

United States
Department of
Agriculture



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Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

APHIS Instructions to Facilitate the Importation of Non-Genetically Engineered Petunia Varieties

Biotechnology
Regulatory
Services

The Plant Protection Act gives the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) the authority to regulate genetically engineered (GE) organisms that may present a plant health risk, referred to as “regulated articles.” APHIS’ Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) regulates the introduction—meaning the importation, interstate movement, and environmental release—of GE organisms that may pose a pest risk to plants under APHIS’ biotechnology regulations at 7 CFR part 340.

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BRS is aware that GE petunia have been imported, distributed, and grown in the United States without appropriate authorization. GE petunias are regulated articles.

In order to facilitate entry into the United States of non-GE petunia varieties¹ at ports of entry, one of the following must accompany the shipment and be provided to Plant Protection and Quarantine or Customs and Border Protection officials before/at time of inspection:

1. Letter of Attestation – No GE Varieties: This letter must be provided by the shipper. It must, at a minimum:
 - a. Be on official shipper’s letterhead,
 - b. Provide the address of the shipper,
 - c. Provide a point of contact for the shipper (e-mail and phone number),
 - d. Provide Airway Bill number for the shipment,
 - e. Be dated (shipment date or as close to shipment date as possible)
 - f. Indicate that the varieties of petunia included in the shipment do not include those on the APHIS list of petunia varieties at https://www.aphis.usda.gov/biotechnology/downloads/petunia_varieties.pdf.
 - i. If providing the Web link to the APHIS list of petunias, as opposed to listing out the petunia varieties, include the date the APHIS list was last updated.
 - g. Be signed by the shipper’s responsible party.

¹ Importation of GE petunias requires APHIS Form 2000, which can be applied for online at <https://epermits.aphis.usda.gov/>

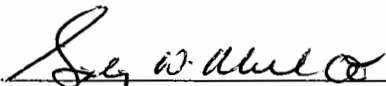


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2. Declare All Petunia Varieties in Shipment:

- a. This information is to be added to the invoice or provided in a separate document.
- b. The invoice or separate document must include:
 - i. In alphabetical order, a list the petunia varieties in the shipment, and
 - ii. The Airway Bill number for the shipment.

For questions, contact BRS at (301) 851-3935 or BRSCompliance@APHIS.USDA.gov



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