International Conference: Camel milk overview in the Mediterranean basin

Camel milk and dairy products – The rules and opportunities

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Summary

1. Camel milk status in the EU
2. Health and hygiene requirements
3. Importation requirements
4. Official controls requirements
5. Market opportunities
6. Conclusions
1. Camel milk status in the EU
How ‘camel milk’ is authorised in the EU?

EU Novel food catalogue
You can use the search engine or the alphabetical catalogue to see the list of products.

Product Name: camelus
Camelus dromedarius

Camelus dromedarius

Common Names
Welblad jednogarbný (mleko) (PL), Dromedar (DE), dromedar (SE), akshärkaamel (ET)

Description
Without prejudice to other requirements concerning the use and handling of (Camel) milk, Camel milk does not require authorisation under Regulation (EC) No 258/97 as it was on the market in the EU before 10 May 1997.

Novel Food Status
What does it mean?
At the moment, there are two possible ways to consider *Camelus bactrianus* milk as a food or food ingredient in the EU:

**Option A**
- Request to the European Commission through a Member State (Reg. EU 2018/456)
- The response updates the *Novel Food Catalogue*

**Option B**
- Notification of a traditional food from a third country (Reg. EU 2017/2468)
- Only if the consultation process leads to a ‘novel food status’
2. Health and hygiene requirements
Food and hygiene requirements

➢ General principles and requirements of food law
➢ Foodstuffs hygiene
➢ Food of animal origin hygiene

➢ Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE) control
➢ Pesticides maximum residue level (MRL)
➢ Microbiological criteria for foodstuffs
➢ Contaminants in foodstuffs
Camel and milk health and hygiene requirements

Reg. EU 2019/426
- Transmissible animal diseases
- Animal transport
- Production, transformation and distribution in the EU of milk and milk products
- Health certificates

Reg. EU 2020/688
- Specific requirements for camel transport
- Dispositions and diagnostic methods for infected animals

Reg. EU 2020/692
- Animal health requirements for entry in the EU of camel, camel milk and milk products
- Milk and milk products risk disease prevention treatments

Reg. EU 2020/2154 and Reg. EU 2021/520
- Emergency restriction measures
- Camels traceability (only EU Member States)

Reg. EU 2020/2235
- Animal health, official certificates and private attestation models
- Movement in the EU between States and import from third countries of milk and milk products

Reg. EU 2021/403
- Animal health and official certificates for movement in the EU between Member States and import from third countries for camels
3. Importation requirements
Entry in the EU from third countries

The import of raw milk, products obtained from raw milk and dairy products (with and without risk reduction treatment of milk) is possible only from third countries included in the lists from the following regulations and decision, in combination with health and hygiene requirements:

- Decision 2011/163/EU
- Reg. EU 2021/404
- Reg. EU 2021/405
- Reg. EU 2019/625
- Reg. EEC No 2658/87

It is also important to consider the compliance for combined nomenclature (CN) to import milk and milk products from third countries.
List of establishments

The list of establishments from third countries are included in the TRACES-NT system of the EU Commission.

For the inclusion of new countries and establishment in the list, it is needed to demonstrate the compliance with EU food hygiene regulation (especially Annex III of Reg. EC No 853/2004) and a periodic control of these establishments from local authorities, after a desk-based assessment and an eventual audit from EU Health and Food Audits and Analysis Directorate.
4. Official control requirements
Reg. EU 2019/627 sets specific requirements for official controls related to raw milk:

- Animal health status
- No use of unauthorised or prohibited pharmacologically active substance
- No exceed of MRL level for contaminants, pesticides and pharmacologically active substance
- Verification of compliance with Reg. EC No. 853/04 requirements
- Suspension of non-compliant products
Importance of CN (combined nomenclature) compliance

Reg. EU 2021/632

Live animals
CN 0106 13 00

Camels

Dromedaries

Milk and milk products
CN 0401 - 0410

Food containing camel milk
CN category dependent

Reg. EU 2019/2122

CN 0401-0406 not exempted
Possible exception for research samples

Reg. EU 2021/630

Exemption of official controls for some composite products
5. Market opportunities
Processed products and NHC claims

**Fermented products**
- Cheese

**Food supplements**
- Nutrition claims
  - It depends on nutrient amount
  - Possible increase from camel milk processing

**Food ingredient for composite products**
- Health claims
  - Related to nutrition claims
  - Authorised after EFSA’s positive assessment by EU Commission

Reg. EC No 1924/2006 and Reg. EU No 432/2012
A **standard** is a recognised way of doing something. It means that everyone follows the same set of **guidelines** no matter where they are based, resulting in a safer, more consistent end result. This benefits both the **organisation** and the **customer** or **end user** (e.g. consumers, food processors).

For companies, they are secure in the knowledge that this standard is followed and recognised widely. For customers, they know they are getting a product or service which is safe, good quality and trustworthy.
Part of the **International Camel Organisation (ICO)**, it includes EU and non-EU countries.

The **objectives** of ECROA are to a) enable camel ranch owners to benefit from each other’s experiences, b) to highlight all aspects of camel keeping in Europe, inspired by the camel culture in Arab and Asian countries and c) to inform a broader audience about various camel related topics.

international non-governmental organization founded by EU and non-EU countries (Asia and Africa), which aims to improve the **knowledge and the dissemination of research results of domestic animals farming.**

Membership is open to scientists, animal breeders and administrators.
Camel milk from *Camelus dromedarius* can be marketed in the EU without concern, but clarification is needed for *Camelus bactrianus*

Camels, camel milk and milk products needs to be compliant with food and animal hygiene and animal health requirements

Import from third countries is allowed only for some specific countries and at specific conditions

Border control posts and other official controls are responsible of the compliance of pertinent EU legislation

Market opportunities may be obtained from standardisation, diversification of use of camel milk (e.g. food ingredient, food supplement), incentive of nutritional and health properties and contact with proper stakeholders in EU and non-EU countries
Thank you for your attention

Dario Dongo