



Condition of importation of animal products Import Requirements for the Turks and Caicos Islands

Eligible/Ineligible Products

A. Eligible

Poultry

1. Poultry and poultry meat products
 - a. Giblets cleaned and packed in carcasses or bulk packed are eligible.

Bovine

2. Fresh/frozen or chilled boneless and bone-in-beef derived from cattle less than 30 months of age produced under an approved AMS Export Verification (EV) Less than 30 (LT30) months of age program.
3. Ground beef meat, salted beef, processed foods containing ruminant meats including sausages, meatball patties, dried meats, and ready to eat meats manufactured in the United States after January 12, 2004. These products can come from animals of any age.
4. Bovine liver from animals of any age.
5. Meat and meat products imported into the United States from Australia, New Zealand, or Canada. An establishment where non-conforming product is also present is subject to an approved AMS Export Verification (EV) program.
6. Canned, boneless meat legally imported into the United States.
7. Protein-free tallow (0.15% maximum insoluble impurities), products derived from protein-free tallow and gelatin and collagen exclusively obtained from hides and skins.

Caprine and Ovine

8. Sheep and goat meat and meat products from animals less than 12 months of age.

Porcine

9. Pork and pork products.

B. Ineligible (due to SPS restrictions)

10. Meat and meat products containing meat derived from an Advanced Meat Recovery (AMR) process.
11. Beef, goat and sheep and by-products thereof including meat and bone meal, concentrated animal feeds and any mammalian protein for animal feed.
12. Uncooked poultry from countries known to have Avian Influenza virus.

Documentation Requirements

A. Certification Requirements

Obtain Importation of Animal Products Form EH057-07 from the Turks and Caicos Islands Government Environmental Health Department.

1. For fresh/frozen or chilled boneless and bone-in-beef derived from cattle slaughtered in the U.S., if the slaughter establishment and all subsequent processing establishments are on the AMS' list of EV/LT 30 and the export applicant certifies that "the product was produced under an Export Verification (EV) Less Than 30 (LT 30) months of age program that was audited and approved by the United States Department of Agriculture. The following statements should be provided in the Importation of Animal Products Form EH057-07:

"The fresh or chilled boneless and bone-in beef meat products were derived from animals less than 30 months of age."

"The fresh/frozen or chilled boneless and bone-in beef meat products was obtained from animals that were slaughtered at a USDA inspected facility which slaughters only animals less than thirty (30) months old or where there is satisfactory segregation of animal product to allow certification that it originated from animals less than thirty (30) months of age."

2. For ground beef meat, salted beef, processed foods containing ruminant meats including sausages, meatball patties, dried meats, hermetically sealed canned meats, and ready to eat meats, derived from animals of any age and manufactured in the United States after January 12, 2004, include the following statement in the Importation of Animal Products Form EH057-07:

"The meat products were derived from animals, slaughtered in the U.S., from which all specified risk materials (SRMs) were removed."

3. For sheep and goat meat and meat products derived from animals less than 12 months of age and slaughtered in the U.S., if the slaughter establishment and the export applicant certifies that "the product was produced under an Export Verification (EV) less than 30 (LT 30) months of age program that was audited and approved by the USDA, the following statement should be provided in the application form EH057-07:

"The meat was derived from animals less than 12 months of age."

4. For meat and meat products imported from Australia, New Zealand, or Canada and exported to the Turks and Caicos Islands without further processing in the United States, a copy of the applicable health certificate from the importing country must accompany the product. In addition, the following statement must be included in application form EH057-07:

"The meat or meat product was legally imported into the United States from Australia, New Zealand, or Canada."

5. For canned, boneless meat imported into the United States and exported to the Turks and Caicos Islands, the following statement must be included in the application form EH057-07:

"The canned meat product was derived from boneless meat that was thoroughly cooked and hermetically sealed and was imported into the United States."

Note: A Statement of Verification letter from AMS is no longer required to sign the FSIS export certificate. All other EV program requirements for the Turks and Caicos Islands are required.

Other Requirements

- A. Meat and meat products intended for personal consumption up to a maximum of 5 kg will be permitted entry without exportation certification provided the original packaging is intact and the packaging bears the inspection legend of the country of origin.
- B. **Foreign inspection certificates** are required to accompany all imported meat, poultry, and egg products. These certificates must indicate the product name, establishment number, country of origin, name and addresses of the manufacturer or distributor, quantity and weight of contents, list of ingredients, species of animals it was derived from, and identification marks. The certificate must also bear the official seal of the foreign government agency responsible for the inspection along with the signature of an agency official. The certificate must be in both English and the language of the foreign country.
- C. **Foreign inspection certificates** must show that the slaughter and/or processing plants where the poultry products were produced and /or processed comply with FSIS established sanitary conditions and are officially authorized by the competent authority of the Turks and Caicos Islands. In addition, the plants operate under the supervision of the competent authority of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Labeling Requirements

In addition to U.S. labeling requirements, the following information must appear on the carton:

- 1. Name of product
- 2. List of ingredients (if multi-ingredient product)
- 3. Net weight
- 4. Producer name and address
- 5. Country of origin
- 6. Lot number
- 7. Expiration date (day/month/year format)
- 8. Conditions of storage
- 9. Date of packaging

Packaging Requirements

- A. Meat and poultry products must be packaged in strapped cartons.
- B. Shipping containers must be sealed; commercial seals are acceptable.

