USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

APHIS eFile

Guidance for Submitting a VS 17-129 Permit Application
Application for 17-135 permit to import or transit live animals, including germplasm and hatching eggs

December 2024

WELCOME!

USDA APHIS Veterinary Services has an online website to request Live Animal permits,

APHIS eFile. This user guide will take you through the process of creating and

submitting a 17-129 Live Animals permit application in APHIS eFile.

For more APHIS eFile VS 17-129 support materials:

Check out our "How to" playlist on the APHIS YouTube Channel

Review this and other User Guides online on the APHIS eFile Training Page

I want to apply for a Live Animals import/transit permit

Before you apply for your Live Animal permits it is important to note that if your application results in a permit, you will see two different numbers associated with the permit.

Permit Numbers:

1. **Ref # -** System Generated Permit Record Number (P-00001234)

    •   This number is the Record ID number that is autogenerated when a permit has been created. This is not a smart number, and does not represent the year, permit type, or any additional information.

2. **Permit # -** APHIS Permit Number (6##-21-201-00015)

    •   This is the number on your permit and the number that VS will reference.

    •   The format of this number is: Program Prefix-Calendar Year-Ordinal Day-Sequential Number

        •   The Program Prefix indicates the type of permit.

Ref#: P-00139381 | Program: VS | VS

Permit#: 6   -21-84-00422

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Sign in to APHIS eFile

Navigate to https://efile.aphis.usda.gov/s/ in **Google Chrome** (or any other modern browser)

A Log in to eFile using your login credentials.

- If you do not have login credentials, select **Create an Account** and follow the steps. for help, visit this site: https://login.gov/help. **You must have valid login credentials to apply in APHIS eFile**.

- Login Credentials are issued to an **individual** and are **not** to be shared with others.

B Under the Ready to Apply section, choose the **VS 17-129 application** and then select **Get Started.**

- The VS 17-129: Application to import or transit live animals, including germplasm (semen, ova, embryos, cloning tissue) and hatching eggs.

C In the pop-up window, read the Application Process and select **Proceed to VS Permitting Assistant.**
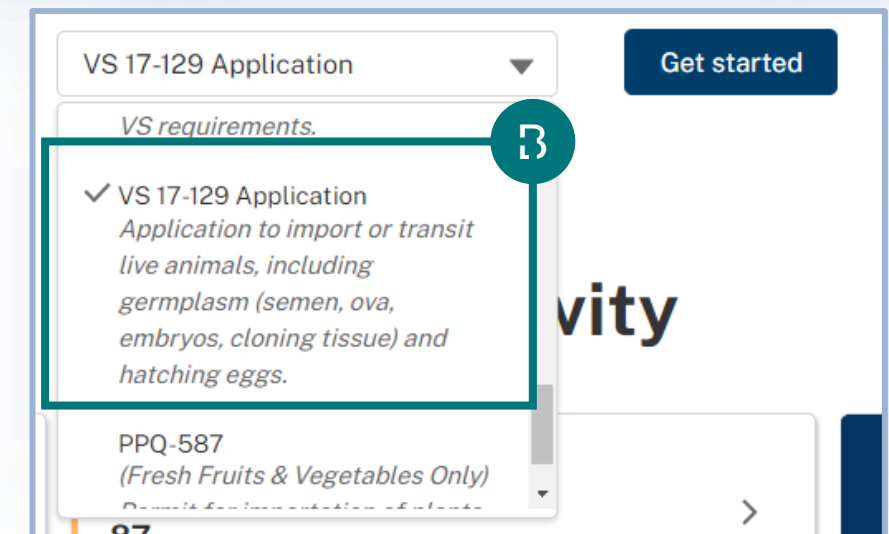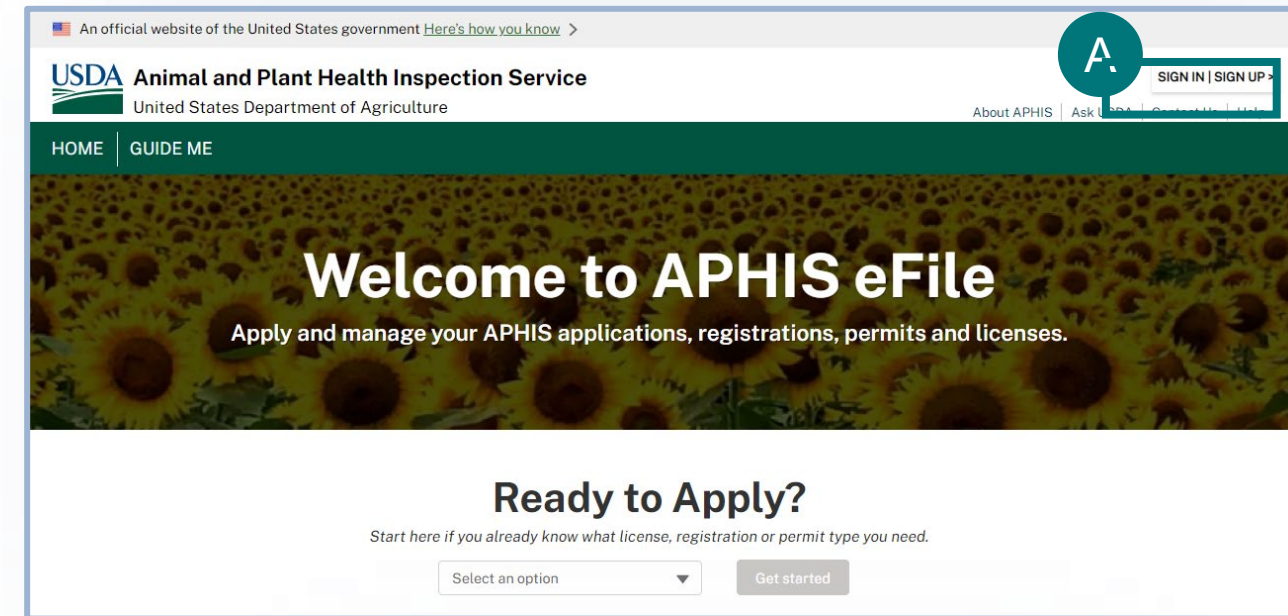
Complete the Permitting Assistant

