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Voluntary - Public

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## Tunisia

**Post:** Tunis

### Veterinary-Sanitary Control at the Border

**Report Categories:**

Livestock and Products

Poultry and Products

Dairy and Products

Fishery Products

Honey

FAIRS Subject Report

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

SP2 - Prevent or Resolve Barriers to Trade that Hinder U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports

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**Report Highlights:**

This report contains an unofficial translation of Tunisian Decree No. 2002-668 on organizing the intervention of veterinarians and officials in charge of veterinary-sanitary control for imports and exports. Tunisian imports of animals and animal products (including fishery products) are valued at \$175 million annually, of which \$1-3 million is currently sourced from the United States. The United States has established health certificates to better facilitate trade of U.S. livestock and poultry genetics, dairy products, and treated hides and skins.

<p><b><u>Decree No. 2002-668</u> of March 26, 2002, organizing the intervention of veterinarians and officials in charge of veterinary-sanitary control for imports and exports.</b></p>
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**THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC,**

On the proposal of the Minister of Agriculture,

Having regard to [Law 99-24](#) of March 9, 1999, on veterinary sanitary control of imports and exports, and in particular Article 8 thereof,

Having regard to [Decree No 2001-419](#) of February 13, 2001, laying down the powers of the Ministry of Agriculture,

Having regard to the opinion of the Ministers of Finance, Public Health and Trade,

Considering the opinion of the administrative court.

**DECREES:**

**FIRST CHAPTER**

**General Provisions**

**First article.** Veterinarians and officials of the Ministry of Public Health responsible for veterinary-sanitary control for imports and exports may, in the exercise of their duties, have access to the premises and means of transport where animals and animal products are kept for import or export.

**Art. 2.** Prior to any import or export operation, importers and exporters of animals and animal products should contact the relevant central and regional services of the Ministry of Agriculture to take knowledge of the specific veterinary conditions of the exporting country at the time of importation and of the importing country at the time of export.

**CHAPTER II**

**Veterinary Health Control on Importation**

**Art. 3.** Imported animals and animal products must be accompanied by the following documents:

- **Animals for production:** a health certificate and a transport certificate issued by the official veterinary authorities of the country of origin, a certificate of origin, a pedigree issued by the competent veterinary authorities concerned, and a proforma invoice,
- **Pets:** a health certificate issued by the official veterinary authorities of the country of origin,

- **Animal products:** a health and safety certificate issued by the official veterinary authorities of the country of origin, a certificate of origin issued by the competent authorities, and a document describing the characteristics of the products, the processes, and the methods of preparation, production and storage to maintain the safety of products,

- A copy of the import authorization is required for products excluded from the regime of freedom of foreign trade.

In addition to the documents mentioned above and possibly, the administration may require other documents.

**Art. 4.** Animals and animal products may be released from the border inspection post only after presentation of a certificate of veterinary health control on importation, issued by veterinarians and officials from the Ministry of Public Health to the border inspection post fixing their destination for customs services, and provide a numbered register stamped by the veterinarians during import and export to record live animal data.

**Art. 5.** Veterinarians and officials under the authority of the Ministry of Public Health referred to above must ensure that documents accompanying the imported animals and animal products are issued by the official veterinary authorities of the exporting country.

**Art. 6.** The above-mentioned veterinarians and officials of the Ministry of Public Health must require that the documents be presented in their original form, written in a clear and complete manner in Arabic, French, or English, without overwriting or deletions, signed, dated and bearing the official seal of the signatory with an indication of his identity.

The original of these documents is kept by the veterinarians and officials of the Ministry of Public Health referred to above. A copy is given to the importer, the exporter or their representatives.

**Art. 7.** In the case where the point of entry does not have the necessary equipment for the proper control operations at the border inspection post, these operations may be carried out in suitable places for that purpose and designated by the administration.

The importer commits not to sell, offer for sale for money or free of charge, all or part of the animals and animal products concerned, as such or processed before they are subject to control. The commitment must be signed officially in accordance with the legislation in force.

The costs of storage of animal products and the cost of animal housing, including those incurred for the care provided to animals, shall be borne by the importer.

**Art. 8.** The physical inspection of animals and animal products for import must be carried out in accordance with the following guidelines and principles:

1 - The physical control of animals:

The physical control of the animals must include in particular:

- 1) A clinical examination of the animals to ensure that they are healthy,
- 2) Laboratory examinations considered necessary or provided for by the regulations in force in Tunisia,

- 3) Sampling for the purposes of possible analyzes,
- 4) Verification of compliance with the minimum requirements for the protection of animals during international transport.

