

**Research and Diagnostic Samples from livestock species  
(Not including samples embedded on slides or suspended in  
formaldehyde nor alcohol – nor any samples from rodents, fish, pets, or  
non-human primates)**

The European Union (EU) defines “research and diagnostic samples” as:

**animal by-products and derived products intended for the following purposes: examination in the context of diagnostic activities or analysis for the promotion of progress in science and technology, in the context of educational or research activities.**

Most EU countries do not require any government export certificate for research and diagnostic samples to the EU. However, Italy is an exception.

For the import of these materials, Italy requires the “HEALTH CERTIFICATE for export to Italy of samples of animal origin intended for scientific research” if the samples are derived from livestock species (not including samples embedded on slides or suspended in formaldehyde or alcohol – nor any samples from rodents, fish, pets, or non-human primates). For access to this certificate, please go back to the previous page and select the pertinent link.

This certificate requires APHIS inspection of the production facility to verify that samples are

- ONE:  
either:
  - A. Collected from animals verified by veterinary supervision to have been clinically healthy prior to collection; or
  - B. Collected from animals that were slaughtered for human consumption after passing FSIS ante-mortem inspection; or
  - C. Derived from materials imported into the U.S. with certifications from the government of the country of origin included on the “HEALTH CERTIFICATE for export to Italy of samples of animal origin intended for scientific research.”

PLUS

- TWO: Not commingled with other animal origin materials after collection.

The above requirements mean that the following “research and diagnostic” samples (if from livestock species) are not eligible for export to Italy:

- 1- Materials imported into the U.S. without certification of the statements on the “HEALTH CERTIFICATE for export to Italy of samples of animal origin intended for scientific research.”

- 2- Materials collected from “sick animals,” or other animals that were not verified by Veterinary supervision to have been clinically healthy prior to sample collection.
- 3- Materials collected from animals in the United States where the collection facility has not been inspected by APHIS within 365 days prior to export to verify the certifications.

NOTE: Italy may make a special exception and not require any certification if the materials are part of a research project where the animal was intentionally not clinically healthy. In these cases, no certification is required, but the importer must first receive written permission to import under this exception. To obtain that authorization the Italian importer should contact: at: [g.izzi@sanita.it](mailto:g.izzi@sanita.it) .)