

# Veterinary Export Policy (VEX) 'Healthy trade in livestock and meat'



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## 'Healthy trade in livestock and meat'

Fact sheet from the portfolio of the Department of Trade and Industry version January 2007

### Status

Consolidation phase.

### Facts and figures

- The Netherlands is highly competitive in the field of pork. The export increased to 1.25 million tonnes (carcass weight) in 2005. The export of live pigs increased dramatically (+ 12%).
- Cattle livestock amounted to 3.8 million in 2005, including (veal) calves. 90% of the veal produced in the Netherlands is exported, mainly to Italy, Germany and France. The export of beef increased by 5%.
- The export of breeding cattle was particular good in 2005. More and more countries are reopening their borders and Russia and Morocco in particular provided a strong impulse. In 2005, 65,000 breeding cattle were exported (+ 62%).

These are provisional figures: actual figures for all sectors are available at [www.pve.nl](http://www.pve.nl)

### Period

Ongoing.

### Parties involved

The Department of Food Quality and Animal Health is ultimately responsible. Trade and Industry is involved specifically from the point of view of agribusiness. Veterinary Information Point (VIP) of the Commodity boards for Livestock, Meat and Eggs, VWA

### More information

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agriculture, nature  
and food quality

*Countries outside the EU all use their own certificates, per product, specifying requirements that import goods have to comply with. Agreements between the Netherlands and non-EU countries help to promote trade. VEX helps to remove veterinary barriers to export to countries outside the EU for the whole of the animal export sector, which includes pigs, poultry, cattle, calves, goats, sheep and rabbits. Negotiations cover the whole of the international market, with special attention being devoted to China and Russia as new markets.*

### Context

There have always been veterinary barriers to export. However, the standards that determine how these barriers are to be dealt with have differed over the years. In the past the government ruled out certain certificates, which meant that Dutch companies could not do business with the country in question. This was partly due to poor communication between the two parties. VEX emerged in 1998 through dissatisfaction with this situation. Since then certificate requirements have taken the wishes of entrepreneurs into account as far as possible. This is done in consultation between the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV), The Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (VWA) and the organised business sector. If, for example, a ban is placed on export on account of an outbreak of swine fever, VEX keeps abreast of all new developments, and once the statutory six-month period has expired, actively approaches countries to get them to reopen their borders (to the extent that this does not happen automatically).

### Effects

The consultation works. The priorities of the business sector are closely monitored. The consultation also serves as sound preparation for the negotiations of the Chief Veterinarian Officer (CVO). E.g. during the Minister's visit to China, an agreement was reached regarding the export of semen. This was a market that had been closed on account of BSE. Now, if the extensive inspection missions go well, certificate requirements can be negotiated. This will open up all kinds of opportunities for the sector.

### Particular aspects

Awareness of the problems associated with veterinary export has grown in recent years. The VWA and LNV have deliberately formulated policy to address these issues. This is extremely important for agribusinesses.

### Challenges

Strict EU regulations can conflict with international trading standards. There are potential gains to be made by addressing barriers to export on behalf of the EU. Acceptance of one another's inspection systems (so-called equivalence agreements), as has been agreed with Canada and New Zealand for example, would help to promote trade. The measures designed to assure BSE-free beef are now bearing fruit, which means that countries can be actively approached. For the rest, negotiation with China and Russia has priority.

### Compatibility with Ministry policy

Good negotiations strengthen the Dutch export position in the international market. This is one of the key objectives of Trade and Industry within Ministry policy.

### Benefits

The sale of livestock and meat to non-EU countries is set to increase.