

When and what type of APHIS Registered Aquaculture Export (RAEF) inspection is needed?

Does the destination country require a RAEF facility inspection?

YES

NO

Is the RAEF inspection for a *Production Facility*¹ or a *Reboxing/Relabeling Facility*²?*

NO

YES

YES

NO

RAEF Production Facility¹: Does the destination country require premises freedom to meet any/all testing requirements

RAEF Reboxing/Relabeling Facility²: Follow the facility inspection process outlined [here](#)

Premises Freedom: Follow the facility inspection process outlined [here](#)

No APHIS facility inspection is required

YES

NO

Premises Freedom: Follow the facility inspection process outlined [here](#)

Test and Ship/No Testing: Follow the facility inspection process outlined [here](#)

¹ **RAEF Production Facility**: Facility that breeds, produces, grows, or packages live aquatic animals on the premises.

² **RAEF Reboxing/Relabeling Facility**: Facility that receives live aquatic animals from suppliers for the purposes of reboxing (outer materials) and/or relabeling them prior to international export.

*Notes:

- Some production facilities may export to multiple countries that have different export testing requirements, which may include premises freedom level testing and/or test and ship
- Some facilities may choose to obtain a RAEF Production Facility approval and a RAEF Rebox/Relabel Facility approval depending on their business model

RAEF Production Facility¹ Inspection: Premises Freedom Testing

Determine inspection type

Facility answers questions about the countries and species it plans to export. Based on the answers to these questions, the facility decides to obtain/ maintain the *RAEF Production Facility Approval AND Premises Freedom Approval*.

1. Pre-inspection documentation

Facility reviews, completes, and signs the *Premises Freedom Evaluation Package*, and submits it to the APHIS VS Office that oversees the State/ Territory where the facility is located.

Facility reviews, completes, and signs the *RAEF Production Facility Pre-inspection Package*, and submits it to the APHIS VS Office that oversees the State/ Territory where the facility is located.

The APHIS VS Export Veterinarian at the APHIS VS Office reviews the *Premises Freedom Evaluation Package*, and will contact the facility directly via email if additional information is needed.

The APHIS VS Export Veterinarian at the APHIS VS Office reviews *RAEF Production Facility Pre-inspection Package*, and will contact the facility directly via email if additional information is needed.

APHIS VS Export Veterinarian completes and signs Part 1 of the *RAEF Production Facility Inspection Checklist*.

The APHIS VS Export Veterinarian contacts the APHIS VS Field Veterinarian covering the area where the facility is located to schedule the site inspection for this *RAEF Production Facility* approval.

2. Facility Inspection

APHIS VS Field Veterinarian contacts the facility to schedule the *RAEF Production Facility* inspection.

Facility undergoes *RAEF Production Facility* inspection.

APHIS VS Field Veterinarian completes and signs Part 2 of the *RAEF Production Facility Inspection Checklist*, and submits it to the APHIS VS Export Veterinarian.

3. Initial Review of Inspection Documentation

APHIS VS Export Veterinarian reviews the *RAEF Production Facility Inspection Checklist* and supporting documentation (as needed), and will contact the APHIS VS Field Veterinarian if additional information is needed.

APHIS VS Export Veterinarian countersigns Part 2 of the *RAEF Production Facility Inspection Checklist* and drafts the *RAEF Production Facility Approval Letter*.

4. Final Review of Inspection Documentation

APHIS VS Export Veterinarian sends the *RAEF Production Facility Pre-Inspection Package*, *Inspection Checklist*, supporting documentation (as needed), and the draft *RAEF Production Facility Approval Letter* to APHIS VS Aquatic Trade Staff.

APHIS VS Aquatic Trade Staff review the documents for completeness, and will contact the APHIS VS Export Veterinarian if additional information is needed.

APHIS VS Aquatic Trade Staff update the *RAEF Production Facility* information in the internal *RAEF Master Spreadsheet*, and notify the APHIS VS Export Veterinarian.

5. Approval Letters

APHIS VS Export Veterinarian issues *Premises Freedom Letter* and sends it to the facility.

APHIS VS Export Veterinarian issues the *RAEF Production Facility Approval Letter* and sends it to the facility.

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