



Before an Outbreak: Let's Get Prepared

Quarantine and Movement Control Introduction

Movement control is a *critical activity* to prevent transmission of foreign animal diseases, such as HPAI, from Infected Premises to non-infected premises. Movement control is accomplished through permitting.

Why care about permits?

The direct costs of the 2014–2015 HPAI outbreak in the United States exceeded \$800 million. Permitting allows producers to keep things moving, without creating an unacceptable risk of disease spread. In the 2014–2015 outbreak, there were approximately 7,500 permits issued and 20,000 movements associated with these permits. If these permits and movements had not been allowed to occur, it is likely USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) would have been responsible for indemnifying the destruction of all or some of these products and animals that were allowed to move.

Why does EMRS2 track permits and movements?

EMRS2 is the USDA APHIS official *system of record* for all animal health incidents in the United States. EMRS2 tracks and documents permits, permitted movements, and conveyances during a disease outbreak if they involve the regulatory Control Area (into, within, or out of the Control Area).

What's a permit?

A *permit* is used to approve and document movements into, within, and out of a regulatory Control Area.

What's a permitted movement?

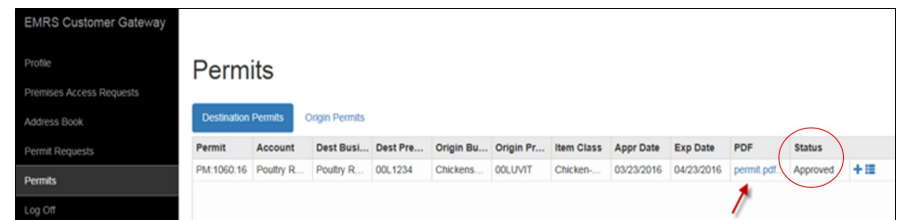
A *permitted movement* must be associated with an approved permit (hence the term). One or more permitted movements can be associated with a single permit, but each permitted movement is recorded separately.

Do all movements require a permit?

No. *Tracked conveyances* are movements that are tracked in EMRS2 but do not require a permit (e.g., Food Safety and Inspection Service-inspected pasteurized liquid egg). In addition, *routine movements* do not require a permit; however, they may require the producer to keep enhanced records—these are not tracked in EMRS2 (e.g., service crews or equipment pick-ups). *Routine movements* are for items/movements that the unified Incident Command and State(s) deem acceptable to move without a permit during an outbreak.

What's the Gateway?

The EMRS2 Customer Permit Gateway is a newly designed secure web application which facilitates and streamlines permit requests for producers. It looks like a webpage (see below); registered producers can login to request permits and check on the status of any existing request. The producer can also use the Gateway to enter permitted movement(s) associated with each permit.



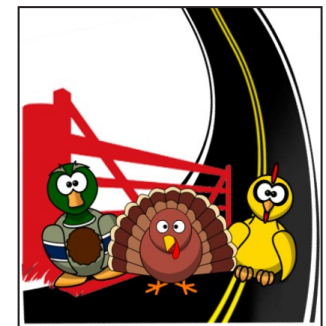
Permit	Account	Dest Busi...	Dest Pre...	Origin Bu...	Origin Pr...	Item Class	Appr Date	Exp Date	PDF	Status
PM-1050-16	Poultry R...	Poultry R...	00L1234	Chickens...	00LUVIT	Chicken...	03/23/2016	04/23/2016	permit.pdf	Approved

Are all permits for continuity of business?

No. In the event of an HPAI outbreak, *specific permits* are also issued for movements that are needed to control and contain the disease outbreak (e.g., response activities or movements for animal welfare). However, *specific permits* are not entered through the Gateway as they are requested by the unified Incident Command and/or State; *Continuity of Business (aka COB) permits* are entered through the Gateway. There are two types of COB permits—operational permits and Secure Food Supply permits. For more information on the distinction, please review *Permitted Movement (FAD PReP Manual 6-0)*.

Is there guidance on how producers can make a permitted movement?

