



## INTRODUCTION TO THE GATEWAY

The Emergency Management Response System 2.0 (EMRS2) Customer Permit Gateway (a.k.a. “the Gateway”) is a new secure web-application which streamlines permitting for registered producers during a highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreak. The Gateway helps to make permitting more efficient for producers, States, and APHIS officials by facilitating the permit request process and reducing data entry requirements. The Gateway also provides producers with a way to see the real-time status of their permit requests. Using the Gateway facilitates timely and accurate data entry into EMRS2, which is the USDA APHIS official system of record in an HPAI outbreak. The use of the Gateway does not change the overall permitted movement process or permitting concepts; see the *Foreign Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Plan (FAD PReP) Permitted Movements (Manual 6-0)* for a comprehensive overview of permitting.

## EMRS2 VS THE EMRS2 CUSTOMER PERMIT GATEWAY

**EMRS2** is a dynamic database, based in Microsoft CRM, which is the official system of record for foreign animal disease (FAD) investigations, animal disease outbreaks, and other national animal health incidents. This includes permitting documentation in an HPAI incident. To access EMRS2, you need to have EAuthentication Level 2 access. Only APHIS employees, APHIS contractors, and State personnel have access to EMRS data; once in the database, the user’s assigned role determines what records can be viewed and/or modified.

The **EMRS2 Customer Permit Gateway** is a separate, secure, web-based portal designed specifically for producers; only EAuthentication Level 1 access is required. In the Gateway, registered users can request a permit for movements into, within, and out of a regulatory Control Area and enter the associated, permitted movements. Permit requests and associated information submitted are automatically and simultaneously reflected in the dynamic EMRS2 database for review by State officials, APHIS officials, and the unified State-Federal Incident Command.

## PERMITTING PROCESS WITH THE EMRS2 CUSTOMER PERMIT GATEWAY

In order for a producer to request a permit through the Gateway, they must be registered; there is no charge for registering or using the Gateway, however EAuthentication Level 1 access is required.

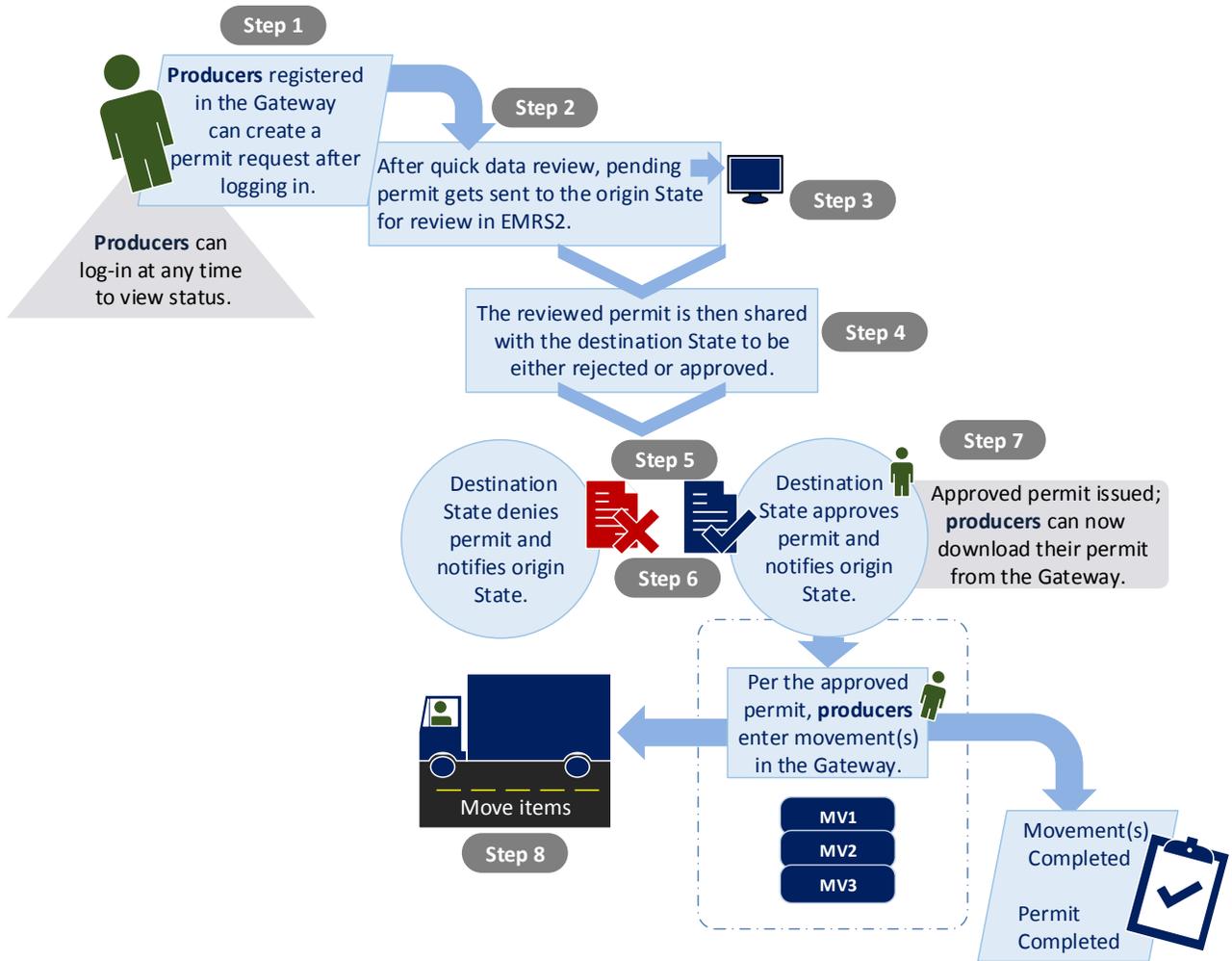
After logging into the Gateway, producers can do 6 things:

