



INFOCARD ELANBiz

Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures¹

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Sector Description

This Infocard describes the existing sanitary and phytosanitary regulations that Argentina applies on imports of animals, plants, vegetables, fruits and related products. It has been prepared as a general orientation and not as an expert document. For specific issues regarding such regulations, it is recommended to contact the bilateral chambers or trade offices of EU countries that operate in Argentina, which are listed in www.elanbiz.org. These institutions may be able to provide specific answers or suggest law firms, consultancy firms or ad-hoc organizations in Argentina. Furthermore, the EU provides information on the market access conditions in the different countries in its “[Market Access Database](#)”.

Sanitary and phytosanitary measures (or “SPS measures”) comprise any regulation applied to (i) protect human life or health from risks arising from diseases carried by animals, plants or products thereof, or from the entry, establishment or spread of pests; (ii) protect human or animal life or health from food-borne risks; (iii) protect human, animal or plant life or health from risks from pests or diseases; or (iv) prevent or limit other damage caused by pests.

Zoosanitary Measures

The Argentine legislation contains different regulations aimed at controlling the imports of live animals, their reproductive materials, embryos and products of animal origin. The applicable regimes to enter domestic animals (mainly dogs and cats) and to import other animals, such as birds, swine, bovines, buffalos, equines, sheep and goats, will be briefly described below. It should be noted that there are additional procedures to import other animals, such as rabbits, reptiles or fish that are not analysed in this infocard. More information regarding these regimes can be found in these websites: [Argentine Government](#) and [SENASA](#).

Import of or travel with dogs and cats

[Resolution GMC No. 17/15](#) issued by the Common Market Group of the MERCOSUR sets forth the zoosanitary requirements that member countries shall comply with in order to definitely or

¹ The information provided in this document is of a general nature only. For more detailed information, events and commercial trade offers, as well as commercial business contacts, please contact the Commercial Offices of the Member States Embassies, the European trade organizations and the bilateral chambers of commerce.



temporarily allow the entrance of domestic dogs or cats in their territories.

First, the animals must have an International Veterinary Certificate (CVI, for its Spanish acronym) issued by the veterinary authority of the country of origin, which should have a validity of 60 days from its date of issuance. The CVI must include (i) data on current immunizations against any diseases and (ii) veterinary treatments applied to the animals in the last three months. Resolution GMC No. 17/2015 further approves a model of CVI that can be checked by clicking [here](#).

Second, the rabies vaccine must be valid within the validity term of the CVI. In the case of animals that were vaccinated against rabies for the first time, the shipment from the exporting country must be authorized only after 21 days from the date of application of said vaccine have elapsed. Animals that are less than 90 days old can only be accepted provided that they have not been infected with rabies before. If the animals originate in countries that have been recognized as rabies free by the [World Organization for Animal Health](#) (OIE for its French acronym), it is not mandatory to file a certificate of rabies vaccination.

Imports of animals (excluding dogs and cats)

There are different import regimes applicable to each species. However, there are some common requirements that apply to all animals irrespectively of the kind or species.

First, pursuant to the Customs Code ([Law No. 22,415](#)) and [Resolution No. 76/2019](#) –issued by the National Agri-food Health and Quality Service (“SENASA” for its Spanish acronym)– the companies or persons must be registered as importers in the Customs Registry for Importers and Exporters.

Second, the importers must file an import request before the Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development, in which they must specify information regarding the animals to be imported.

Third, importers must submit a CVI in which the Veterinary Authority of the exporting country must certify: (i) the immunizations against any diseases and (ii) the veterinary treatments applied to the animals during a specific period of time.

Fourth, animals are generally required to comply with a quarantine period before the exporting date and after entering into Argentina, in specific premises designated by SENASA.

Fifth, after arriving to the quarantine premises, importers must destroy all disposable materials that were in contact with the animals during the logistic procedure, in order to avoid any risk of the spread of disease and unauthorized uses of these materials.

Depending on the species of the animals, SENASA applies additional requirements regarding specific diseases and the related vaccinations and treatments. These measures are listed below.

