

## **COVID-19 and Guidance for Import of Commodities Containing Animal Derived Material**

The information below is intended for importers and brokers to understand the specific restrictions that may be in place for commodities imported as part of the United States' response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) regulates the import of animals and animal-derived materials to ensure that exotic animal and poultry diseases are not introduced into the United States.

- Certain **isolates** of the novel coronavirus causing COVID may be subject to import permit restrictions. Please visit our Organisms and Vectors permitting website for more information: [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/organisms-vectors/ct\\_organisms\\_and\\_vectors](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/organisms-vectors/ct_organisms_and_vectors)
- There may be import requirements (e.g., APHIS veterinary import permit, foreign government veterinary certificates, and manufacturer statements) for certain commodities that contain animal derived materials.
  - Importers and brokers are reminded that shipments of such commodities containing animal derived material should still be accompanied by all APHIS-required import documents (which may include an APHIS veterinary import permit, foreign government veterinary certificate, manufacturer statement, etc.).
  - If presenting an APHIS veterinary import permit and/or a foreign government veterinary certificate with your shipping documents, **please make sure that the documentation is correct, the permit is valid, and the certificate wording matches the permit.** Failure to do so may result in a delay of your shipment being released/cleared by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) at U.S. Ports of Arrival.
  - Products that often contain regulated animal derived materials, presumably could be related to COVID-19, and may have APHIS import requirements, include:
    - Test kits and their components
    - Research, laboratory product or bulk reagents
    - Nucleic acid/PCR kits and their components
    - Reference standards, controls
    - Plated media, microbiological media, culture media, transport media
    - Cell lines and their products
    - Laboratory research samples (e.g., tissue samples, clinical trial gel caps)
    - Pharmaceutical products or samples
  - Animal derived materials commonly included in such products in include:
    - Fetal bovine serum and other livestock or lab animal serum, plasma
    - Bovine serum albumin
    - Casein, milk, milk derivatives
    - Livestock or laboratory animal derived antibodies, antigens
  - Other government agencies, including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) (see: <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm->

issues/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19), may also have import restrictions on commodities used for the COVID-19 response.

If you have questions or concerns about your veterinary import permit, veterinary certificate, or import requirements for your commodity containing animal derived material, please contact USDA APHIS VS Animal Products Import Export (APIE) at 301-851-3300, option 4 or send an email to [APIE@usda.gov](mailto:APIE@usda.gov).