

# APHIS Import Requirements: A Quick Guide for Commercial Importers of Plant and Animal Products

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is responsible for establishing regulations for the importation of animal and plant products and by-products. This factsheet is a quick reference guide to assist importers and brokers in determining which APHIS entry requirements apply to imports of fruits and vegetables, meat, plants and seeds, live animals, hides, trophies, or other agricultural products.

Plants and plant products include:

- Bulbs
- Cuttings
- Live plants
- Root crowns
- Seeds
- Cut flowers and greenery
- Fruits and vegetables
- Miscellaneous products (such as dried floral arrangements, craft items, or soil)

In short, if it is a plant, was a plant, or could become a plant, we regulate it!

Importers can use the APHIS Fruit and Vegetable Import Requirements (FAVIR) database to check the admissibility of fruits and vegetables. The FAVIR database is available at [www.aphis.usda.gov/favir/](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/favir/). The APHIS manuals guiding the importation of plants and plant products are available electronically at [www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/plants/manuals/online\\_manuals.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/online_manuals.shtml).

The importation of plants regulated by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires special documentation. For more information about permits for items regulated by CITES and ESA, contact the APHIS Permit Unit or visit [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org).

The importation of Federal Noxious Weeds is prohibited, except under special circumstances, to prevent the introduction of nonindigenous invasive plants into the United States. For more information, visit [www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/weeds](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/weeds).

For more information about permit requirements for importing plants and plant products, contact the APHIS Permit Unit:

4700 River Road, Unit 133

Riverdale, MD 20737

Telephone: (301) 734-0841 or

(877) 770-5990 (toll-free)

Fax: (301) 734-5786

[permits@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:permits@aphis.usda.gov)

[www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/plants/plant\\_imports/](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/plant_imports/)

APHIS regulates animal products and by-products to prevent the entry and spread of foreign animal diseases such as bovine spongiform encephalopathy, foot-and-mouth disease, and highly pathogenic avian influenza (H5N1). Prior to purchasing or importing animal products, animal by-products, or products containing animal materials, you should ensure that they comply with APHIS regulations.

Animal products and animal by-products include:

- Animal waste and related by-products
- Blood and related by-products
- Bones and related by-products
- Casings
- Eggs and egg products from poultry, game birds, or other birds
- Hides and related by-products
- Live animals and related materials
- Milk and milk products
- Organs
- Meat and meat products
  - Equine (horses, etc.)
  - Poultry (chickens, etc.)
  - Ruminants (cattle, sheep, goats, etc.)
  - Swine (pigs, etc.)
- Miscellaneous products, including pharmaceuticals and dietary supplements
- Trophies
- Pet food and livestock, poultry, and aquaculture feed

Importers can refer to the APHIS Animal Product Manual for more information on specific regulations guiding the importation of animal products and by-products. The manual is available at [www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/plants/manuals/ports/downloads/apm.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/ports/downloads/apm.pdf).

For more information about importing animal products and by-products, contact APHIS National Center for Import and Export (NCIE):

4700 River Road, Unit 39

Riverdale, MD 20737

Telephone: (301) 734-3277/8364

Fax: (301) 734-4704/8226

[AskNCIE.Products@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:AskNCIE.Products@aphis.usda.gov)

[www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/animals/](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/)

[animal\\_import/animal\\_imports.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/animal_import/animal_imports.shtml)

For questions about operations at U.S. ports of entry, contact APHIS Veterinary Regulatory Support:

4700 River Road, Unit 129

Riverdale, MD 20737

Telephone: (301) 734-7633

Fax: (301) 734-8538

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