- **Imports of ratites.** Under [Resolution No. 869/2010](#), reproductive ratites must be free of avian influenza, Newcastle disease, Salmonella spp. (*S. pullorum*, *S. gallinarum*, *S. typhimurium* and *S. enteritidis*), Mycoplasma spp. (*M. gallisepticum* and *M. synoviae*) and chlamydiosis or avian chlamydia, according to the guidelines established in the Terrestrial Code for this purpose, and this condition must be recognized by SENASA. Moreover, the exporting country must not have registered cases of hemorrhagic fever of Crimea - Congo during the



last six months immediately prior to the shipment of the ratites to Argentina. No cases of West Nile encephalitis, or East or West equine encephalomyelitis in susceptible species shall have been officially recorded in the farm of origin of the reproductive ratites within the last 30 days prior to the shipment of the birds.

- **Imports of hatching eggs from poultry and of day-old poultry.** Under [MERCOSUR/GMC/RES. No. 31/18](#), eggs and poultry must be free of avian influenza, Newcastle disease, Salmonella spp. (*S. pullorum*, *S. gallinarum*, *S. typhimurium* and *S. enteritidis*), Mycoplasma spp. (*M. gallisepticum* and *M. synoviae*). Moreover, they must originate from farms where no clinical cases of the following diseases have been detected: Gumboro disease (for imports of all species); avian infectious laryngotracheitis and turkey rhinotracheitis (for importing galliformes); West Nile fever (for import of anseriformes), duck viral hepatitis; and *M. gallisepticum*, *M. synoviae* (for importing galliformes); *S. pullorum* and *S. gallinarum* prior to the shipment date
- **Imports of fertile eggs free of Specific Pathogenic Germs (SPG).** Pursuant to [Resolution No. 252/2008](#), eggs must come from hens of chickens free of specific pathogenic germs (SPG), according to the prescription of the current European Pharmacopoeia, intended exclusively for diagnosis, research or pharmaceutical use.
- **Imports of horses.** In accordance with [MERCOSUR/GMC/RES. No. 08/18](#), equines must be free of, be treated against, or originate from a farm that is free of the following diseases: equine influenza; equine piroplasmiasis (*Babesia caballi* and *Theileria equi*); durina; contagious equine metritis; equine viral arteritis; equine viral arteritis; glanders; African horse sickness and Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis (VEE).
- **Imports of pigs.** Under [MERCOSUR/GMC/RES. No. 56/14](#) and [Resolution No. 512/2014](#) swine must be free of, or be treated against, or originate from a farm that is free of the following infections: African swine fever, classical swine fever, pig vesicular disease, foot and mouth disease, Japanese encephalitis, porcine respiratory and reproductive syndrome, brucellosis, tuberculosis, and Aujeszky's disease, transmissible gastroenteritis, vesicular stomatitis and leptospirosis.
- **Imports of cattle and buffalos.** Pursuant to [MERCOSUR/GMC/RES. No. 39/18](#), [MERCOSUR/GMC/RES. No. 27/17](#), [MERCOSUR/GMC/RES. No. 10/18](#) and [MERCOSUR/GMC/RES. No. 27/17](#), cattle and buffalos must be free of, or be treated against, or originate from a farm that is free of the following infections: contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, Rift Valley fever, and contagious nodular dermatosis, foot and mouth disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, bovine brucellosis, bovine tuberculosis, vesicular stomatitis, bluetongue, bacterial anthrax, Schmallenberg's disease, campylobacteriosis and trichomoniasis.
- **Imports of sheep and goats.** Under [MERCOSUR/GMC/RES. No. 20/19](#) and [MERCOSUR/GMC/RES. No. 17/19](#), sheep and goats must be free of, or be treated against, or originate from a farm that is free of the following diseases: foot and mouth disease, lumbar prurigo (scrapie), lentivirus (Maedi-Visna / caprine arthritis encephalitis), Rift Valley fever,



sheep enzootic abortion, sheep pulmonary adenomatosis, Q fever, brucellosis (*Brucella abortus* and *B. melitensis*), ovine epididymitis (*B. ovis*), contagious agalaxy, tuberculosis, paratuberculosis and bluetongue, vesicular stomatitis, cowdriosis, paratuberculosis, bacterial and symptomatic anthrax.

Imports of reproductive materials (such as semen or embryos)

Sanitary requirements for the import of reproductive materials vary depending on the animal species.