Complete the Permitting Assistant to begin the application process.

(A) Enter your **commodity's details** into the appropriate search fields.

(B) Select the **Search** button to search for your material.

Note: Repeat steps 1-2-3 on the VSPA for all live animals you wish to import/transit. The VSPA will organize them into the appropriate applications.

Complete the Permitting Assistant

A Select the **Attribute Filters** to refine your material search results.

> **Note:** For best results **complete ALL attribute filters** from top to bottom order until there is **only ONE result**. Some of the filters are selection-order dependent, meaning that your first selection may limit which filters you can select next.

B Once you've completed all the attributes and only one Step 3 card remains, select **Add Commodity**.

Step 2: Select Attributes

1 filters applied   Clear All

✕ Is it captive reared | Yes

A

Is it captive reared ⓘ
☑ Yes (1)
☐ No (0)

> Select the "i" icons to reveal tool tips

Step 3: Select Your Commodity

Showing **1** of **1** Materials   Show [3 ▼] results per page   Sort by: [PR # ▼]

Alpaca (Vicugna pacos)
Cervids and Camelids | PR-044007

Attributes

Is it captive reared
Yes

B
➕ Add Commodity

Please add this commodity to see permit requirements on the summary page. Actual conditions for this commodity are not determined until added to your request.

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To remove a commodity, select the Remove Commodity button.

To add additional commodities, edit any of the search fields and repeat the process.

Note: If you are moving several animals that can be described by the same Step 3 card, you will only add the commodity once in the VSPA and you will be able to provide the individual animal identification information as part of the application.

(A) Once you've added all your commodities, proceed to your Application Summary by selecting the **Shopping Cart icon** or the **View Summary button.**

(A)

Step 3: Select Your Commodity

Showing **1** of **1** Materials

Show **3** results per page   Sort by: **PR #**

Cockatoo
Birds, Ratites, and Poultry | PR-043356

Attributes

Number of Birds
5 or less

× Remove Commodity

Please add this commodity to see permit requirements on the summary page. Actual conditions for this commodity are not determined until added to your request.

(A) View Summary

The materials you have added have been sorted into categories:

Permit Applications – Commodities listed in this section require Permit applications. The materials have been sorted onto the appropriate number of applications.

