



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food Safety
and Inspection
Service

Washington, D.C.
20250

NOV 21 2003

To: District Managers and Inspectors-in-Charge

From: Karen Stuck *Karen Stuck*
Assistant Administrator
Office of International Affairs

Subject: Completion of Export Certificates for Russia

There have been an increasing number of errors on FSIS export certificates issued for the export of meat and poultry to Russia. The Russian Chief Veterinary Officer has expressed concern about persistent problems with FSIS certificates. These errors have a negative impact on the relationship between our countries. The purpose of this notice is to emphasize the importance of accurate completion of export certificates. Errors on certificates cause delays in the release of shipments at the port of entry in the importing country. More generally, export certification errors cause concern about the ability of the United States to correctly produce and certify products for export.

The following sources of information about export certification of meat, poultry and egg products are available:

- FSIS Directive 9000.1
- The FSIS Export Library, which includes country specific requirements and guidelines for the completion of specific certificates. As an example, "The Guideline for the Completion of FSIS 9450-4, Veterinary Certificate for Export of Poultry Meat to the Russian Federation" is enclosed.
- The Technical Service Center is also available to assist when needed.

In addition, simple clerical errors cause the same delays and concerns. The certification process should include a review to assure that information such as establishment numbers are printed exactly as they appear on the eligible plant lists. Ocean vessel container numbers should also be checked for accuracy.

It is important to the integrity of the Food Safety and Inspection Service and the U.S. export industry that accurate export certification documents are issued. Please utilize the resources available to assure that certificates are completed correctly. FSIS personnel should not sign certificates that are not completed according to the Guidelines provided.

Please provide a copy of this notice to plant management.

Questions regarding this notice should be directed to the Technical Service Center at 800-233-3935.

GUIDELINE FOR COMPLETION OF 9450-4, VETERINARY CERTIFICATE FOR EXPORT OF POULTRY MEAT TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

EXPORTING COUNTRY	THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	RF(A)- __ (Preprinted Serial Number) __
COMPETENT AGENCY	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FSIS	
DISTRICT OFFICE	VETERINARY CERTIFICATE FOR EXPORT OF POULTRY MEAT TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION	
ESTABLISHMENT NUMBER WHERE THIS CERTIFICATE WAS ISSUED		

1. PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

NAME OF PRODUCT	DATE (OR RANGE OF DATES) OF PRODUCTION	NUMBER OF PACKAGES	KIND OF PACKAGING	CERTIFICATE NUMBER ON PACKAGE	EST/PLANT NUMBER ON PACKAGE	NET WEIGHT	STORAGE AND TRANSPORT CONDITIONS (indicate in degrees Celsius)

2. ORIGIN OF PRODUCT

FSIS APPROVED ESTABLISHMENT NUMBER			
SLAUGHTERING/PROCESSING ESTABLISHMENT NUMBER	PROCESSING ESTABLISHMENT NUMBER	PROCESSING/COLD STORAGE ESTABLISHMENT NUMBER	COLD STORAGE FACILITY NUMBER

NAME AND ADDRESS OF EXPORTER

3. PRODUCT'S POINT OF DESTINATION

TRANSIT COUNTRIES
POINT OF CROSSING THE BORDER
NAME AND ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE
TRANSPORT (CONTAINER #, FLIGHT #, NAME OF VESSEL)

4. FIT FOR CONSUMPTION CERTIFICATE

The Certificate confirms compliance with the following:

- 4.1. Poultry meat is produced from the slaughter of healthy birds grown at farms that have been inspected by U.S. official veterinarians. Poultry did not receive feed containing hormones, antibiotics and other preparations intended for stimulating growth which are not registered for use in the Russian Federation for that purpose.
- 4.2. Poultry originates from administrative territories and farms not affected with infectious diseases such as
 - African swine fever, if no such disease has been reported in the country for the last 3 years
 - Foot-and-mouth disease, if no such disease has been reported in the country for the last 12 months
 - Newcastle disease, ornithosis (psittacosis) and infections encephalomyelitis, if no such disease has been reported in the State for the last 6 months
 - Infections laryngo-tracheitis (other than vaccine induced) and paramyxoviral infection, if no such disease has been reported in the county or adjacent counties for the last 6 months
 - Marek's disease, tuberculosis, pasteurellosis, infectious bronchitis (other than vaccine induced), and Gumboro Disease caused by classic highly virulent strains and serogroup II), if no such disease has been reported on the territory of the farm for the last 30 days
 - Avian influenza if no such disease has been reported on the territory of the state for the last six months (in cases of individual occurrences of type A influenza with no clinical signs, limitations can be restricted to a small administrative territories or removed at an earlier date as coordinated between the veterinary services of the Russian Federation and the United States)

GUIDELINE FOR COMPLETION OF 9450-4, VETERINARY CERTIFICATE FOR EXPORT OF POULTRY MEAT TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

