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EU eases sanitary documentation for Colombian foods containing dairy ingredients

18 September 2026 | News

The revised approach recognises earlier heat-treatment records as sanitary evidence for qualifying foods containing dairy ingredients

The European Union has simplified the sanitary documentation requirements for certain processed food products from Colombia containing dairy ingredients, potentially making it easier for exporters to demonstrate compliance with EU market-access rules. The change covers processed foods made with milk powder, butter or whey. Under the revised approach, exporters can use evidence of heat treatment carried out on the dairy ingredients before they were incorporated into the finished food product to substantiate compliance with the relevant sanitary requirements.

The move addresses a practical issue in food processing: where dairy ingredients undergo heat treatment before being incorporated into another product, exporters can now rely on documentation of that earlier treatment rather than having to demonstrate the treatment only at the stage of the final Colombian food product.

The provision applies specifically to products whose formulations contain one or more of the covered dairy ingredients. It therefore does not represent a blanket change to sanitary requirements for Colombian food exports to the EU. For Colombian food manufacturers and exporters, the change could reduce some of the documentation complexity associated with demonstrating the sanitary status of processed foods containing dairy-derived ingredients. Records relating to heat treatments applied during the earlier handling of milk powder, butter or whey can be presented as part of the sanitary evidence for relevant products.

The measure does not remove EU sanitary controls or eliminate documentation requirements. Rather, it changes how exporters can substantiate compliance by recognising treatment undertaken before the dairy ingredients are incorporated into the finished food. The regulatory adjustment could be particularly relevant for food manufacturers sourcing dairy ingredients

from established processing chains, where heat-treatment records are generated before ingredients enter the formulation stage. Recognising those records can provide exporters with a clearer evidentiary pathway when preparing documentation for EU market access.

The change comes as trade in processed foods increasingly depends not only on tariffs and market demand but also on the ability of exporters to meet detailed food-safety and traceability requirements. For Colombian businesses targeting the European market, greater clarity around the recognition of processing records could help streamline compliance without altering the underlying sanitary standards. No new export-volume target, financial trade value, implementation date or individual companies have been identified in connection with the measure. The change remains focused on the documentation of heat treatment for dairy ingredients used in qualifying processed foods.