## 2 - The physical control of animal products:

The physical control of animal products is intended to ensure that they are in a state consistent with the intended purpose stated on the certificate or veterinary document. For this purpose, it is necessary to check the guarantees originally certified by the exporting country and to ensure that the transport has not altered the conditions guaranteed initially by the exporter.

- (a) An organoleptic test: smell, color and flavor,
- (b) Simple physical or chemical tests: slicing, thawing, cooking, temperature and pH,
- (c) Laboratory tests.

Depending on its nature, the product must be submitted to

- 1) The verification of the conditions and the means of its transport to determine its insufficiencies or breaks of its chain of cold,
- 2) The comparison between the actual weight of the lot and that indicated on the certificate or veterinary document and, if necessary, the use of the whole lot,
- 3) Verification of the packaging materials and the information contained therein (stamping and labeling) to ensure compliance with the legislation in force,
- 4) The control of the respect of the temperatures during the transport,
- 5) Examination of the entire series of packages and bulk products by taking samples for organoleptic examinations, physio-chemical tests, and laboratory tests.

In the case where the imported product requires additional tests, it may be allowed to leave the border inspection post and be returned to the importer's warehouse until the results of these tests are published.

**Art. 9.** Once results are obtained, the decision to be taken corresponds to one of the following: refusal and re-shipment, definitive admission, temporary admission, lifting of deposit, lifting of the quarantine, seizure / destruction of the animal products and seizure / slaughter of animals must be established in accordance with the models set out in Annexes I, II, III, IV and V attached to this Decree.

**Art. 10.** When the investigations carried out at the border inspection post do not allow a decision to be taken and it is necessary to carry additional investigations which can only be carried out outside the border inspection post, a temporary admission is granted with consignment of animal products and / or quarantine of animals with the exception of pets.

**Art 11.** At the end of the investigations carried out on the quarantined animals and on the animal products put in consignment and according to the results obtained, it is proceeded either to the lifting of the quarantine or the consignment in case of favorable results, either the re-shipment of animals and animal products in the event of negatives results.

### CHAPTER III

#### Veterinary Health Control During Transit

**Art. 12.** Upon arrival in Tunisia, at the point of entry, animals and animal products in transit must undergo documentary control and identity checks.

When this check reveals non-conformity of animals and animal products, they will be re-shipped

**Art. 13.** For animals in transit and where necessary, a physical check consisting mainly of a medical examination on a significant number of animals may be carried out to detect the possible presence of clinical signs of contagious diseases.

When this examination reveals the presence of a contagious disease, all animals will be re-shipped.

**Art. 14.** Animals and animal products, admitted in transit as a result of the veterinary-sanitary control carried out at the point of entry, must be transported directly, without breaking or splitting, in vehicles sealed by the customs services, until checkpoint, accompanied by their documents and the certificate of veterinary health control, as set out in Annex VI attached to this Decree.

### CHAPTER IV

#### Veterinary Health Control for Export

**Art. 15.** The documents and the sanitary conditions required for the export of animals and animal products shall be determined by the competent official authorities of the country of destination.

**Art. 16.** The export of animals and animal products shall be carried out at the end of the control operations on the basis of a veterinary health inspection certificate for export, drawn up in accordance with Annex VII attached to this Decree.

**Art. 17.** The Ministers of Agriculture, Finance, Public Health and Trade are responsible, each in his respective respects, for the execution of this decree, which will be published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Tunisia.

Tunis, March 26, 2002.

Zine El Abidine Ben Ali

## ANNEX I

### Certificate of Veterinary Sanitary control on Importation

#### I- Legal References

- [Law No. 99-24](#) of March 9, 1999 on Veterinary Sanitary Control on Imports and Exports.

- Decree No. 2002-668 of March 26, 2002, organizing the intervention of veterinarians and officials in charge of veterinary sanitary control for import and export.

#### II- Nature of the controlled goods:

Animals ☐ Age..... Number ..... Color..... Race.....  
Animal products ☐

#### III- Description of the controlled goods:

- Nature: .....
- Number / quantity: .....
- Total net weight: .....
- Country of origin: .....
- Name of the exporter: .....
- Address of the exporter: .....
- Means of transport (nature, references): .....
- Date of arrival at the crossing point: .....
- Border inspection post: .....

#### IV- Veterinary health control carried out

- Documentary control ☐ Date: .....
- Identity check ☐ Date: .....
- Physical Control ☐ Date: .....