- **Imports of bovine semen and embryos.** Under [MERCOSUR/GMC/RES. No. 45/14](#), imported semen and embryos must be free of Schmallenberg's disease or be originated in an artificial insemination center that has not registered cases of Schmallenberg's disease within 30 days prior to the semen or embryos collection and 30 days after the last semen or embryos collection. In addition, donors of semen or embryos to be exported must have failed two serological tests recommended by the OIE.
- **Imports of cattle and buffalo frozen semen.** Pursuant to [MERCOSUR/GMC/RES. No. 49/14](#), imports of frozen semen of cattle and buffaloes are subject -inter alia- to the following requirements: (i) importers must file a CVI issued by the veterinary authority of the exporting country; (ii) embryos must be free of, or be treated against, foot and mouth disease and contagious nodular dermatosis and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia; (iii) the collection center must not register diseases transmitted through semen within 90 days prior to the first collection of semen and 30 days after the last collection; (iv) the collection center must not officially register vesicular stomatitis cases within 30 days before and after the last semen collection to be exported; and (v) donors of semen must be free of, or treated against, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, Rift Valley fever, and contagious nodular dermatosis, foot and mouth disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, bovine brucellosis, bovine tuberculosis, vesicular stomatitis, bluetongue, bacterial anthrax, Schmallenberg's disease, campilobacteriosis and trichomoniasis.
- **Imports of frozen ovine semen.** Under [MERCOSUR/GMC/RES. No. 18/19](#), imports of frozen ovine semen are subject -inter alia- to the following requirements: (i) importers must file a CVI issued by the veterinary authority of the exporting country; (ii) semen must be free of or be treated against foot and mouth disease and lumbar prurigo (scrapie); (iii) the collection center must not officially register or be free of lentivirus (Maedi-Visna / caprine arthritis encephalitis) and Rift Valley fever, sheep enzootic abortion and sheep pulmonary adenomatosis, Q fever, brucellosis (*Brucella abortus* and *B. melitensis*), ovine epididymitis (*B. ovis*), contagious agalaxy, tuberculosis, paratuberculosis and bluetongue, vesicular stomatitis; and (iv) donors of semen must be free of brucellosis, bluetongue, tuberculosis, ovine enzootic abortion, ovine epididymitis, Maedi-Visna and Rift Valley fever.
- **Imports of equine semen and embryos.** Pursuant to [MERCOSUR/GMC/RES. No. 42/07](#), [MERCOSUR/GMC/RES. No. 13/14](#), [MERCOSUR/GMC/RES. N° 32/18](#) and [MERCOSUR/GMC/RES. No. 43/18](#), imports of equine semen and embryos are subject -inter alia- to the following



requirements: (i) importers must file a CVI issued by the veterinary authority of the exporting country; (ii) semen and embryos must be free of or be treated against; (iii) donors of semen must be free of equine pest, Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis, durina, contagious equine metritis, equine viral arteritis.

- **Imports of frozen porcine semen.** Under [MERCOSUR/GMC/RES. No. 07/17](#), imports of frozen porcine semen are subject -inter alia- to the following requirements: (i) importers must file a CVI issued by the veterinary authority of the exporting country; (ii) the exporting country must be free of or be treated against African swine fever, Japanese encephalitis and foot and mouth disease; (iii) collections center must be free of, or treated against, brucellosis and Aujeszky's disease; (iv) donors of semen must be free of, or treated against, porcine respiratory and reproductive syndrome, Aujeszky's disease, brucellosis, vesicular stomatitis and foot and mouth disease.

Prelisting system for importing products of animal origin

Resolution No. 816/2002 sets forth different requirements for the imports of products of animal origin. Among others, foreign establishments that manufacture products of animal origin and that wish to export to Argentina must be previously registered and authorized before SENASA. Authorizations of foreign establishments last for a 2-years term. At the end of such period, SENASA is entitled to conduct a verification at the exporter's premises to evaluate the time extension of the authorization. However, it is important to note that foreign manufacturers of products that are not directly destined to human or animal consumption but to industrial processes might be exempted from obtaining such authorization, if the import of those goods does not entail sanitary risks.

In addition, pursuant to paragraph 2 of article 4 of Resolution No. 816/2002, all those manufacturing establishments located in countries with which Argentina has celebrated and subscribed a mutual agreement to pre-list agro-industrial plants (hereinafter "Pre-listing agreements"), are exempted from obtaining a prior authorization before SENASA. According to this provision, foreign countries subscribing Pre-listing agreements must notify to SENASA a preliminary list of those establishments that comply with all applicable sanitary regulations and thus shall be authorized to export to Argentina.

