

Export of Pet Food to Israel: Certificates and Inspection

The declarations on the certificates required by the Government of Israel for the export of pet are direct attestations. Therefore, annual inspections of the manufacturing plant by APHIS VS are required.

APHIS VS inspection of the pet food manufacturing plants must verify that all pet food manufactured for export to Israel meets the conditions included on the following certificates:

1. Annex 1B, *Model Official Certification of Plants Producing Pet Foods Intended for Export to Israel*
2. Annex 2B, *Model of a Veterinary Certification to Accompany Pet Foods containing Ingredients of Animal Origin to Israel*

Note: The Israeli Veterinary Services and Animal Health have notified APHIS the Annex 1B Certificate must be endorsed & submitted only once a year.

Note: Lot specific laboratory reports satisfying the testing requirements outlined on the Annex 2B, *Model of a Veterinary Certification to Accompany Pet Foods containing Ingredients of Animal Origin to Israel* must accompany all Annex 2B certificates submitted for endorsement.

Inspection criteria necessitated by the export certificates include (as appropriate):

1. Identification of all animal origin ingredients for inclusion in pet food for export to Israel;
2. If the plant has any ineligible ingredients on the premises, they must have a mechanism in place to prevent the commingling and contamination of ingredients and products at each stage of production. The written procedure, implementation, and documentation must be verified at inspection;*
3. Pet food manufactured for export to Israel does not contain and is not contaminated with any of the following ruminant origin ingredients:
 - a. Tonsils and distal ileum from cattle of any age from a controlled or undetermined BSE risk country, zone, or compartment.
 - b. brains, eyes, spinal cord, skull and vertebral column from cattle that were, at the time of slaughter over 30 months of age originating from a controlled BSE risk country, zone, or compartment.
 - c. brains, eyes, spinal cord, skull and vertebral column from cattle that were, at the time of slaughter over 12 months of age originating from a undetermined BSE risk country, zone, or compartment.
 - d. Ruminant-derived meat-and-bone meal or greaves from a negligible BSE risk country where there has been an indigenous *case* of BSE, if such products were derived from cattle born before the date from which the ban on the feeding of ruminants with meat-and-bone meal and greaves derived from ruminants had been effectively enforced.
 - e. Ruminant-derived meat-and-bone meal or greaves from a controlled or undetermined BSE risk country, zone, or compartment.

4. Processing parameters:
 - a. Canned products are heat treated in hermetically sealed containers to a minimum F_c value of 3;
 - b. 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;
 - c. Dry or semi-moist pet food products have been processed in a manner to ensure that the pet food or animal origin ingredients have been subjected to a heat treatment of at least 90°C throughout their substance;
 - d. Dry or semi-moist pet food products are tested (on a lot basis) for Salmonella and Enterobacteriaceae using the parameters on the certificates. The plant must keep copies of the laboratory reports on file for at least 2 years.

Note: If the plant manufactures any products not meeting the processing or microbiological testing requirements, they must have a mechanism in place to separate these products at each stage of production, as applicable. The written procedure, implementation, and documentation must be verified at inspection.
5. 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).

* Procedure should be consistent with the methods described in the February 1998 FDA Guidance for Industry #67, "Small Entities Compliance Guide for Renderers," pages 7-11, available on the IREGs Animal Products to Israel page, Pet Food link.