- 4.3. Poultry for slaughter originated from farms with no clinical signs of Salmonellosis and originated from primary breeder flocks which are included in the National Poultry Improvement Plan
- 4.4. Poultry was supplied for slaughtering and processing to poultry processing establishments which have received permission from the U.S. Federal Veterinary Service to deliver products for export and which are under its permanent supervision; and are on the official list of establishments jointly reviewed by Russian and U.S. Veterinary Experts to export products to the Russian Federation
- 4.5. Poultry whose meat is exported to the Russian Federation was subjected to pre-slaughter veterinary examination, carcasses and internal organs were subject to postmortem veterinary-sanitary examination which had been carried out by the US federal veterinary service. In the course of postmortem veterinary-sanitary examination, no changed characteristic of infectious diseases, parasites, or poisoning were discovered
- 4.6. Meat has no abnormal pigmentation, hematoma, mechanical foreign substances, unusual color or smell, unsatisfactory organoleptic properties that are uncharacteristic of fresh meat, or preservatives, and is not treated with coloring or smelling substances, ionizing radiation or ultra-violet rays. Antimicrobial substances, including those based on chlorine, has been used only in safe levels of concentration set by instrumental quantitative methods under federal regulatory control and FSIS oversight
- 4.7. Microbiological, chemico-toxicological and radiological conditions of poultry meat conform to the veterinary and sanitary rules and requirements in effect in Russia.
- 4.8. While in storage or transit, meat is not subject to defrosting and has a temperature of not more than minus 18 degrees centigrade inside the muscle tissue
- 4.9. Each meat package must carry a label that clearly identifies name and official number of the poultry processing plant. Such label should state in English and Russian: Product for export to the Russian Federation; Type of Product; Date of Production; Expiration Date
- 4.10. Each package with products must be marked with a US national veterinary service stamp with a number that is identical to the veterinary certificate number
- 4.11. Packaging is designed to resist illegitimate opening.
- 4.12. Meat (products) is (are) safe for human consumption.
- 4.13. Packaging containers and materials are disposable and meet hygienic requirements

OFFICIAL FSIS DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

4.14.	SIGNATURE (ORIGINAL REQUIRED)	MADE ON _____ 200 _____
	FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME, LAST NAME; POSITION	

4.15. The aforesaid cargo shipment has been examined at loading of the shipping container or vessel and is in compliance with the present certificate. The transport vehicles have been cleaned, washed, and disinfected in accordance with the rules in force in the USA.

INITIALED FSIS EXPORT STAMP	<p align="center">OFFICIAL FSIS DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE</p> <p>Made on _____ 200 _____</p> <p>SIGNATURE (ORIGINAL REQUIRED)</p> <p>FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME, LAST NAME; POSITION</p>
-----------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Note: If there is not sufficient space to identify all of the product on this sheet, FSIS Form 9450-4B, Continuation Sheet for the Certificate for Poultry Meat Exported to the Russian Federation, must be used.

**GUIDELINE FOR COMPLETION OF 9450-4, VETERINARY CERTIFICATE FOR EXPORT OF POULTRY
MEAT TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

FSIS District and Issuing Establishment

- **District Office** - Enter appropriate District Office. Consult the following Web address if needed:
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OA/programs/fieldoff.htm>
- **Establishment Number Where This Certificate Was Issued** - Enter the establishment number of the plant that requests and completes FSIS Form 9450-4 (8/27/02)

Certificate Number

- **Certificate Number** - The serial number in the top right corner on the front of the certificate is a unique number that facilitates the use of the 9450-4 alone without issuance of FSIS Form 9060-5. This number is used in the export stamp when stamping containers. Multiple lots all previously certified with FSIS Form 9450-4 may be combined on a single carbon set of FSIS Form 9450-4 by noting the previous certificate numbers on the final certificate in the "Certificate Number on Package." Block. The certificate number of the final copy of the 9450-4 will only be stamped on containers not represented by previous certificates.

1. PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

- **Name of Product** - The product name as labeled on containers must be entered in this block. Abbreviations should not be used. Different cuts must be represented as separate line items even if originating from the same plant. If more space is needed, a continuation sheet (FSIS 9450-4B) can be used.
- **Date of Production** - This must be a date or date range which includes all dates stamped on containers represented in that line item in day/month/year format, e.g. 01-Sept-02 to 10-Sept-02 if production dates were all from the first ten days of September.
- **Number of packages** - This is the number of boxes represented in that line item. The following situations will require the need for listing product as a separate line item: product stamped with a different certificate number; product bearing a different establishment number; or product with a different label name.
- **Kind of Packaging** - Self-explanatory
- **Certificate Number on Package** - This is the serial number of the FSIS Form 9450-4 stamped on the product.
- **Est/Plant number on package** - The establishment number on the label must be entered for each line item. Only one establishment number can be entered in this block. The establishment number(s) must be entered exactly as it appears on the Russian approved establishment list.
- **Net Weight** - This is the net weight of product represented in that line item.
- **Storage and Transport Conditions** - Product must be transported at minus 18° C or (0° F), therefore, temperature "minus 18° C" must be entered in this block.