The EU has signed a Pre-listing agreement with Argentina, which sets forth that any European plant - manufacturer of animal origin products- wishing to export to Argentina must be included in a preliminary list notified by the competent authority of each Member State and sent to SENASA centrally by the European Union Delegation in Argentina. Basically, this means that European manufacturers comprised in these lists are not obliged to register before the SENASA to be authorized to export to Argentina. Nevertheless, it should be highlighted that -pursuant to Article 6 of Resolution No. 816/2002, SENASA is entitled to conduct *in situ* inspections in the producers premises in order to verify compliance with applicable sanitary regulations. More information on this system can be found [here](#).



Phytosanitary measures

The Argentine legislation contains general and specific regulations on phytosanitary requirements, which are aimed at controlling the imports of products of plant origin. SENASA verifies compliance with these requirements. More information regarding these regimes can be found in the following websites: [Argentine Government](#) and [SENASA](#).

[Regulatory Decree No. 83,732/1936](#) establishes different requirements for the import of plants, rhizomes, bulbs, tubers, roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruits, fresh fruits, dried and dried fruits, grains, seeds or any other vegetable. Specifically, importers must: (i) be registered in the Customs Registry of Importers and Exporters set forth in Law 22,415; (ii) be registered in the National Registry of Establishments (“RNE” for its Spanish acronym); (iii) file before the Customs Authority an Import Certificate that must be issued by the Argentine phytosanitary authority at request of the importers; (iii) file a phytosanitary certificate issued by the applicable authority of the exporting country prior to the shipment of goods.

If the merchandise is not destined for consumption but for industrial use, the following import requirements apply: (i) instead of filing a phytosanitary certificate issued in the exporting country, importers are allowed to submit a statement issued by the applicable authority of the country of origin and endorsed by the Argentine consul, which must specify that the merchandise will be exclusively used in a manufacturing process; (ii) importers must file a note issued by the manufacturing establishment with an explanation of the use of the exported merchandise; (iii) importers must submit a note issued by the importer where the intended use of the imported goods is stated; (iv) importers must complete and file a form called “Industrialization commitment request for import and export of fruits and vegetables”, in which they must provide information such as the type of species, variety, quality specifications, product quantity, type of container and net weight, date or period of entry, etc.

Furthermore, Regulatory Decree No. 83,732/1936 provides additional import requirements for each type of fruits, vegetables and seeds.

Imports of fresh fruits

In general, pursuant to Regulatory Decree No. 83,732/1936, imports of fresh fruits are subject to the following requirements:

- (i) Each lot must have a phytosanitary certificate issued by the applicable authority of the exporting country;
- (ii) With the exception of bananas, fresh fruits cannot be transported in bulk. Fruits must be packaged in the country of origin and those packages must be new (“standard” types). Apples, pears, oranges, tangerines, grapefruits and lemons must be wrapped in waterproof silky paper (Manila or oiled sulphite or similar), on which the name or brand of the product or exporting company, as well as the country of origin, must be printed. The packages must include labels indicating the nature of the content, class, variety, net weight according to the decimal metric system, or number of units, name and address of the producers, and country of origin;