No Permit Required but Conditions Apply – Commodities listed in this section do not require a permit application but may have additional conditions (i.e., a required certificate).

Inadmissible – Commodities listed in this section are not allowed for import or transit.

Select each tab to view the results in that category.

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Step 2: Complete the Permitting Assistant

A To add more commodities, select **Go Back and Add More Materials.**

B To delete a commodity from your summary request, select the **trashcan icon.**

C When applicable, review required documentation or download all letters by selecting the **View Letter** button associated with each material.

D To **send yourself a copy of this request summary**, enter your **email** into the field and select **Send.** Note: The email is not a permit application

E After reviewing your results, select **Proceed to Applications** to continue to submit your application(s) for items that require a permit. If you are not already logged in, the button will be called Proceed to Log In and you will be prompted to log in.

E

Go Back and Add More Materials

Proceed to Applications

Permit Applications(2)   No Permit Required but Conditions Apply   Inadmissible

1. VS 17-129 Import Permit Application
Subtotals (1 Materials)   Estimated processing fee: $1

Alpaca (Vicugna pacos)
Cervids and Camelids | PR-158628
Import from France for Zoo Purposes

Attributes

Is it captive reared
Yes

✓ Permit Required
This type of import is only permitted on a case by case basis after review by APHIS, please contact APHIS before applying.

✓ Documentation Required ⌄

2. VS 17-129 Import Permit Application
Subtotals (1 Materials)   Estimated processing fee: $

Cockatoo
Birds, Ratites, and Poultry | PR-160029
Import from Peru for Pet Purposes | Exported From: Peru

Attributes

Number of Birds
5 or less

✓ Permit Required
You need a permit for this request.

✓ Documentation Required ⌄

Applications Summary

Subtotal (2 Materials):
2 Permit Applications
0 No Permit Required but Conditions Apply
0 Inadmissible

VS 17-129 Import Permit Application $
• Alpaca (Vicugna pacos)

VS 17-129 Import Permit Application $
• Cockatoo

Estimated Processing Fee $

Disclaimer

This is a non-refundable fee and is subject to change based on further provided information entered in the application form.

Email a Copy of the Overall Summary ⓘ

Enter your email here

Send

D

Step 3: Proceed to Application(s) from VSPA

If your Application Summary resulted in more than one application, you will see the **Split Application Notice** that lists each resulting application and its associated commodities.

A If you are in more than one organization account in APHIS eFile, use the drop-down to select your Sharing Organization. Team Sharing Accounts allow individuals within the same organization to share and collaborate on eFile data such as applications and permits

B Select **I Understand & Continue** to proceed to application.

C You will be sent to the My Activity page. Your most recent application(s) will be at the top of the list. To go to your application select **Go to Draft.**

Important Note Regarding Contacts and Contact Management

- APHIS eFile utilizes an address book to help you manage names/addresses you use in your applications. You add contacts to your address book as you enter applications. This allows you to re-use contacts as appropriate.

- Every time you edit an existing contact via the application, the information is saved and then used in future applications where you also have the same contact listed.

- **A Note about editing existing contacts:**

  - **Rename/edit an existing contact only** if that person/company is changing addresses/emails and this change **will be effective from on the current and future applications.**

  - Create a **NEW** contact if:

    - you need to list a different person contact with the same address or contact information

    OR

    - You need to refer to this same contact with another address

- EXAMPLE: if John Doe, with ACME Corp at 123 street, Riverdale, MD 20737 is the applicant and wants to list themselves as the permittee but with business address John Doe, Coyote Inc, 123 Street New York, NY 10001, the correct way to manage this second address is to **create a NEW contact** since John Doe has not moved but just has two addresses in use at the same time.

Step 4: Identify Responsible Parties

In the Responsible Party section of your application, you will **identify the responsible parties involved in the movement of your material**.

The types of Responsible Parties include:

Importer – An entity to whom a permit to import or transit live animals will be issued.

- For Import applications, the Importer must be a person who resides in the United States; for transit applications, the importer may be a foreign individual. **The importer name and business address will print on the permit.**

Delivery Recipient –The individual to whom the commodity(ies) are being delivered to. A physical address is required. **Accurate information is required as the delivery city and state will be listed in the route of travel.**

Applicant –The individual who has logged into eFile and is **filling out and submitting the application** (such as importers or brokers).

