



Marketing and
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Stakeholder Import Alert: **Changes to VS Policy for the Importation of Thermally Processed, Shelf-Stable Pet Food/Chews/Treats from Canada**

Effective Date: March 01, 2018

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), National Import Export Services (NIES), is implementing a policy change for importation of thermally processed, shelf-stable pet food/chews/treats from Canada.

APHIS and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) developed a standardized certification and inspection protocol to allow the importation of these commodities from Canada without an import permit issued by APHIS-VS. This change applies to importations of Canadian-manufactured product as well as US-manufactured products that are packaged or stored in Canada.

An APHIS-VS import permit is no longer required for thermally processed, shelf-stable pet food/chews/treats from Canada. CFIA will inspect and approve the production/storage/packaging facilities in Canada. After approval, CFIA will issue a standardized veterinary certificate (HA2828) that is valid for 30 days after endorsement and can be used to import any number of shipments during the validity period.

The first shipment using a specific certificate must be imported using the original certificate, but subsequent shipments during the 30-day validity period may use a copy of the original certificate. Each shipment must also be accompanied by the shipment-specific [Importer's Statement of Compliance](#). Both the CFIA certificate (copy or original) and Statement of Compliance must be presented in paper for each shipment. When using copies of a certificate, you may be required to provide entry information (entry #, port of entry, date of entry, etc.) of the shipment where the original certificate was presented, in case the original certificate is needed for reference.

A similar change will be implemented for the export of this commodities from the United States to Canada. Please refer to the [APHIS website for international regulations \(IREGS\)](#).

U.S. importers will need to work with their Canadian exporters and CFIA to use this new import policy. This policy change **does not apply** to importation of raw products, ingredients for further manufacture, products not manufactured the United States or Canada, or products intended for consumption by livestock, birds, or non-ornamental fish/shellfish. Such animal product commodities may require a VS import permit.

If you have any questions about animal products and their eligibility for importation into the United States or their certification requirements, please contact National Import Export Services (NIES) at (301) 851-3300, option 1 or you can email us at:

AskNIES.Products@aphis.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

USDA APHIS VS
National Import Export Services
Animal Products Import