Plants eligible to Export

All federal authorized plants are eligible to export to the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Equivalence Process

Meat, poultry and egg products exported from another nation must meet all safety standards applied to foods produced/processed in the Turks and Caicos Islands. However, under international law, food regulatory systems in exporting countries may employ sanitary measures that differ from those applied domestically by the importing country. The Turks and Caicos Islands makes determinations of equivalence by evaluating whether foreign food regulatory systems attain the appropriate level of protection provided by our domestic system. Thus, while foreign food regulatory systems need not be identical to the TCI system, they must employ equivalent sanitary measures that provide the same level of protection against food hazards as is achieved domestically. The Environmental Health Department evaluates foreign food regulatory systems for equivalence through document reviews, on-site audits, and port-of-entry re-inspection of products at the time of importation.

The document review is an evaluation of the country's laws, regulations, and other written information, focusing on five risk areas: sanitation controls, animal disease controls, slaughter and processing controls, residue controls, and enforcement controls.

If the document review process shows the country's system to be equivalent, a technical team will visit the country to evaluate the five risk areas as well as other aspects of the inspection system including plant facilities and equipment, laboratories, training programs, and in-plant inspection operations. These on-site audits are used to verify that countries have implemented inspection programs properly, and if not, resolve differences and clarify requirements.

Judgments of system equivalence are necessary for the Environmental Health Department and the TCI consumer to develop and maintain trust in imported meat, poultry and egg products.

Procedure for Importation

- i. An application form (EH 057-07) must be obtained from the Environmental Health Department at the following addresses:
 - A. Environmental Health Department, Veterinary Public Health Unit, Butterfield Square, Down Town Providenciales, P.O. Box 9, Turks and Caicos Islands, B.W.I. Tel: (649) 941-5068, Fax: (649) 941-3179
 - B. Environmental Health Department, Veterinary Services Unit, Dunscombe Alley, Grand Turk. Tel: (649) 946-2801 ext 50305, Fax: (649) 946-2411.
- ii. The completed application form must be returned to either of the addresses above at least 14 days prior to the importation of the products.
- iii. The completed application form must be accompanied by a Veterinary Health Certificate issued for the product/s, signed by an authorized Government approved Veterinarian. All Health Certificates must bear the approved inspection seal, for example, **USDA** inspection legend.
- iv. Once approval is granted, the applicant will receive a signed Import Permit from the Environmental Health Department. All Import Permits will bear either of two signatures or both; that of the Government Veterinarian and or the Veterinary Public Health Officer.
- v. Import Permits will be revoked if there is proof that the information provided is inaccurate or false.
- vi. Upon arrival at the TCI port-of-entry, all meat and poultry shipments will be inspected by an Environmental Health Officer or any officer authorized by the Chief Environmental Health Officer before they are allowed entry into the this country. Every lot of product will be given a visual inspection for appearance and condition, and checked for certification and label compliance.
- vii. The inspecting officer may collect samples of meats for product examination, microbial and chemical laboratory analysis. Egg products are re-inspected at the facility where they are taken for further processing.
- viii. In order to export to the TCI, a foreign country must have a residue control program with standards equivalent to U.S. standards. Foreign residue control program must include: random sampling of animals at slaughter, the use of approved sampling and analytical methods, testing of appropriate target tissues for specific compounds, and testing for compounds identified by the UDSA or the country of origin as potential contaminants.
- ix. The Environmental Health Inspectors will check labels on both shipping containers and retail-size packages. Labels on retail packages of meat or poultry shipped to the TCI must meet U.S. labeling requirements. Product labels must be in English and must include:
 1. Product name;
 2. foreign establishment number and country of origin shown directly under the product name;
 3. name and address of the manufacturer or distributor;
 4. net quantity of contents in pounds and ounces or liquid measures;
 5. list of ingredients; and
 6. if applicable, safe handling instructions and nutrition information.