- (iii) Imported fruits must arrive with appropriate maturity and shall be inspected at the ports of arrival;
- (iv) Fruits must be free of the following parasites: (a) BACTERIA: *Bacterium citri* (Hass), Doidge (vul. "Canker"); (b) FUNGI: *Phyllostica solitaria*, Ell & E. (vul. "Blotch"); *Phytophthora citrophthora* (E. & S.) Leonian (vul. "Brown rot" and "gummosis of citrus"); *Thielaviopsis paradox* (d. Seyn) v. Hohn (vul. "Blackheart" or "rot of pin apple"); (c) DIPTERA: *Ceratitis capitata* (wied.) (Vul. "Mosca del Mediterráneo" *Anastrepha ludens*, Löw (vul. "Mosca mejicana de la fruta"); *anastrepha serpentina* (Wied.) Vul. "Mosca negra de la fruta"); *Rhagoletis pomonella*, Walsh (vul. "Gusano de manzana"); (d) COLLEOPTERS: *Anthonomus quadrigibbus*, Say (vul. "Apple curculio"), *Conotrachelus nenuphar*, herbst, (vol. "Plum curculio"); *Popilía japonica*, Newn. (vul. "Japanese beetle"); *Pseudanthonomus crataegi*, Walsh (vul. "Apple weevil"); and (e) LEPIDOPTERS: *Enarmonia prunivora*, Walsh. (vul. "Apple fruit miner"); *Tortrix citrana*, Fern. (vul. Orange tortrix"); *Holcocera inceryaella*, Rille (vul. "Orange holcocera"); *Platyneta tinctana*, Walk. (vul. "Orange platynota"); *Myelois venipars*, Dyar (vul. Arizona orange worm"); *Gimnandrosoma aurantianum*, Costa Lima (vul. "Caterpillar of the orange"). If this is not the case, the entire consignment will be re-shipped or incinerated, at the option of the interested party, and such measure will not entitle the importer to any compensation. Moreover, the importer must bear the costs of transporting the fruit to the incineration furnaces;
- (v) Fruits that are affected with parasites that exist in Argentina and that are not listed in the previous section, might be imported if the total volume of affected fruits does not exceed 5%;
- (vi) Apples and pears must travel in cold storages;
- (vii) Finally, fresh fruits can only be imported through the ports located in the cities of Buenos Aires, Santa Fe and Rosario.

Imports of fresh vegetables

In general, pursuant to Regulatory Decree No. 83,732/1936, imports of fresh vegetables are subject to the following requirements:

- (i) Each lot must have a phytosanitary certificate issued by the applicable authority of the exporting country;
- (ii) Except for vegetables that are destined for industrial use and that originate in bordering countries, the merchandise must be packaged in the country of origin and those packages must be new ("standard" types).

In addition, imports of potatoes (both to sow or for consumption) must comply with specific requirements, such as:

- (i) Having a phytosanitary certificate issued by the applicable authority of the exporting country, which must specify: (i) which were the crops that originated the tubers, and (ii) that the tubers are free of: *Synchytrium endobioticum* (Schilb), perc; underground



spongospora (Walr.), John; Leptinotarsa decemlineata (Say.), and of "filterable viruses".

- (ii) Tubers destined to be used as seeds should have a minimal weight of 30 grams per tuber; those destined to consumption should have a minimal weight of 50 grams per tuber.
- (iii) Potatoes destined to be used as seeds, must be packed in drawers and each container must be labelled with the phytosanitary certificate issued by the applicable authority. Potatoes destined for consumption must also be packaged and each container must include, in clearly visible characters, the printed inscription "Potatoes for Consumption", as well as the name of their variety.

Economic impact on European companies

Imports of living animals

According to [INDEC](#) (the statistical authority in Argentina), in 2019 imports of swine, cows, sheep and goats, cocks and other birds amounted to USD 25,199,578. In the same period, the EU only exported to Argentina the following amounts of horses, poultry and other birds (such as ostriches and birds of prey):

- (i) Horses: USD 1,070,881 (mainly from the UK and Germany), which represented 29% of total imports (USD 3,604,237);
- (ii) Poultry: USD 813,878 (mainly from Spain, Poland and Germany), which represented only 5% of total imports (USD 14,597,268);
- (iii) Other birds (such as ostriches and birds of prey): USD 68,673 (mainly from Spain and Portugal), which represented 97% of total imports (USD 70,291).

Imports of fresh fruits and vegetables

According to INDEC, in 2019 total imports of fresh fruits and vegetables from the EU amounted to USD 12,120,974, which represented 4.5% of total imports (USD 267,360,825). The main countries of origin of EU exports to Argentina were Spain, Italy, Portugal, Belgium and Germany.

EU-Mercosur Trade Agreement

The EU and MERCOSUR reached in June 2019 a political agreement on an ambitious, balanced and comprehensive [EU-Mercosur Association Agreement](#), which is supposed to enter into force within the next years.

The Agreement includes a [chapter on SPS measures](#). This chapter will create mechanisms to enhance and facilitate trade and to offer simplified administrative procedures to European exporters. The chapter, *inter alia*, will: (i) reinforce transparency and exchanges of information to import or export products deemed safe; (ii) promote EU exports with faster, more detailed and predictable procedures;



and (iii) require MERCOSUR Member States to harmonize regulations and apply same requirements to all European Union countries.

Links of Interest

[Government's website](#)

[SENASA](#)

[CIVUCE](#)

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