

Import licence for agricultural products

If you want to export an agricultural product to the EU, you must check first if it requires an import licence (called also import certificate) by an EU national authority. This certificate entitles and obliges the importer to introduce in the EU the requested quantities. To obtain the licence, the importer shall deposit a security, which is returned once the importation takes place within the established period.

Import certificates are issued by the EU national authorities prior to clearance for free circulation, upon:

1. request of the certificate using an application form, drawn up in duplicate ("holder's copy" and "copy for the issuing authority"), using either the specimen depicted in [Annex I](#) to EU legislation ([CELEX 32008R0376](#)) or other sufficient means approved by the responsible authority; plus
2. deposit of an adequate security, which amount is set in the Common Organisation of the Market for each agricultural sector. The deposit is returnable once the importer has fulfilled all his/her obligations. No security will be required if it comes to EUR 100 or less, or if the licence is drawn up in the name of an intervention agency.

Certificates can also be issued using computerised systems according to rules laid down by the competent authorities.

The import certificate constitutes both an authorisation and an obligation to import the specified quantity of the products concerned during its period of validity.

If the imported quantity is greater or less by not more than 5% of which is indicated in the certificate, the obligation to import will be considered as fulfilled. The security deposited upon importation shall not be returned if the importer fails to comply with his obligations.

Obligations deriving from certificates are not transferable, though rights can be transferred by their titular holder, during the period of its validity and for the quantities not yet attributed to the certificate.

Licences shall not be required if your operation:

- a. is of a non-commercial nature;
 - b. relates to quantities not exceeding those set out in [Annex II Part I](#) to EU legislation (EC) No 376/2008, depending on the product;
1. is included in the system of reliefs from customs duties ([CELEX 31983R0918](#))
 2. consists of personal belongings, small consignments, educational and research products;
 3. consists of agricultural products obtained by EU citizens from properties located in a non-EU country bordering on the EU;
 4. consists of seeds, fertilisers and products for treatment of soil and crops intended for use by non-EU country's farmers in EU territory adjoining that country.

Besides, some products have specific regulations such as:

- **Cereals and rice:** rules for the application of the system of import and export licences for cereals and rice ([CELEX 32003R1342](#)) and common organisation of the market in rice ([CELEX 32003R1785](#))
- **Olive oil:** rules for the application of the system of import licences for olive oil ([CELEX 32005R1345](#))
- **Sugar:** rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 318/2006 as regards trade with third countries in the sugar sector ([CELEX 32006R0951](#)) and common organisation of the markets in the sugar sector ([CELEX 32006R0318](#))
- **Milk products :** rules for applying Council Regulation (EC) No 1255/1999 as regards the import arrangements for milk and milk products and opening tariff quotas ([CELEX 32001R2535](#))
- **Beef and veal :** rules of application for import and export licences in the beef and veal sector (Recast ([CELEX 32008R0382](#)))
- **Sheep meat and goat meat :** rules for the application of Council Regulation (EEC) No 3013/89 as regards the import and export of products in the sheep meat and goat meat sector ([CELEX 31995R1439](#))

- **Wine:** rules for implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1493/1999 as regards trade with third countries in products in the wine sector ([CELEX 32001R0883](#)) and common organisation of the market in wine ([CELEX 31999R1493](#))
- **Alcohol :** rules for applying Council Regulation (EC) No 670/2003 laying down specific measures concerning the market in ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin ([CELEX 32003R2336](#))
- **Garlic :** administration of tariff quotas and introducing a system of import licences and certificates of origin for garlic and certain other agricultural products imported from non-EU countries ([CELEX 32007R0341](#))

Last update on: January 2013. Please check the [Export Helpdesk](#) for updated information

How to export to the EU?

Check it at www.exporthelp.europa.eu

