.
3) With the exception of those sourced from Australia and New Zealand, imported mammalian rendered meals must be sourced from plants approved by the Israeli Veterinary Service.

Statement #5 requires verification that the pet food manufacturer routinely performs microbiological testing on finished products to assess freedom from pathogenic microorganisms, including Salmonella. Please note the following requirements for this certification.

1) The government of Israel has clarified that U.S. pet food manufacturers (dry, semi-moist products) must, at a minimum, perform microbiological testing for Salmonella and Enterobacteriaceae on finished pet food products intended for export to Israel.
2) Salmonella testing parameters: absence in 25 gram: $n = 5$; $c = 0$; $m = 0$; and $M = 0$. Enterobacteriaceae testing parameters: $n = 5$; $c = 2$; $m = 10$; $M = 300$ in 1 gram
3) Explanations of n, m, M, and c:
   a) n = the number of samples to be tested (i.e., five (5) 25 gram samples for Salmonella; five (5) 1 gram samples for Enterobacteriaceae).
   b) m = the threshold for number of bacteria: the result is considered satisfactory if the number of bacteria in each sample does not exceed m.
   c) M = represents the number of bacteria at which test results will be unsatisfactory. If the number of bacteria in any sample is M or greater, the results are unsatisfactory.
   d) c = the number of samples that can have bacterial counts greater than m, but less than M and the overall results still be considered satisfactory.

Model of a Veterinary Certificate to Accompany Pet Foods
Containing Ingredients of Animal Origin to Israel

Endorsement by APHIS VS of this export certificate for pet foods to Israel is based on annual inspection (at a minimum) by APHIS VS to verify that the pet food manufacturer is in compliance with the declarations being attested to by APHIS VS. Inspection by APHIS VS for the conditions of this export certificate should coincide with inspection for the conditions of the Model Plant Certification Form for pet food facilities. Additional inspection criteria necessitated by the export certificate include verification of the following (as applicable):

1) Canned products are heat treated in hermetically sealed containers to a minimum F sub C value of 3;
2) Commercial sterility (shelf stability) of canned products and freedom from pathogenic organisms is verified either through routine incubation tests or microbiological testing as described for dry or semi-moist products;
3) Dry or semi-moist pet food products have been processed in a manner to ensure that the animal origin ingredients have been subjected to a heat treatment of at least 90 degrees C throughout their substance;
4) Dry or semi-moist pet food products are tested (on a lot basis) for Salmonella and Enterobacteriaceae using the parameters described in the information on the Model Plant Certification Form for pet food facilities;
5) Finished products are handled, packaged, and stored in a sanitary manner to preclude recontamination of the processed products (e.g., clean, sanitary packaging materials, enclosed storage, prevention of commingling or cross-contamination of raw materials and heat processed products).

Prior to endorsement of this export certificate, exporters must present the endorsing APHIS VS Area Office with laboratory test results on the products being exported indicating that the product was tested within 2 weeks of shipment and meets the required testing parameters for Salmonella and Enterobacteriaceae.

USDA – Certificate of Ruminant Ingredient Utilization

The government of Israel may require exporters to have this form completed and endorsed by the APHIS VS as a condition for export. Exporters should have their importers verify through the government of Israel whether or not this is required. It is APHIS understanding that the government of Israel requires this form for pet food manufacturers including lamb meal from Australia or New Zealand in product being exported to Israel, and for facilities that receive, store, process, or handle any ruminant materials prohibited by Israel. During the APHIS VS inspection, the facility must be able to demonstrate the measures they take (e.g., flushing/cleaning procedures, separation protocol) to prevent commingling of eligible and ineligible materials or products.

מדינת ישראל
STATE OF ISRAEL
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
VETERINARY SERVICES AND ANIMAL HEALTH

Model of a veterinary certificate to accompany pet foods containing ingredients of animal origin to Israel

Certificate No. _____

Exporting country: _____
Responsible ministry: _____
Certifying department: _____

I. Identification
Description of the product and species: _____
Nature of packaging: _____
Number of packages: _____ Net weight: _____
Lot/batch production reference number: _____

II. Origin
Address and approval number of the producer: _____
_____

III. Destination
The pet foods will be sent
From: _____ To: _____
     (Place of loading)   (Country and place of destination)
By the following means of transport: _____
     (The flight number or the name of ship)
Container No.: _____ Seal No. _____
Name and address of consignor: _____
Name and address of consignee: _____

IV. Declaration
I, the undersigned official veterinarian hereby certify that:
1. The producer is a plant which is approved by the State Veterinary Services for the local market as well as for export to Israel and supervised by an official accredited veterinarian;
2. No cases of diseases specific to the species included in List A of the OIE code have been diagnosed within a radius of 30 kms from the processing plant during the last 6 months prior to shipment;
3. In the case of canned pet food, the product has been:
   a) heat treated in hermetically sealed containers to a minimum Fc value of 3,0;
   b) manufactured and packed complying with approved manufacturing practice, sufficient to render it commercially sterile and free from pathogenic microorganisms;
4. In the case of dry pet food and semi-moist pet food:
   a) The product has been manufactured and packed complying with approved manufacturing practice, sufficient to render it microbiologically stable, and is fit for sale in the country of origin and for export to Israel.
   b) The processed pet food or the ingredients of animal origin have been subject to a heat treatment of at least 90°C throughout their substances;
   c) The end products have been examined within 2 weeks prior to shipment and found free from pathogenic microorganisms, including Salmonellae;
5. The end product was stored in enclosed storage and has undergone all precautions to avoid recontamination with pathogenic agents after treatment;
6. To the best of my knowledge and belief, the consignment certified herein has not been exposed to radioactive contamination.

Date _____

     Full name and title of the official veterinarian

Place _____ Signature _____
    (Official Stamp)   IMP.Mazon.VC.petfood.1/01