

Rules on prohibited antimicrobials in imported animal products

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Regulation

Regulation [2023/905](#) as regards the application of the prohibition of use of certain antimicrobial medicinal products in animals or products of animal origin exported from third countries into the Union

What is changing and why?

Live animals and certain animal products exported to the EU will be subject to stricter rules to ensure that they are not produced using certain prohibited antimicrobial medicines. This is because antimicrobial resistance poses a major global threat to human health. The EU prohibits the use in animals of certain antimicrobials that are used to treat humans, to ensure their continued effectiveness. The use of antimicrobials as growth promoters or to increase yields is also prohibited.

Non-EU countries complying with this Regulation **must ensure they are included on an EU list of authorised exporting countries**, and must use the up-to-date official certificates for signature by the competent authorities.

Non-EU countries wishing to export animals and animal products to the EU were asked to send a written declaration guaranteeing they will conform with these requirements before November 2023. The new [Model health certificates](#) were published on 12 February 2024 (see Regulation [2024/399](#)). The list of approved countries will be published in due course.

Actions

The European Commission has indicated that 21 countries still need to submit information on their compliance with the rules on antimicrobial medicinal products to ensure that they can continue to export animal products to the EU in September 2026. The Commission has also stated that “countries will only be listed for the commodities for which they have submitted guarantees” (see [Third country lists for public health – explained](#)). Competent authorities of these countries should **submit the declaration as soon as possible for every animal product they export to the EU**, including for honey, casings, aquatic animals, etc. If they fail to provide the declaration, they risk not being included in the list of non-EU countries authorised to export animal products to the EU.

The declaration should be sent to SANTE-VETERINARY-MEDICINES@ec.europa.eu.

Particular attention must be paid to products that have a long cycle of production (beef, casings, processed products, etc.). To be able to export such products to the EU from 3 September 2026, the guarantees must be in place **from the birth** of the food-producing animals, which may mean, for example, a period of 2 years or more prior to export.

In each country, competent authorities will have to assess what steps are required to comply with Regulation [2023/905](#). Coordination with representatives of the livestock and animal products sector will be needed, and potentially the adoption of national legislation or adaptation of control systems.

Timeline

Date of application: 3 September 2026 (24 months after the entry into application of Regulation 2024/399 laying down the revised [Model health certificates](#)).

For more information see the [full record](#) on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest [AGRINFO Update](#) newsletters and [search](#) the database.

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