#### V- Decision

- Final admission ☐
- Temporary admission ☐ with:
  - ☐ - Deposit of animal products at the establishment indicated: .....
  - ☐ - Animal observation in the quarantine center designated: .....
  - ☐ - Re-shipment for (reason): .....

Date:.....  
Veterinarian: .....  
Signature: .....  
Quality of the signatory: .....  
Official stamp: .....

**ANNEX II**  
**Attestation de contrôle sanitaire vétérinaire à l'importation**  
**(levée de mise en consignation des produits animaux)**

**I - Legal basis**

\* [Law No. 99-24](#) of March 9, 1999 on Veterinary Sanitary Control on Imports and Exports.

\* Decree No \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, organizing the intervention of veterinarians and veterinary health control officers for import and export.

**II- References of the certificate of consignment:**

No .: .....

Date: .....

Signatory: .....

**III- Veterinary health control carried out:**

- Identity check ☐ Date: .....

- Physical check ☐ Date: .....

**IV- Laboratory tests and analysis:**

- Number of samples taken: .....

- Nature of the samples taken: .....

- Sampling date: .....

- References of samples taken: .....

- Date of sending of samples to laboratories: .....

- References for sending samples to laboratories: .....

- Identity of the laboratories having carried out the tests and analyses: .....

.....

- Reference of tests and analyses bulletins: .....

- Result of analyses: .....

**V- Specific observations:** .....

.....

**VI- Decision:** In view of the control carried out as part of the veterinary health control, the lifting of the consignment of the animal products indicated below is ordered:

- Nature: .....

- Country of origin: .....

- Name of the exporter: .....

- Address of the exporter: .....

- Name of the importer: .....

- Address of the importer: .....

- Means of transport (nature, references): .....

- Date of arrival at the crossing point: .....

- Border inspection post: .....

Date: .....

Veterinarian: .....

Signature: .....

Quality of the signatory: .....

Official stamp: .....

## ANNEX III

### Certificate of veterinary sanitary control on importation (seizure / slaughter of animals)

#### I - Legal basis

\* [Law No. 99-24](#) of March 9, 1999 on sanitary veterinary control on import and export

\* Decree No. \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, organizing the intervention of veterinarians and veterinary health control officers for import and export.

#### II- References of the certificate of consignment:

No. : .....

Date: .....

Signatory: .....

#### III- Veterinary health control carried out:

- Identity check ☐ Date: .....

- Physical check ☐ Date: .....

#### IV- Laboratory tests and analysis:

- Number of samples taken: .....

- Nature of the samples taken: .....

- Sampling date: .....

- References of samples taken: .....

- Date of sending of samples to laboratories: .....

- References for sending samples to laboratories: .....

- Identity of the laboratories having carried out the tests and analyses: .....

.....

- Reference of tests and analyses bulletins: .....

- Result of analyses: .....

#### V- Specific observations: .....

.....

#### VI- Reports of seizure:

- Reasons for seizure: .....

- Reports of seizure No.: .....

- Date: .....

- Date of transmission to: .....

- Minister of Agriculture: .....

- Minister of Public Health: .....

#### VII – Slaughter:

- Court references authorizing the slaughter: .....

- Date of slaughter: .....

- Place of slaughter: .....

- Number of animals to be slaughtered: .....

- Nature: .....

Date: .....

Veterinarian: .....

Signature: .....

Quality of the signatory: .....

Official stamp: .....



**ANNEX IV**  
**Certificate of veterinary sanitary control on importation**  
**(Seizure / destruction of animal products)**

**I - Legal basis**

\* [Law No. 99-24](#) of March 9, 1999 on sanitary veterinary control on import and export

\* Decree No. .... of ....., organizing the intervention of veterinarians and veterinary health control officers for import and export.

**II- References of the certificate of consignment:**

No. : .....

Date: .....

Signatory: .....

**III- Veterinary health control carried out:**

- Identity check ☐ Date: .....

- Physical check ☐ Date: .....

**IV- Laboratory tests and analysis:**

- Number of samples taken: .....

- Nature of the samples taken: .....

- Sampling date: .....

- References of samples taken: .....

- Date of sending of samples to laboratories: .....

- References for sending samples to laboratories: .....

- Identity of the laboratories having carried out the examinations and analyses: .....

.....

- Reference of tests and analyses bulletins: .....

- Result of analyses: .....

**V- Specific observations: .....**

.....

**VI- Reports of seizure:**

- Reasons for seizure: .....

- Reports of seizure No.: .....

- Date: .....