- In a situation where the applicant and importer are different people, the applicant is **the individual authorized by the importer to submit the application on their behalf.**
- **If the applicant is not the importer, the applicant name and business address will not appear on the permit.**

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Step 4: Identify Responsible Parties

Applicant, Importer, Delivery Recipient Details

A **Confirm that your information on the Contact Card is correct.** To have your Company name display on the permit, **edit your contact and add your Company name in the Organization field.**

B **Answer the required questions** to indicate whether you will be the importer and the delivery recipient.

- **If you select no to either section,** you will need to add importer and/or delivery recipient contact information in additional sections of the page.

Emergency Contact Details

C Use the Contact Cards to select your Emergency Contact(s).

- **To find a contact** you have previously used, enter the contact's **name, company, or email** into the search bar or use the page arrows to manually search.

- Emergency contacts are optional for import applications, and required for transit applications.

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Shipper

Shipper Details

(A) Use the Contact Cards to select your Shipper.

- **To find a contact** you have previously used, enter the contact's **name, company, or email** into the search bar or use the page arrows to manually search.

- **To create a new contact**, select the Create New Contact button.

- **Please note that Shipper must have a foreign/non-US address.**

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Step 6: Enter Transportation Information

Travel Plan Details

A **Select your Mode(s) of Transport.**

- Depending on your selections, you may be required to **enter additional Incoming Airline or Vessel information.**

B **Enter your Proposed Dates.**

Method

* Mode(s) of Transport ⓘ

Air ✕   Sea ✕   ▾

Incoming Vessel

Name of Ship/Airline coming into the U.S.

Enter the ship's/airline's name here

Vessel/Flight Number of Ship/Airline coming into the U.S.

Enter the ship's/flight's number here

Proposed Dates

We recommend these dates should not be more than 10 days apart.

* Proposed Shipping Date (MM/DD/YYYY) ⓘ

Enter the proposed shipping date here   📅

* Proposed Arrival Date (MM/DD/YYYY) ⓘ

Enter the proposed arrival date here   📅

Route of Travel Details

C **Use the Route of Travel tables to detail your route of travel.** You must include each stop in order, starting with Origin and ending with Final destination. Be sure to list all stops and countries enroute.

- Use the **Pencil icons to edit the existing stops**.
- Use the **Add Additional buttons** to add new stops.
- Use the **arrows t**o reorder your stops.

If this is a **transit application**, there will be an additional table called **Within the U.S.**

Before U.S. Entry   Add Additional Country

Order		Description	City, Country	
1	☑	* Origin	Dubai, United Arab Emirates	✏
2	☑	* Port of Embarkation	Dubai, United Arab Emirates	▲▾ ✏

Show: 10 ▾   ⏪ ◀ ▶ ⏩   Total Stops: 2

Page 1 of 1

After U.S. Entry   Add Additional Stop

Order		Description	City, State	Port	☑ * Quarantine at Stop
1	☑	* U.S. Port of Entry		Miami, FL	Yes ✏
2	☑	* Final Destination: *Delivery Recipient's physical address*	Riverdale Park, California		Yes ✏

Step 7: Enter Commodity Details

Commodities Details

A **Enter all details about your live animals.**

- Select **Add Another Commodity** to go back and add more live animals to your application.

- **Enter the quantity.**

- **Enter the Individual Animal ID.**

- **Add any supporting documentation.**

- **Add any additional information.**

- **Use the tabs on the left to switch between each of your live animals.** You will need to complete all the above sections for each of your animals.

Select VS Permitting Assistant Selections to view additional information about your commodity

A

```
+ Add Another Commodity

○ Alpaca (Vicugna pacos)        Commodity: Alpaca (Vicugna pacos)

                                  > VS Permitting Assistant Selections

                                  Quantity

                                  * Quantity of Commodity
                                  [ Enter how many of your selected commodity you are moving here ]

                                  * Unit of Measurement
                                  [ Select a unit of measurement for your commodity's quantity        ▾ ]
```

- If you need to go back to the VSPA and add another animal, use the **Add Another Commodity button. This button is not how you would indicate the quantity of an animal.**

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Commodities Details

A Provide ID information for each individual animal. As an **alternative to manually entering individual Animal ID information directly into the table, an Excel template link is provided.**

- **Select "Download Bulk Upload Template"** and follow the instructions within the Excel file to complete it. After completion, **select "Upload Files"** to upload the filled-out template to the Individual Animal ID section.

