



Foreign Agricultural Service

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## Romania

### Poultry and Products

### New Requirements for MDM

**2002**

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#### Report Highlights:

**A recent regulation on mechanically deboned meat (MDM) may substantially affect U.S. exports. The test for Salmonella will be stricter and will be required on the export health certificate. The law limits MDM use as an ingredient to heat treated meat products and requires meat products containing MDM to be labeled as such. The new regulation will be effective January 7, 2003. The Agricultural Affairs Office is expecting that exporters will be granted a 90 day extension until April, in order to comply with the rule.**

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Includes PSD changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Sofia [BU1], RO

The Romanian Ministry of Agriculture and Food has issued a regulation on the requirements for Mechanically Deboned Meat (MDM) production, imports, and use. The regulation is effective 60 days from the date of publication in the Official Gazette, that is, January 7, 2003. The Agricultural Affairs Office in Bucharest has officially asked to extend the effective date to 90 days, so that the United States Food Safety Inspection Service can negotiate a new export health certificate.

The new regulation may substantially affect MDM trade and import in Romania, since a Health Certificate for MDM will be required to accompany MDM imports and every MDM lot has to meet the requirements described as follows:

	<b>M</b> <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>M</b> <sup>(2)</sup>
E. coli (max./g) n=5 c=2	5x10 <sup>3</sup> /g	5x10 <sup>2</sup> /g
Salmonella (max./g) n=5 c=0	Absence in 1 g	
Stafilococcus aureus (max./g) n=5 c=0	5x10 <sup>3</sup> /g	5x10 <sup>2</sup> /g

(1) *M* = acceptability threshold, above which results are no longer considered satisfactory where *M* equals 10 *m* where the count is made in a solid medium and equals 30 *M* where the count is made in a liquid medium.

(2) *m* = threshold below which all results are considered satisfactory.

The veterinary authorities currently test for Salmonella in a sample of 25 grams. Testing 5 samples of 1 gram will increase the likelihood of a positive test for Salmonella.

Also, every imported lot of packed MDM must have a label with the following content:

- name and address of producer
- weight
- origin of MDM "Mechanically deboned meat from ....(species)"
- shelf life
- freezing date
- lot number
- producer's health mark
- near the producer's health mark the following must be mentioned "destined to an authorized processing plant for treated under heat meat products".

MDM originating from bovine, ovine and goat species will not be allowed for import.

MDM sale to final consumers, pure or mixed with other ingredients, is prohibited. It can only be used as an ingredient for treated under heat meat products in veterinary authorized processing plants. These processing plants have to notify the field veterinary offices about their MDM suppliers; they will also notify the veterinary authorities whenever they buy MDM from a new supplier.

The new regulation is expected to have an impact on U.S. exports of meat products containing MDM as well, since imports to Romania will be allowed only if the product is labeled as containing MDM. Due to a recent negative press, MDM currently has a negative image among consumers.

A full translation of the regulation is available from AgBucharest upon request.