Yes. For Secure Food Supply permits, guidance is offered in the *Secure Food Supply Plans*. Additional permitting general guidance is provided in the *HPAI Response Plan: The Red Book*. The unified Incident Command and State Animal Health Officials have discretion over all types of COB permitted movements and associated requirements in an outbreak.



During an Outbreak: Let's Get Stuff Moving (Whenever Possible!)

Sorry about that bird flu...but at least you got to practice permitting.

Can destination States say no?

Before a permit request is even sent to the destination State for review, it must be approved by the origin State and an EMRS2 Specialist or designee. At this point, the destination State receives the reviewed permit to approve or deny. The destination State also has the ability to revoke an approved permit at any time—this may happen in certain situations, such as where the epidemiological situation is changing rapidly.

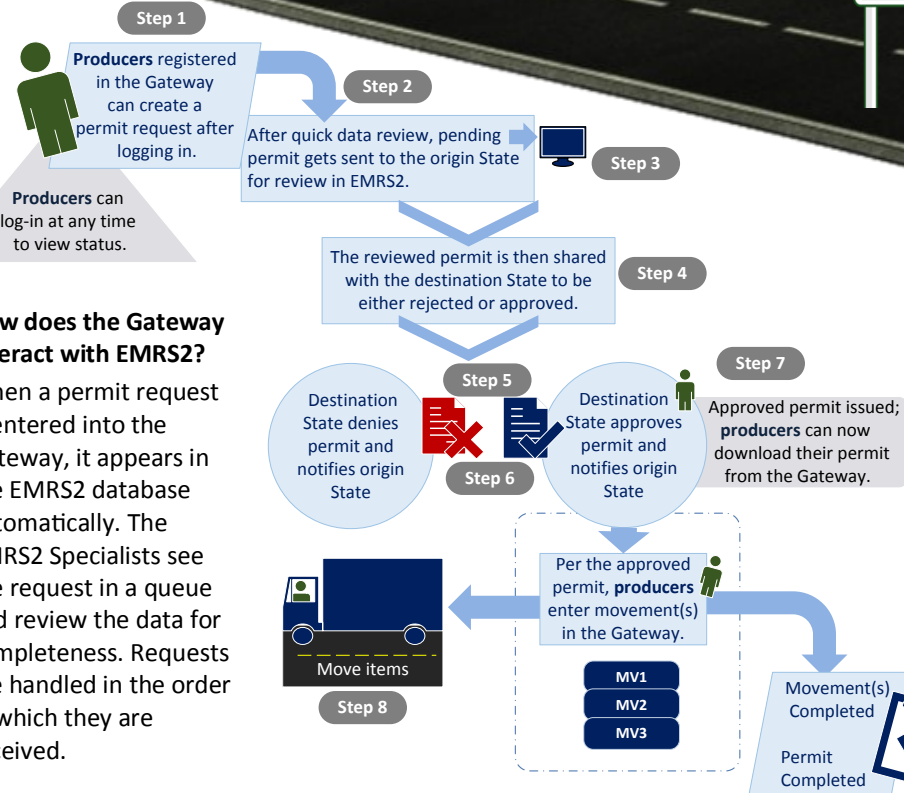
What goes into a permit?

To be issued a permit, the following key pieces of information must be recorded in EMRS2.

- *Permit class*—where you are moving with relation to the Control Area (e.g., out of a Control Area).
- *Permit reason*—why are you moving (e.g., direct to slaughter).
- *Origin Premises*—premises must be entered into EMRS2.
- *Destination Premises*—premises must be entered into EMRS2.
- *Item*—the permitted item allowed to move (e.g, groups of animals).
- *Item Class*—further description of what you are moving (e.g., chickens).
- *Duration/span of permit*—how long the movements are expected.

Control Area is established (Infected Zone + Buffer Zone).

Movements into, within, and out of a Control Area are permitted.



Have you heard? The producer can download their permit as a PDF directly from the Gateway, once the permit has been accepted, reviewed, and approved.