- Date of transmission to: .....

- Minister of Agriculture: .....

- Minister of Public Health: .....

- Date of the seizure: .....

- Place of storage of seized products: .....

- Storage conditions: .....

**VII - Destruction**

- Judicial references authorizing the destruction: .....

- Destruction date: .....

- Location of destruction: .....

- Quantity of products to be destroyed: .....

- Used destruction method: .....

Date:.....

Veterinarian: .....

Signature: .....

Quality of the signatory: .....

Official stamp: .....

## ANNEX V

### Certificate of veterinary sanitary control on importation (Lifting of animal quarantine)

#### I - Legal basis

\* [Law No. 99-24](#) of March 9, 1999 on sanitary veterinary control on import and export

\* Decree No \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, organizing the intervention of veterinarians and veterinary health control officers for import and export.

#### II- References of the certificate of consignment:

No .: .....

Date: .....

Signatory: .....

#### III- Veterinary health control carried out:

- Identity check ☐ Date: .....

- Physical check ☐ Date: .....

#### IV- Laboratory tests and analysis:

- Number of samples taken: .....

- Nature of the samples taken: .....

- Sampling date: .....

- References of samples taken: .....

- Date of sending of samples to laboratories: .....

- References for sending samples to laboratories: .....

- Identity of the laboratories having carried out the tests and analyses .....

- Reference of tests and analyses bulletins: .....

- Result of analyses: .....

#### V- Specific observations: .....

**VI- Decision:** In view of the results of analyses and tests carried out as part of the veterinary health inspection, the lifting of the quarantine of the animals indicated below is authorized:

- Nature: .....

- Number: .....

- Number / quantity: .....

- Total net weight: .....

- Country of origin: .....

- Name of the exporter: .....

- Address of the exporter: .....

- Name of the importer: .....

- Address of the importer: .....

- Means of transport (nature, references): .....

- Date of arrival at the crossing point: .....

- Border inspection post: .....

Date: .....

Veterinarian: .....

Signature: .....

Quality of the signatory: .....

Official stamp: .....

## ANNEX VI

### Certificate of veterinary health control for the importation of animals and animal products in transit

#### I - Legal basis

\* [Law No. 99-24](#) of March 9, 1999 on sanitary veterinary control on import and export

\* Decree No \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, organizing the intervention of veterinarians and veterinary health control officers for import and export.

#### II- Nature of the controlled goods:

Animals ☐

Animal products ☐

#### III- Description of the controlled goods:

- Nature: .....
- Number / quantity: .....
- Total net weight: .....
- Country of origin: .....
- Country of destination: .....
- Name of the exporter: .....
- Address of the exporter: .....
- Name of the importer in the country of destination: .....
- Address of the importer in the country of destination: .....
- Name of the person responsible for the transit: .....
- Address of the transit manager: .....
- Date of arrival at the crossing point: .....

#### IV- Veterinary health control carried out

- Documentary control ☐ Date: .....
- Identity check ☐ Date: .....
- Physical Control ☐ Date: .....

#### V- Decision:

☐ Ejection

- Reasons for ejection:

.....  
.....

☐ Transit Authorization:

- Transit itinerary: .....
- Border inspection post: .....

Date: .....

Veterinarian: .....

Signature: .....

Quality of the signatory: .....

Official stamp: .....

## ANNEX VII

### Certificate of Veterinary Sanitary Control for Export

#### I - Legal basis

\* [Law No. 99-24](#) of March 9, 1999 on sanitary veterinary control on import and export

\* Decree No \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, organizing the intervention of veterinarians and veterinary health control officers for import and export.

#### II- Nature of the controlled goods:

Animals ☐

Animal products ☐

#### III- Description of the controlled goods:

- Nature: .....
- Number / quantity: .....
- Total net weight: .....
- Establishment / holding of origin: .....
- Name of the exporter: .....
- Address of the exporter: .....
- Name of the importer: .....
- Address of the importer: .....
- Country of destination: .....
- Means of transport to the country of destination: (nature, references): .....
- .....
- Date of arrival at the crossing point: .....
- Border inspection post:.....

#### IV- Veterinary health control carried out

- Documentary control ☐ Date: .....
- Identity check ☐ Date: .....
- Physical Control ☐ Date: .....

#### V- Decision:

- Export authorization ☐
- Unauthorized export ☐
- Reason: .....
- Return of the exported goods to the holding / establishment of origin.

Date:.....  
Veterinarian: .....  
Signature: .....  
Quality of the signatory: .....  
Official stamp: .....