B The uploaded info will display in the "Individual Animal ID" section. If the information added to the template is **correct**, **a green checkmark** will be displayed next to the individual animal ID info. If the information is **incorrect, a red "X"** will be displayed next to the info. A correction will be necessary before proceeding. Please note that each upload of the excel template will replace the previous file.

Quarantine Facility Details

Note: Based on your selections in the VSPA, the Quarantine section will display when applicable. Proceed to the Documents section if you do not see the Quarantine section.

A **Use the Quarantine Facilities table to detail the facilities you will using to quarantine your commodities.** The facilities must be in the U.S. and have a physical address.

1 Use the **Pencil icon to edit the existing facilities and add details.** The type of pre-populated facility will vary depending on your specific application.

2 **Follow the prompts in the pop-up windows** to enter all the details of your quarantine facility.

Quarantine Facilities

Facility	∨	Type	∨	Name	∨	State Approval #	∨	Address	∨	
○ * Import										✏ **1**
○ * Home										✏

2

Edit Import

Instructions

Fill out the following information regarding your import quarantine facility.

* What kind of import quarantine facility are you using?
- ○ Federal
- ● Private

* Private Import Quarantine Facility Name

Enter the name of your quarantine facility here

* Address Line 1

Enter the street address here

Address Line 2

Enter the number of the apartment, suite, unit, building, floor, etc. here

* City

Cancel   Save

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Step 9: Upload Documents

Supporting Documentation

(A) **Select Add New File** to upload any supporting documentation you believe would be beneficial for your application.

- If you have no files to upload, **select the "I don't have any files to upload" checkbox.**

☐ I don't have any files to upload.			

Files   **Add New File**

File Name ⌄	File Type ⌄	Description ⌄	Created Date ↓ ⌄
Certification.docx	docx	Health Certificate	06/02/2021, 11:26 AM ✎ 🗑

Additional Information

(B) **Enter any additional information** you believe would be helpful in the review of your application in the Additional Information field.

Additional Information

> Enter any additional information you have here.

Step 10: Review, Certify, and Proceed to Payment

Review and Submit

Review Application Sections

A **Review your data** in each of the sections.

- To edit your data, select the Edit button associated with that section. You will be taken back to that page of the application.

Confirm Information & Submit

B Once you are ready to submit your application, **read the statements and select the corresponding checkbox to acknowledge your understanding and to certify accuracy of information.**

B

Confirm Information & Submit

Amendment and/or Changes:

I acknowledge that,

☐ I cannot make changes to this permit application in eFile once submitted. Changes must be emailed to laipermits@usda.gov and VS will update. This may delay processing of the application.

☐ If I need to make a change after the permit is issued (i.e., amend the permit), I must submit the amendment request in eFile at least 5 business days before the permit expires.

Check the box below to confirm that you agree that the information you have entered is accurate. Then proceed to the next step of submitting your application.

☐ I CERTIFY, AS AUTHORIZED BY THE COMPANY/INSTITUTION THAT I REPRESENT, THAT THIS COMMODITY WILL BE USED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ALL RESTRICTIONS AND PRECAUTIONS AS MAY BE SPECIFIED IN THE PERMIT
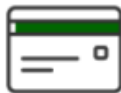
Payment

A **Select your payment method and pay the application processing fee.**

- You will receive a receipt of payment once VS initiates the application review process.

Before we begin to process your application, you will need to pay the non-refundable processing fee. Select your payment type below, and proceed to enter payment details so that we can begin reviewing your application.

A

Online via Pay.gov

I will pay online via pay.gov using a credit card, debit card, or bank account (ACH).

Mail-in Payment

I will send in a check or money order for APHIS to process.

APHIS User Fee Account

I will enter my APHIS user fee account number and pay off the balance for my account.

Confirm Payment Type

I want to amend an eFile permit

Navigate to https://efile.aphis.usda.gov/

A **Log in** to eFile using your login credentials.

