



Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Veterinary
Services

4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD
20737-1232

Stakeholder Alert: **APHIS VS Non-permitting of Low Risk and Exempted Animal Origin Ingredients and Products**

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Currently, products or single ingredients containing or derived from animal products that have been identified as low risk or exempted can be imported with either foreign government issued health certification, manufacturer's or producer's documentation, commercial labeling, invoices, and/or ingredient lists; however, when one or more ingredients are included in the same commodity, a VS import permit (VS 16-6) is required for entry into the U.S.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) has assessed the risk of these products and has determined that they are not viable vectors for entry into the U.S. for foreign animal diseases. Therefore, commodities that contain the identified low risk and exempted products may enter the United States without USDA, APHIS, VS restrictions and will not require a VS import permit (VS 16-6). The USDA has identified various products and ingredients that contain animal origin ingredients that will no longer require an import permit. Please note: for research purposes, a permit is still an option, but would not be required. This list is not all inclusive and can be viewed at the following link:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/downloads/import/list-of-low-risk-and-exempted-animal-origin-ingredients-and-products.pdf

In order to facilitate correct identification of the shipment and to ensure timely delivery, USDA, APHIS, VS recommends that the following documentation or information accompanies each shipment, and be presented for review by the Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Agriculture Specialists at the U.S. port of arrival. The specific documentation required will be determined by the requirements for each of the ingredients, and can be found on the link above.

- A document on company letterhead prepared by the producer/manufacturer, shipper, or seller identifying animal product(s); OR
- An official government certificate identifying the certified animal product(s); OR
- An ingredient list, invoice, or commercial label identifying the certified animal product(s)

USDA/APHIS import permits issued will be honored until the expiration date is reached. During this time, importers will be allowed to acquire the appropriate documentation for importing these commodities and/or ingredients. Additionally, this change does not eliminate the need for permits from other agencies which may have jurisdiction over the material you wish to import.

If Stakeholders/Importers have questions regarding this Import Alert, they should contact NIES at 301-851-3300, option 1.