

Inspection of shipment of products of animal origin

Documentation check

Every shipment of animal products imported into Montenegro must be subjected to a documentation check for the purpose of confirming compliance with regulations. The certificate must be printed on the form, original, marked with serial number, composed on the day of dispatch, certified and signed by the competent authority.

The certificate must be in Montenegrin and the language of the country of origin. Incomplete, unclear, hand-written, redrafted, faxed, unsigned certificates are considered inappropriate and in such cases import shall not be approved.

The shipment of animal products shall be retained at the border inspection post until submission of proper documentation.

Identification check

In order to determine compatibility of the information presented in the documentation and the products of animal origin, identification check is performed on every shipment. This includes visual inspection of the seal, official mark, lots, control veterinary numbers of facilities, declaration etc.

It is necessary to open the packages for efficient identity check of the products of animal origin. In this procedure, it has to be taken into account that the products of animal origin have to be manipulated in hygienic manner.

In cases of container shipments, the number of the container is also identified.

Physical check

In order to establish compliance with determined safety requirements, which are defined regulations, applicable in Montenegro, as well as to confirm the accuracy of the guarantee in the certificate, a physical check of every shipment is conducted.

The physical check includes the following:

- sensory check (smell, color, taste, consistency);
- simple, brief physical tests (chopping, burning, thawing, cooking or baking);
- check of the means of transport in order to establish cold chain maintenance or possible interruptions, check of the thermograph list and temperature in the depth of the product;
- check of the packaging and all tags (marks, labels, veterinary control number) in order to determine compliance with regulations;
- comparison of the actual weight of the shipment with the weight specified in the certificate, check of the number of packages or, if necessary, weighing the shipment.

Checks must be made on a number of different samples from the entire shipment, to at least 1% of the products or packaging in the shipment (at least two, or at most 10 products or packages). However, depending on the products and circumstances more samples can be taken.

In cases of products in bulk, at least five samples are necessary from different parts of the shipment.

During checks, all necessary measures must be undertaken for the purpose of eliminating risks of manipulative contamination.

Laboratory tests of shipments at the place of unloading are done according to established plan for taking samples from shipment of imported animal products. The sampling is performed whenever there are reasonable grounds for suspicion, whether when the status of hazardous materials cannot be accurately determined or when the dates of the guarantees are not precise.

When laboratory tests are performed the shipment must not be put in circulation until the results from laboratory tests are obtained and the shipment shall be under the supervision of the customs authorities and the border veterinary inspectorate.