B Select the **My Activity** tab and update the **Display recent drop-down to View All.**

C Use the **search bar or filters** to find the permit (e.g. 6XX-…) you want to amend.

D Select the **More Actions** drop-down and choose **Amend Permit.**

- Only "issued" status permits are eligible to be amended.

Note: If approved, your amended permit will keep the same APHIS permit number (e.g. 6##-20-205-1234).

I want to amend an eFile permit

A notice is provided to inform you of permit amendment criteria.

Permit Amendment

Amendments:
Permit amendments are an update to an already issued permit. Amendments to permits must be requested and completed before expiration of the permit ("void after" date on permit).

Unless it's to fix typos, you can't amend the following:
- Port of Entry
- Countries on your Route of Travel
- Import Quarantine Facility's Address

*Note: An amendment may be requested if the changes to the countries on the route of travel do not change the disease risk of the animal (i.e., if the countries have the same health status for disease of concern).

Updates to this information require you to fill out and submit a new VS 17-129 application.

Why can't I edit this information? ∨

Contact APHIS VS with any questions.

The non-refundable processing fee for a VS 17-135 Permit Amendment is $
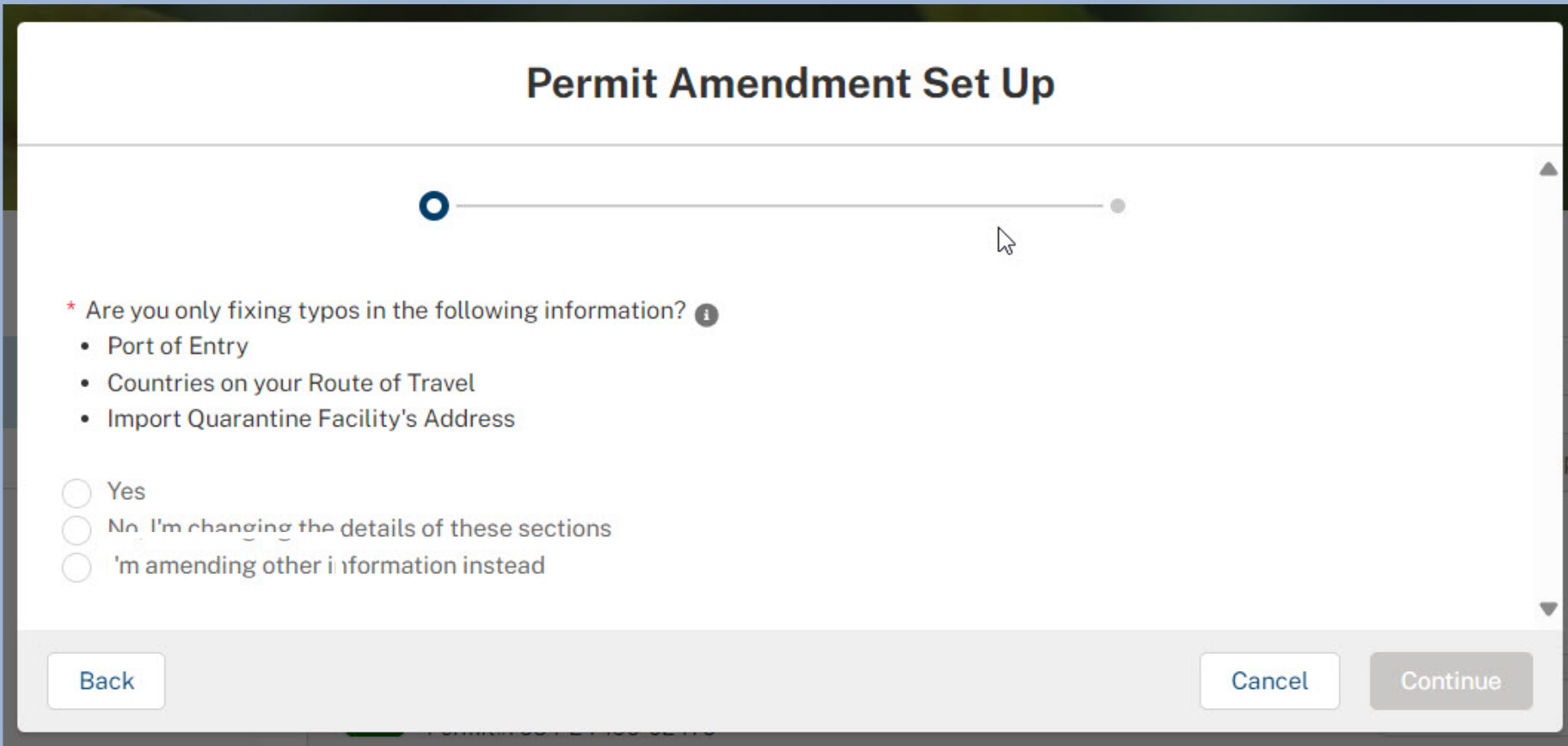It doesn't guarantee permit issuance

