

Breadcrumb

1. [Home](#)
2. Print
3. Pdf
4. Node
5. Entity Print

# International Regulations (IRegs) for Animal Product Exports

Last Modified:

APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) created the International Animal Product Export Regulations (IRegs) to provide exporters with our best understanding of importing countries' requirements for certain animal-origin products.

Countries may change their import requirements without notice. In all cases, the exporter is responsible for having their importer confirm with the Ministry of Animal Health in the importing country the certification requirements prior to shipping. The exporter should obtain any required certificates prior to shipping. Most countries will not accept certificates issued after consignments have shipped. The availability of APHIS endorsement of certificates should not be assumed until after consultation with the pertinent [VS Field Operations Veterinary Export Trade Services \(aka VS Service Centers\)](#).

**Exporters are responsible for confirming prior to shipment that they have all certification required for the consignment.**

The primary role of APHIS VS in the certification of animal products for export is to provide certification about the animal health status of the region of origin of the product. If other certifications are required, APHIS, VS may not be the Agency

authorized to provide the required export certificate.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the procedures and requirements for exporting animals, animal products, or to obtain a zoosanitary certificate for an animal product, you should contact the [VS Field Operations Veterinary Export Trade Services \(aka VS Service Centers\)](#) covering the area from which the product will be exported, the area in which your office is located, or the area in which the product is manufactured. If you have a shipment on hold in a foreign country, please contact the Veterinary Services service center that issued your certificate.

\* If you have a shipment of animal products or by-products that has been exported from the United States and you intend to return the shipment to the United States, please use our [VS Permitting Assistant](#).

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## VS Export Certificates and Instructions

Exporters are advised that the forms linked below are to be submitted to the endorsing office electronically by email after preparation consistent with the Special instructions for exporters regarding the preparation of the new VS forms. Exporters should contact the endorsing office officials regarding the correct email address to use and the proper formatting of emails so that the process flows well. If submission by email is not possible, exporters should contact endorsing office officials to discuss alternatives. Prior to endorsement, APHIS prints the forms on special VS Security Paper. **Only the below JUL 2022 versions of the VS Form 16-4 and VS Form 16-4A may be used.**

- [VS Form 16-4\\*](#)- JUL 2022
- [VS Form 16-4A](#)- JUL 2022
- [Combined VS form 16-4 and VS form 16-4A\\*](#)
- [Special instructions for exporters regarding the preparation of VS Form 16-4 and 16-4A](#)

\*This version of the VS Form 16-4 also contains the following statement as the initial content of the "ADDITIONAL DECLARATIONS" area: "This is to certify that rinderpest, foot-and-mouth-disease, classical swine fever, swine vesicular disease, African swine

fever, and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia do not exist in the United States of America."

Prior to using these forms, users should ensure Adobe Reader Version 9.0 (or above) is installed on their computer. Version 9.0 (or above) is necessary to ensure that the forms open and function optimally. Any Adobe software (Reader, Standard, or Professional) may be utilized as long as it is version 9.0 or above.

## **Other Federal Agencies Involved in Providing Export Certificates for Animal Products**

### **Dairy Products**

The USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are the agencies primarily responsible for the certification of dairy products exported for human consumption. (APHIS, VS may provide certification in certain circumstances.) AMS can be contacted at:

Dairy Standardization  
Agricultural Marketing Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
P.O. Box 96456  
Washington, DC 20009  
Phone: 202-720-3171  
Fax: 202-720-2643  
[DairyExportsQuestions@usda.gov](mailto:DairyExportsQuestions@usda.gov)

### **Meat and meat products; processed egg products bearing the FSIS mark of inspection**

The USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is responsible for export certification of meat and some meat products, as well as many processed egg products (such as pasteurized eggs), for human consumption.

