

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Turkish Ministry of Agriculture Announces Changes to Establishment Recognition

Country: Türkiye

Post: Ankara

Report Category: Trade Policy Monitoring, Dairy and Products, Fishery Products, Livestock and Products, Poultry and Products

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Report Highlights:

This report is being prepared for U.S. exporters seeking to export animal products and byproducts to Türkiye. According to the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, as of January 1, 2026, Türkiye will only import animal products and byproducts from countries and establishments which are authorized to export those products to the European Union or that it has inspected itself and approved on its own list of approved establishments/countries.

In April 2024 the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MinAF) invited trading partners to a presentation overviewing their decision to apply new requirements for exporters to be on the EU list of approved establishments for certain animal products that are imported into Türkiye. The priority sectors for this change are fishery products, dairy products, collagen, and gelatin.

For those establishments not included in the EU's list, the competent authorities in the exporting country must officially send the list of establishments (see attached template) willing to export animal products to Türkiye. For those not included in the EU's list, a list of countries and establishments approved by MinAF will apply. The planned date for implementation of this new procedure will be January 1, 2026.

The current list of countries and establishments allowed to export animals, animal byproducts, food, and germinal products into the European Union can be found [here](#). For more information on how U.S. exporters can register their establishments for the EU's approved list, please see the EU FAIRS Country Report Annual.

Approval Procedures for Exporting Establishments Not in EU Lists

Country Approval

1. The competent authority of the exporting country, which has not been previously approved for the relevant animal product group, needs to officially apply to MinAF for approval of their establishments.
2. Once the application is received by MinAF, a questionnaire is sent to the competent authority of the exporting country. The questionnaire includes information such as the legislation of the exporting country, the general organization of control systems, all kinds of control and inspection systems in place, production and quarantine practices, health conditions applied for the production, manufacturing, processing, storage and shipment of animal products, the presence of contagious animal diseases in its territory, especially the diseases specified in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the World Animal Health Organization and the World Aquatic Animal Health Code, and the regularity and speed of the information provided by the exporting country.
3. If the questionnaire is found appropriate, an on-site inspection is carried out by MinAF in the exporting country.

Establishment Approval

1. A visit is organized by the competent authority of the exporting country. The exporting country must be on the approved country list according to the above requirements, or a visit could be arranged for simultaneous country and establishment approval.
2. MinAF assigns control officers to the exporting country on a date agreed upon by both countries.
3. The visit will begin with a meeting covering controls to be conducted in the exporting country and establishments. At the end of the inspection, a closing meeting is held with the competent authority.
4. The content of the report that the control officer will prepare includes the purpose of the official control, the control methods applied, the results of the official control and what needs to be done on issues that fall within the establishment's area of responsibility.

5. The inspection result is reported to the competent authority of the exporting country. The establishments found suitable for export to Türkiye are published in the list of authorized countries and establishments published by MinAF.

For import of bovine meat and poultry products MinAF will remain the only authority to approve exporting countries and establishments. Additionally, this new implementation will not apply to transit shipments.

MinAF already conducts its own approved establishments procedures on the import of animal byproducts not intended for human consumption. Please click [here](#) to see the countries and establishments authorized to export animal byproducts to Türkiye.

Composite Products

For composite products containing both plant products and processed animal products it is necessary to evaluate whether the product is a composite product or a processed animal product. To make this evaluation, please see the [Turkish instruction](#) on determining composite products and evaluating whether they will be subject to veterinary controls.

For example, if a food supplement is assessed as a processed fishery product rather than a composite product, the food supplement establishment in question must be included in the approved list of establishments in the EU published by the European Commission as of January 1, 2026, under the activity of fishery products, or in the list of countries and businesses in third countries permitted to export to the European Union, or in the list of countries and businesses prepared by our Ministry within the scope of the approval procedure carried out for those not included in the EU lists.

Impact on U.S. Exporters

Türkiye's imports of animal products from the United States (including dairy, dairy products, animal fats, protein, and fishery products) was valued at \$56.5 million in 2024, a drop of 13 percent from the year prior. Recently, [2,899 establishments](#) throughout the United States have been approved by the EU for export of animal products including meat, dairy, fish, gelatine, and collagen. Establishments in the United States intending to export animal products to Türkiye which are not currently in the EU list should apply to the relevant USDA authorities to start the MinAF approval procedures.

Background and Overview of Türkiye's EU Harmonization Effort

Türkiye continues to slowly harmonize its veterinary policy with EU legislation, when convenient. Within the scope of harmonization, Türkiye is focused on intra-community trade of live animals and animal products, disease control and eradication, technical and administrative regulations on products coming from countries outside the EU, as well as regulations on the control of the production animal products.

There are four EU-harmonized Turkish regulations below related to the importation of animal products and byproducts and those are the legal basis on the decision with regard to apply the EU approved lists of countries and establishments for import of animal products and byproducts to Türkiye. All four are

based on outdated EU regulations. MinAF has yet to update their regulations to align with the latest from the EU.

- 1) [Regulation on Animals and Products Subject to Veterinary Controls Upon Entry into The Country](#) - This legislation was harmonized with the EU's 2007/275/EC- *Commission Decision of 17 April 2007 concerning lists of animals and products to be subject to controls at border inspection posts under Council Directives 91/496/EEC and 97/78/EC*. The EU legislation, upon which Türkiye's was based, was replaced by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/632, however Türkiye has not updated its legislation to match the latest from the EU.
- 2) [Specific Rules for the Organization of Official Controls on Products of Animal Origin](#) - This regulation deals with official controls of animal products for import and the lists of approved exporting countries/establishments regulated by Türkiye. The legislation was originally harmonized with *EU Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific rules for the organization of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption*, which is also no longer in force. The EU legislation upon which Türkiye's was based has been replaced by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/625, however Türkiye has not updated its legislation to match the latest from the EU.
- 3) [Specific Rules for the Organization of Official Controls on Products of Animal Origin](#) - According to Articles 40, 41, and 44 of the Regulation, "the import of animal food is only allowed if products come from countries and establishments authorized by MinAF to export to Türkiye, and if they meet the requirements related to documentation, veterinary health certificates, and restrictions regarding animal diseases."
- 4) In addition, according to Article 37 of the [Regulation on Official Controls of Food and Feed](#), the competent authorities of countries from which products are imported shall make appropriate guarantees regarding compliance with animal health rules and equivalence before they can be included in the list of countries from which products are imported. Please see SPS notifications: [G/SPS/N/TUR/12](#), [G/SPS/N/TUR/14](#) and [G/SPS/N/TUR/15](#) for additional context.

Attachments:

[Exporting Country List of Establishments Template.xlsx](#)