2. ORIGIN OF PRODUCT

- **Slaughter/Processing Establishment Number** - The approved plant numbers are entered in this block. If more space is needed, a continuation sheet (FSIS Form 9450-4B) can be used. The establishment number(s) must be entered exactly as it appears on the Russian approved establishment list.
- **Processing Establishment Number** - If product is not cut, or processed at the slaughter establishment, the establishment performing the final processing will be listed in this block. This is raw processing only - cooked product is not certified with this certificate. The establishment number(s) must be entered exactly as it appears on the Russian approved establishment list. If final production was done at the slaughter plant, then this block should indicate "Not Applicable".
- **Processing/Cold Storage Establishment Number** - A few establishments may perform boxing or cutting of product at a facility whose primary operation is cold storage. In those cases, this block would be used to designate a processing/cold storage establishment. The establishment number(s) must be entered exactly as it appears on the Russian approved establishment list. If this block is not used, it should indicate "Not Applicable".
- **Cold Storage Facility Number** - The establishment number of any facility that performs only freezer storage of product subsequent to export to Russia must be entered in this block. The establishment number(s) must be entered exactly as it appears on the Russian approved establishment list. If this block is not used, it should indicate "Not Applicable".
- **Name and Address of Exporter** - This is the name of the person or company marketing the product to a person or company in Russia and is not necessarily the company producing the product. Exporters must be traceable by accurate name and address.

**GUIDELINE FOR COMPLETION OF 9450-4, VETERINARY CERTIFICATE FOR EXPORT OF POULTRY
MEAT TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

3. PRODUCT'S POINT OF DESTINATION

- **Transit Countries** - If product is intended to pass through any other country in transit to Russia, e.g. Germany, Poland, etc., then the country name must be entered here. Do not list USA or Russia as a country of transit.
- **Point of Border Crossing** - The name of the port where the product will be presented for import into Russia, e.g., St. Petersburg, must be entered in this block.
- **Name and Address of Consignee** - This is the name of the person or company in Russia intended to receive the product. This must be completed and must be a traceable name and address in Russia. Entering other names such as the name and address of the consignor is not permissible unless the consignor, in fact, maintains an office in Russia.
- **Transport** - This block must contain the name of the ship used to transport the product to Russia for break bulk shipments, container numbers for containerized shipments, or a flight number if shipped by air. It does not need to include truck numbers or any means of transport used before the product departs the United States.

4. FIT FOR CONSUMPTION CERTIFICATE

- **4.1 to 4.13** - These attestations of animal health and other requirements are certified by the FSIS signing official and must be supported by documentation from the sources indicated in the Russian requirements, e.g., flock health certificates, State veterinarian's reports, and laboratory reports. Documentation verifying each requirement is expected to be on file for each certified lot at the slaughter establishment. When product is certified after shipment to a cold storage, FSIS Form 9450-4A may be used to represent the documents that it now covers with any additional requirements supported by letter from plant management. The blank space after 4.13 must remain blank.

OFFICIAL DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

- **4.14** - This is the signature of the FSIS certifying official certifying the information and statements in sections 1-4. This certification can be done at the slaughter plant, cold storage, or port of departure and requires support documentation. An original signature is required on each copy of the carbon set.
- **4.15** - The signature required in 4.14 must precede this signature. This signature certifies that the final means of transport is clean and sanitary, that the product loaded is the product identified in Section 1, and there is no evidence of carton damage or temperature abuse.
- **Break Bulk Shipments** - In the case of product loaded as a break bulk shipment directly into the hold of an ocean vessel for transport to Russia, the second signature on the 9450-4 must be provided only after confirmation of the status of the product and the ship according to the AMS Russian Export Certification Program. Upon receipt of a signed copy of the PY 210, Poultry Products Grading Certificate, issued by AMS personnel or similar certification issued by approved third party contractors as stated in the AMS program, the second FSIS signature can be provided. Information about the AMS program can be obtained from AMS Poultry Grading at 202-720-4411 or by referring to the AMS Web site "Export Certification Program Russian Federation" <http://www.ams.usda.gov/poultry>.
- **Ocean Vessel Containers** - In the case of product loaded into ocean vessel containers for transport to Russia at FSIS inspected establishments, both signatures on the 9450-4 should be provided after the container is loaded. The AMS program is not applicable in this situation.
- **Applying the Export Stamp to the Certificate** - The FSIS export stamp must be applied in the indicated space to the left of the second signature block on the 9450-4 at the time of the second signature. The stamp should first be adjusted to show no certificate number. The FSIS veterinarian providing the second signature must initial the stamp in the open area where the certificate number would normally appear.