Office of Policy and Program Development (OPPD)  
FSIS, USDA  
Phone: 202-720-0082  
[importexport@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:importexport@fsis.usda.gov)

## **Aquaculture and fish products**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Department of Commerce, certifies fishmeal, fish oil, and certain other seafood products intended for human consumption. Contact information for NOAA is below. Exporters should send general questions not addressed on the following websites to:

[nmfs.seafood.services@noaa.gov](mailto:nmfs.seafood.services@noaa.gov)

NOAA Seafood Certification Program  
U.S. Department of Commerce/NOAA Fisheries  
1315 East West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
Phone 301-427-8300 or Toll Free 800-422-2750  
[NOAA Seafood Commerce and Trade](#)  
[NOAA Inspection Offices](#)  
NOAA Fish Meal Program  
Fish Meal Program Manager  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
P.O. Drawer 1207  
Pascagoaula, MS 39567  
Phone: 228-762-7402 ext. 312  
Fax: 228-762-9200

## **Table eggs and other egg products not bearing the FSIS mark of inspection**

The USDA, AMS is the Agency that endorses export certificates for table eggs and certain other egg products (for human consumption).

USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service  
Poultry Division-Grading Branch  
P.O. Box 96456

South Agricultural Building  
Washington, DC 20090-6456  
Phone: 202-720-4411  
Fax: 202-690-3165

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/imports-exports/eggs-egg-products>

## **Honey and other Products of Apiculture for Human Consumption**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) are responsible for the certification of honey and other products of apiculture for human consumption. For more information, please contact:

Charlotte Liang, Ph.D.  
Office of Food Safety  
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition  
U. S. Food and Drug Administration  
Phone: 240-402-2785  
[charlotte.liang@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:charlotte.liang@fda.hhs.gov)  
Specialty Crops Program  
Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)  
Marketing and Regulatory Programs  
United States Department of Agriculture  
[SCInspectionoperations@usda.gov](mailto:SCInspectionoperations@usda.gov)

## **Plant and Plant Products**

The APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) is the Agency responsible for certification of certain plant products. For more information, please visit the [Plant and Plant Product Exports](#) section of the website.

[Locate your local PPQ Plant Export Specialist](#)

## **CITES Documentation**

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is the Agency responsible for providing CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) [certification](#) (1.41 MB). If CITES documentation is required, exporters should contact the [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#).

## **Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for bulk gelatin and collagen shipments**

In many cases, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is the appropriate authority for the certification of shipments of gelatin and collagen. The pertinent FDA office for certification of gelatin and collagen intended for human consumption may be reached at: [BulkCGExport-LM-OFS@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:BulkCGExport-LM-OFS@fda.hhs.gov)

## **Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for other commodities**

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) also provides certification of certain other products not listed above.

Questions regarding certification by the FDA of commodities (intended for **human consumption**) not listed above may be directed to:

[CFSANExportCertification@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:CFSANExportCertification@fda.hhs.gov)

Questions for FDA regarding the export of “veterinary products” (as defined by FDA-not including veterinary biological products licensed by the APHIS Center for Veterinary Biologics) may be directed to: [CVMExportCertification@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:CVMExportCertification@fda.hhs.gov)

Questions for FDA regarding commodities (intended for **animal consumption** and not listed above) may be directed to: [AskCVM@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:AskCVM@fda.hhs.gov)

Additional information regarding FDA programs associated with the export of commodities intended for animal consumption may be available at: <https://www.fda.gov/animal-veterinary/products/import-exports>

## **Veterinary Biologicals**

The APHIS Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) is the agency responsible for export certification for **veterinary biological products**. For more information, see [Exports: Veterinary Biologics Products](#). CVB may also be contacted regarding these exports via:

Email: [cvb@usda.gov](mailto:cvb@usda.gov)

Phone: (515) 337-6100

# IRegs for Animal Product Exports

For countries not listed, the requirements are not known. However, exporters wanting to ship animal products should have the interested party (importer/buyer) in the destination country contact the appropriate ministry for the specific requirements.

Animal Product Export Requirements   [Go](#)

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