1. Request access to see/view known premises or accounts (for premises or accounts they own or manage).
2. Create an address book entry for one or more premises.
3. Initiate a permit request.
4. Check the status of any producer initiated permit request.
5. Download approved permit(s) in a PDF format.
6. Enter movement(s) associated with an approved permit.

Once the producer has submitted a permit request and the entry is accepted into the Gateway, it is locked and cannot be changed. All accepted permit requests automatically appear in EMRS2 so there is no need for additional manual data entry by designated EMRS2 personnel. In the event that changes are needed for an accepted permit request, the EMRS2 staff must be

contacted to make such modifications. Figure 1 illustrates the 8 general steps of permitting when the Gateway is utilized by the producer.

Figure 1. Overview of the Permitting Process Utilizing the EMRS2 Customer Permit Gateway

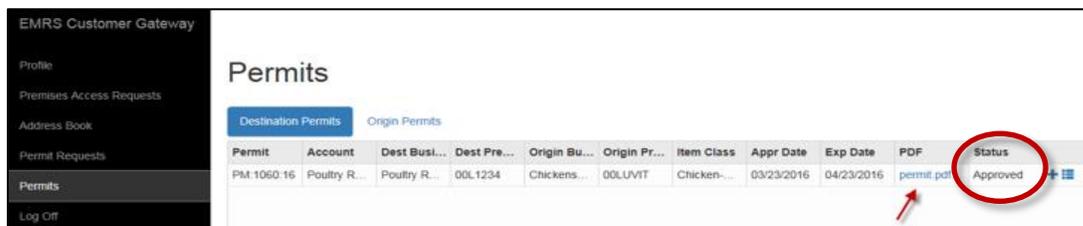


As seen in Figure 1, after the permit request is reviewed to ensure all data is complete, the permit request is accepted and a pending permit is issued and sent to the origin State for review. If the origin State reviews and all is in order, a reviewed permit is then shared with the destination State for denial or approval. The destination State then informs the origin State of their decision to approve or deny the permit. If an approved permit is issued, producers can download that permit in the Gateway. At all times, an origin State or destination State may revoke an already approved permit—this may occur in situations where the epidemiological situation is rapidly changing.

After the permit is approved, a producer can enter all associated movement(s) in the Gateway. It is critical that movements, and any requirements associated with these movements—including diagnostic test result dates—are entered into the Gateway by the producer *prior to* making the permitted movement. These movements automatically and simultaneously appear in EMRS2 for State and Federal officials. At any time, a producer can see the status of their permit: request submitted, accepted permit request, pending permit, reviewed permit, or approved permit as seen

in Figure 2. When all movements are completed for a given permit, the status moves to completed, and the permit will no longer be visible in the Gateway.

Figure 2. Screenshot of a Producer's Permit Screen in the Gateway



## Traditional Permit Requests

Existing methods to make a permit request can still be used by producers that are not registered in the Gateway (e.g., an email to State officials or the unified Incident Command), though USDA APHIS prefers if producers use the Gateway for their requests. Please note that all permit requests—regardless of the request method—end up in the same EMRS2 queue for review by the origin State (and EMRS2 personnel, as needed, to facilitate accurate data entry). While exceptions may be made for unusual circumstances requiring immediate attention, permit requests are usually processed in a timely manner in the order in which they are received.

## THE FUTURE OF THE GATEWAY

The Gateway is ready for the next HPAI outbreak. 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, it may be possible to upload documents—such as those required for the permit request (e.g., a list of biosecurity measures taken or morality reports)—directly into the Gateway. Currently these documents must be uploaded into EMRS2 by State and/or USDA APHIS personnel.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

As always, if you are concerned about making a movement in an outbreak, it is an excellent idea to ensure your premises is registered in EMRS2 with a national premises ID number. This helps to accelerate not only a rapid response in the outbreak, but the permitting process.

For more information on the requirements for permitting for continuity of business, please refer to the *Secure Poultry Supply Plan* for HPAI (eggs, turkeys, and broilers; this plan is currently under development). For more information on other types of critical movements (such as those for feed), please see the *HPAI Response Plan: The Red Book*. In an incident, permitting requirements may come from these sources and/or the unified State-Federal Incident Command, State officials, and the APHIS National Incident Coordination Group.

Additional HPAI-specific guidance on permitting, please see *Overview: HPAI Control Area Permitting Process* and *Testing Requirements for Movement from the Control Area*. There is also a ready reference guide entitled *EMRS2 Customer Permit Gateway*.

For further guidance on general FAD permitting definitions and process, see *FAD PReP Manual 6-0 Permitted Movement*; and the *FAD Response Ready Reference Guides: Defining Permitted Movement and Permitting Process*.

All of these documents are available at [www.aphis.usda.gov/fadprep](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/fadprep).