



Voluntary Relinquishment of a Regulated Garbage Compliance Agreement

Any establishment may voluntarily relinquish their Regulated Garbage Compliance Agreement(s) (RG CA(s)) for any reason. If an establishment wishes to cease regulated garbage handling activities and relinquish their RG CA(s), the establishment must advise the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS). An authorized representative of the establishment must write a letter to the APHIS Administrator indicating that the establishment is voluntarily relinquishing their RG CA(s).

The establishment must also contact the local USDA-APHIS-PPQ or CBP personnel responsible for maintaining and monitoring the current RG CA(s), and notify them of the establishment's intent to relinquish their RG CA(s). PPQ and CBP should notify all impacted agency locations.

In addition, the establishment must notify all of their customers affected by the voluntary relinquishment of the RG CA(s) of the establishment's change in status.

The establishment should email the relinquishment letter and any attachments to ppq.ops.regulated.garbage@aphis.usda.gov. Include "Relinquishment of Compliance agreement" in the subject line of the email.

Alternatively, the establishment can send the relinquishment letter and any attachments by mail to:

Administrator
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
c/o AQI VMO Director
USDA-APHIS-PPQ Field Operations
2150 Centre Ave Bldg B
Fort Collins, CO 80526

The following information should be included in the letter:

1. Establishment name.
2. Establishment address and phone number.
3. RG CA number, if applicable.
4. Date on the most recent RG CA being relinquished.
5. Name and title of signatory (this person **must** be an authorized representative for the establishment wishing to relinquish the RG CA, and

be vested with the authority to make decisions on behalf of the establishment).

6. A statement indicating that the signatory is an authorized representative of the establishment, and is vested with the authority to make decisions on behalf of the establishment, and that the establishment wishes to relinquish their RG CA. The statement should also indicate that the signatory understands that upon relinquishment of the RG CA, the establishment is no longer authorized to handle regulated garbage, to include collecting, transporting, or processing regulated garbage, as defined in Title 7 Code of Federal Regulations 330.400 - 330.403 and Title 9 Code of Federal Regulations 94.5.

The statement should indicate that the signatory understands that the Plant Protection Act and the Animal Health Protection Act provides authority to USDA to assess penalties for violations of regulations (7 USC § 7734 and 7 USC § 8313). Any person who knowingly violates the Plant Protection Act (PPA) (7 USC § 7701 et seq) and/or Animal Health Protection Act (AHPA) (7 USC § 8301 et seq), may be criminally prosecuted and found guilty of a misdemeanor which can result in penalties, or a one-year prison term, or both. Additionally, any person violating the PPA and/or the AHPA may be assessed civil penalties of up to \$594,129 per violation or twice the gross loss or gain, resulting from the violation, whichever is greater.

The statement **must** indicate that the signatory understands that in the future, if the establishment is interested in handling regulated garbage, the establishment **must** re-apply for USDA-APHIS approval to handle regulated garbage and complete USDA APHIS's 3-Step Approval Process.

7. Authorized Representative's signature.
8. Date of signature.

A copy of the most recent RG CA **must** be attached to the relinquishment letter.

If the establishment is sending the relinquishment letter electronically to the Administrator, the original signed letter **must** be provided to the local PPQ or CBP office responsible for maintaining and monitoring the RG CA for their files.