



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Food sustainability, international relations  
**The Director**

Brussels  
SANTE.DDG2.D.3/SC/nf (2022) 1903924

Your Excellency,

**Subject: Export of sprouts to the European Union**

I am writing to you to remind you of the requirements for the entry into the European Union of consignments of **sprouts intended for human consumption** from non EU countries, and the corresponding model health certificates. According to information collected at EU level by the European Sprouts Association, your country has previously exported such consignments, or is currently doing so.

‘Sprouts’ are defined in point (a) of Article 2 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 208/2013<sup>1</sup>, and are referred to by Harmonised System codes: 0704 90, 0706 90, 0708 10, 0708 20, 0708 90 or 1214 90 of Part Two of Annex I to Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87<sup>2</sup>.

Commission Regulation (EU) No 210/2013<sup>3</sup> requires EU establishments producing sprouts to be approved by the competent authorities in accordance with Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004<sup>4</sup>.

In order to ensure compliance with EU food hygiene rules, or with rules recognised to be at least equivalent thereto, sprouts should only be allowed to enter the EU if they are produced in establishments, which appear on lists drawn-up and updated in accordance with Article 5(1)(b) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/625<sup>5</sup>. This latter Regulation was notified to the World Trade Organization as G/SPS/N/EU/278 on 12 October 2018 and G/SPS/N/EU/278/add.1 on 13 June 2019. Such establishments are not primary producers and therefore they cannot benefit from the exemption laid down in Article 6(a) of said Delegated Regulation. The official certificate for sprouts and seeds

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 208/2013 of 11 March 2013 on traceability requirements for sprouts and seeds intended for the production of sprouts - OJ L 68, 12.3.2013, p. 16–18

<sup>2</sup> Council Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 of 23 July 1987 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff - OJ L 256, 7.9.1987, p. 1–675

<sup>3</sup> Commission Regulation (EU) No 211/2013 of 11 March 2013 on certification requirements for imports into the Union of sprouts and seeds intended for the production of sprouts - OJ L 68, 12.3.2013, p. 26–29

<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs - OJ L 139, 30.4.2004, p. 1–54

<sup>5</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/625 of 4 March 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to requirements for the entry into the Union of consignments of certain animals and goods intended for human consumption - OJ L 131, 17.5.2019, p. 18–30

Embassies of all non-EU countries that may export sprouts to the European Union

intended for the production of sprouts shall accompany the consignment until it reaches its destination as indicated in the official certificate. In the case of splitting of the consignment, a copy of the official certificate shall accompany each part of the consignment.

According to information collected at EU level by the European Sprouts Association, your country has exported in the past or exports sprouts to the EU.

I would appreciate if you could relay this request to whom it may concern, namely your country's authorities, so that the Commission Services can update the lists of establishments, that exports or intends exporting sprouts to the EU, drawn-up in accordance with that Regulation, and before 30 April 2022 at the latest to the following email addresses: [sante-consult-D3@ec.europa.eu](mailto:sante-consult-D3@ec.europa.eu) with copy to [sante-consult-G4@ec.europa.eu](mailto:sante-consult-G4@ec.europa.eu).

In the event that your country is not involved in exporting sprouts to the EU, or has no interest in doing so, I would also ask that you send this information to both email addresses above.

My colleagues are available should any clarification be needed.

I look forward to maintaining a close cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Electronically signed

Nathalie CHAZE

Contact: Dr S. Coulon, Unit D3 - [sylvie.coulon@ec.europa.eu](mailto:sylvie.coulon@ec.europa.eu)

Copy to: EU Delegation in the countries exporting or intending to export sprouts to the EU  
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