Cancel   Proceed to the Permit Amendment Setup

Note: If approved, your amended permit will keep the same APHIS permit number (e.g. 6##-20-205-1234).

I want to amend an eFile permit

Permit amendment questions are presented to determine if planned changes to current permit meet amendment criteria.

Note: If approved, your amended permit will keep the same APHIS permit number (e.g. 6##-20-205-1234).

I want to Withdraw my Application

A. To withdraw an application, navigate to your My Activity page and select the **View Details** associated with the application you would like to withdraw.

B. On the Application Details page, select **Withdraw Application**.

C. In the pop-up window, select the **Reason for Withdrawal drop-down** and **choose your reason for withdrawing**.

D. When you are done, select **Submit**.

Once you submit, your withdrawal will be pending APHIS approval. Once APHIS approves your request, your application will be withdrawn.

A

Ref#: A-00031063 | Program: VS | VS 17-129

View Details

Applicant	Commodity Type	Intended Use	Started	Submitted	Status
USDAeFile Applicant1	Live Animals	Immediate Slaughter	08/12/2021	08/12/2021	Pending Processing Fee

B

Application Number: A-00031063 Pending Processing Fee

Withdraw Application

VS 17-129 | Applicant: USDAeFile Applicant1 | Importer: | Submitted on: 8/12/2021

Details   Transportation   Contacts

Route of Travel

Application Details

Before U.S. Entry

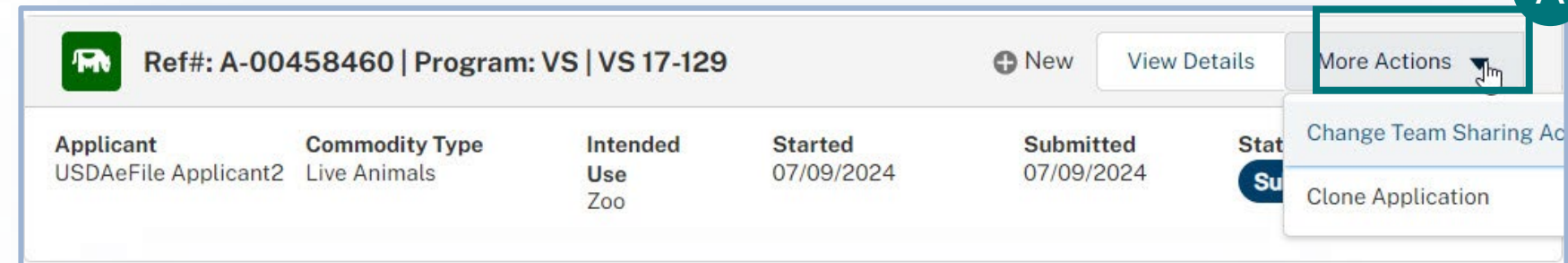### Withdrawal Request

Please indicate the reason for your withdrawal request. *Please note that withdrawal will void the application with no further processing or changes possible. Application processing fees are non-refundable.*

C
* Reason for Withdrawal

Other

D
* Provide Explanation

I no longer need this permit

Cancel   Submit

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I want to Clone an Application

A To clone (copy) an application, navigate to your My Activity page and select the **More Actions** dropdown with the application you would like to clone. Select **Clone Application**.