How does the Gateway interact with EMRS2?

When a permit request is entered into the Gateway, it appears in the EMRS2 database automatically. The EMRS2 Specialists see the request in a queue and review the data for completeness. Requests are handled in the order in which they are received.

What does the producer see?

Once registered in the Gateway, the producer can see all of their premises—whether this is a single farm or multiple premises. After entering a request for a permit, the producer can see the status of their permit as it works its way through the process. No changes to the permit are allowed after it is accepted into the EMRS2 database. After the permit is approved by the destination State, the producer can enter their permitted movements directly in the Gateway until the permit expires or they no longer meet the terms of the approved permit.

Control Area released—APHIS no longer requires permitting, but States may require permits.



Moving Forward: Lessons Learned



What are the benefits of the Gateway?

The Gateway makes it easy for producers to request a permit, without phone calls, papers, or e-mails. It also helps the EMRS2 Specialists or a National Permitting Unit manage producer permit requests, as all go into a queue in the order received. The Gateway is particularly efficient when handling large volumes of permitted movements, significantly reducing the data entry requirements and enabling producers to see their requests in real time.

What are the next steps for the Gateway?

The Gateway is ready for the next HPAI outbreak. The EMRS2 National Coordinator and Specialists continue to check for glitches and usability, even after pilot testing, to ensure it meets the needs of APHIS and the customer. Additionally, the EMRS2 team continues discussions on building further capabilities into the Gateway, to facilitate easier communications and processes between all stakeholders in any animal health incident that requires permitting. In the future, the Gateway will be able to be used for more than just HPAI.

Is there more information on permitting, EMRS2, and the Gateway?

Yes. There are two FAD Ready Reference Guides: *Permitting Process* and *Defining Permitted Movement* in addition to the Foreign Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Plan (*FAD PReP Manual 6-0 Permitted Movement*), providing a comprehensive overview of the permitting process. Please take time to review these documents; stakeholder understanding is crucial to successful permitting!

Where can I stay up to date?

As always, www.aphis.usda.gov/fadprep! Information on the FAD PReP and HPAI response materials, including policy guidance, is available. Policy documents or guidance related to the HPAI outbreaks from 2014–2015 and 2016 can be found by clicking on the red text. For further information, keep scrolling down the web page. Any comments or questions can be e-mailed to FAD.PReP.Comments@aphis.usda.gov.



Don't be a turkey—accurate and timely data entry is critical. Just like someone keeps track of my Thanksgiving diet and weight, the unified Incident Command, supporting units, and producers need to keep the data flowing so that continuity of business can succeed during an FAD outbreak.

Permitting report from HPAI 2014–2015

The figure below is a snapshot from one page of the Permitting and Movement report prepared during the HPAI outbreak in 2014–2015. In the event of another HPAI outbreak, similar reports will be distributed on a daily and weekly basis and as requested.



HPAI Outbreak 2014-2015
Permitting & Movement Information
September 8, 2015

This will be the last *Permitting & Movement Information Report*, as all Control Areas have been released from the outbreak beginning December 2014. If more cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) are detected in the fall of 2015, a new permitting report will commence and be distributed. Additional updates will not be made to this report.

Information on permitting and movements: During this HPAI outbreak, permits are issued for movement in/out of Control Areas. Any permit may have one or more independent movements of the same item associated with it, depending on the type and scope of the permit issued. Each movement has to meet specific requirements. As such, there will be more "movements" in an outbreak than "permits" issued. Both permits and movements are entered into EMRS. Data entered through September 7, 2015.

Notes to All Permitting Figures

- Includes all permits (in any stage, including approved, movement completed, movement in progress, and reviewed) except those that have been denied, are request pending, or have been revoked. This may account for slight differences between this report and other situation reports.
- Earliest permit approved 2/14/2015. Most recent permit approved for movement on 9/4/2015.
- Each movement is included in only one category. However, categories may not be mutually exclusive. For example, movements "Out of Control Zone" may be a product moving "In Commerce".