**Environmental Health Department
Veterinary Public Health Unit
Ministry of Health
Butterfield Square, Providenciales, P.O. Box 9**

Application for an import permit for animal products

- Please submit your application to the Environmental Health Department, Veterinary Public Health Unit at the address shown below as early as possible, and in any case, not less than 7 working days before the intended date of import.
- Please ensure that the information given in this form is correct and sign and date the Declaration at the end of the form.
- Please complete the form using **black** ink and BLOCK letters.
- Please note that this application form applies to imports via all official ports within the Turks and Caicos Islands.
- A representative sample of all imported products is liable for inspection and analysis should the officer deem it necessary.

Background Information

1. The importation into the Turks and Caicos Islands of products of animal origin must take place in accordance with the Public and Environmental Health Ordinance and all other accompanying legislation.
2. An 'animal' means any kind of mammal except man
3. 'Animal Products' mean anything originating or made (whether in whole or in part) from a living or dead animal and includes the carcase of an animal.
4. Poultry means all birds.
5. Poultry products mean anything originating or made (whether whole or in part) from anything living or dead poultry and include the carcase of any poultry.
6. Licenses issued following completion of this form do not exempt importers from any requirements laid down by other relevant departments, including Department of Environmental and Coastal Resources, Customs Department or other government department.
7. Processed animal protein (including fishmeal) means animal protein that has been treated and includes fishmeal, meat meal, bone meal, blood meal, feather meal and other similar products.
8. Each application is assessed on its own merits. Completion of this form is no guarantee that an import licence will be issued.

Enquiries relating to potential imports should be directed to the following:

Providenciales

Environmental Health Department
Veterinary Public Health and Animal Management Unit
Butterfield Square, Down Town, Providenciales
P.O. Box 9
Tel: (649) 941-5068 ext (82102)
Fax: (649) 941-3179

Grand Turk

Environmental Health Department
Veterinary and Animal Management Unit
Dunscombe Alley, Grand Turk
Tel: (649) 946-2801 ext (50305)
Fax: (649) 946-2411

For Official Use only	
Date application received	
Permit number issued	

Section 1 : Applicant's details _____

2. Name and full postal address of importing company or individual

Name:
Address:
Postcode:

Full name and title of contact at importing company

Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms
Address:
Tel. no. Fax:
e-mail address

2. Full postal address of destination premises if different from importer's address

Postcode:

3. Full postal address of agent (if applicable)

Postcode:

Full name and title of contact at Agents (if applicable)

Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms
Address
Tel. no. Fax:
e-mail address:

Section 2 : Detail of consignment

4. Country of origin

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5. Name and Address of Farm of product origin

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6. Name, Address, telephone number of processing facility

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7. Country of transshipment (if applicable)

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8. Product name

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9. Product description (please include frozen or refrigerated where applicable)

10. Quantity (No. of cartons/boxes/packages etc.)

11. Net weight of consignment (lbs/Kg)

12. Seaport/Airport of entry into the Turks and Caicos Islands

13. Batch No/s

Section 3 : Background information

14. Have you been issued any previous permit for similar products?yes ...no

If 'yes' please provide the permit reference number

15. Approximate date of import into the Turks and Caicos Islands.....

16. Requested period of permit.....1 month (standard) 3 months 6 months 1 year

Please note that the final decision concerning the length of any individual permit issued rests with the issuing officers – consideration will, of course, be taken of any preferences indicated above.

Section 4 : Product details

17. Is the product intended for human consumption animal consumption

other (please specify)

18. Does the product contain material derived from one or more of the following species Bovine (cattle) Porcine (pig) Domestic fowl (chicken/turkey)

Game (wild or farmed) Ovine (sheep) Caprine (goat) other (please specify) _____

19. Does the product contain any of the following animal products.....egg product milk or milk based products
fishmeal

Section 5 : Intended use of the product

20. Details of **ALL** the processing the product has undergone during manufacture. All heat treatments **MUST** have times and temperatures specified.

21. Where the product not a 'pure' product, a 100% breakdown of ALL ingredients must be supplied.

22. Full details of intended use of product (ready-to-eat, to be cooked, not intended for elderly/kids etc)

23. Is the product likely to come into contact with farmed or domestic livestock?.....yes no
If 'yes' please provide full details

Section 6 : Declaration _____

I am the.....importer importer's agent

- I am applying for an import permit to import the above animal/poultry product under the provisions stipulated in the Public and Environmental Health Ordinance and all other related legislation.
- I, the undersigned hereby declare that the information provided above is accurate to the best of my knowledge.
- I understand that if a permit is issued, I must comply in full to the conditions attached to such a permit.

Signature

Date

Name in BLOCK letters

Position held

(e.g. Director/Manager etc.)

Section 7 : Additional Information
To be completed for all applications – where applicable

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Remarks

Veterinary remarks/comments

Signature of Officer

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Date

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