B A notice outlining details of what will/will not be copied over to the cloned application is presented. Select **I Understand & Continue.**
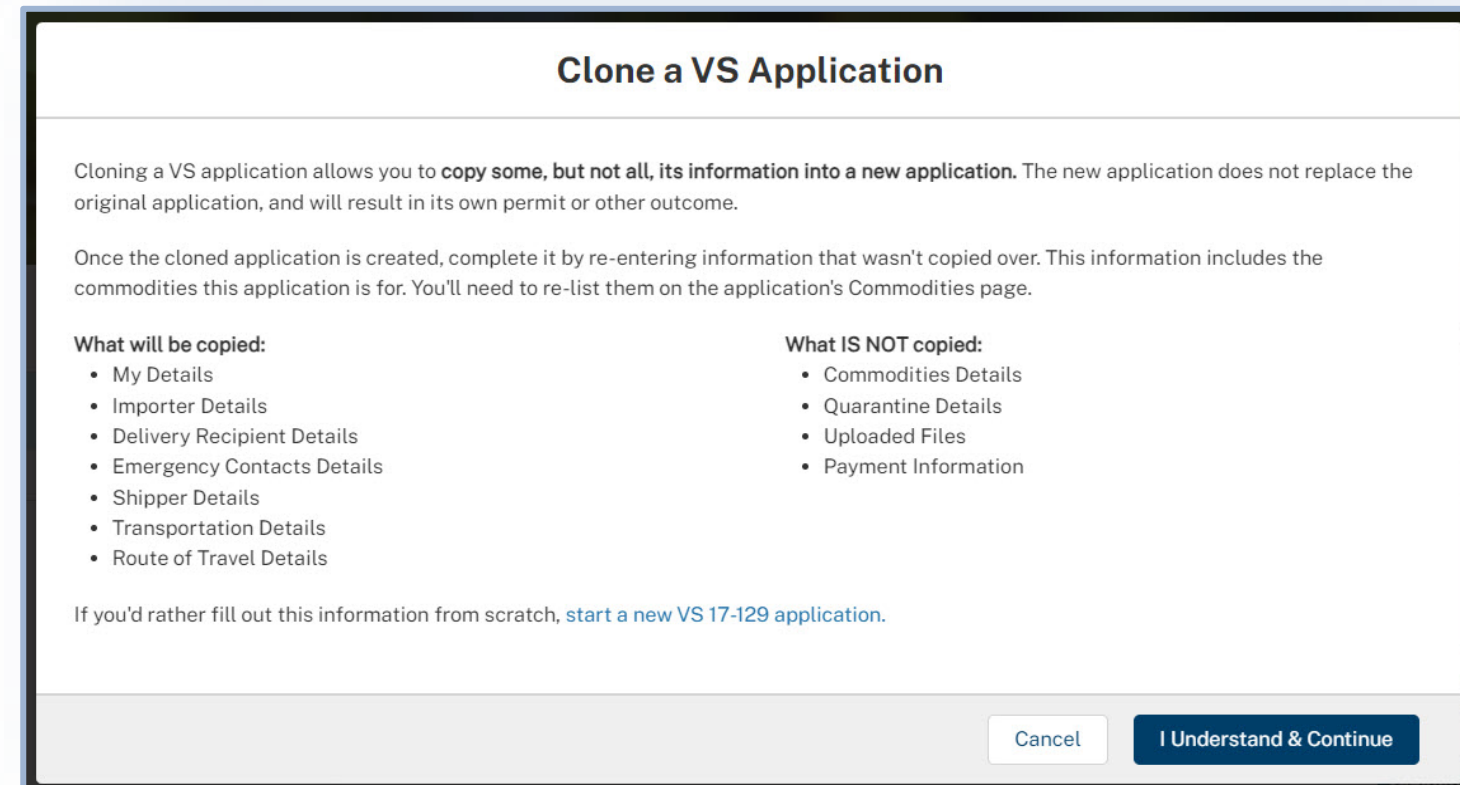
A

Ref#: A-00458460 | Program: VS | VS 17-129
⊕ New   View Details   More Actions ▾

Applicant	Commodity Type	Intended Use	Started	Submitted	Stat
USDAeFile Applicant2	Live Animals	Zoo	07/09/2024	07/09/2024	Su

Change Team Sharing Ac
Clone Application

B

Clone a VS Application

Cloning a VS application allows you to **copy some, but not all, its information into a new application.** The new application does not replace the original application, and will result in its own permit or other outcome.

Once the cloned application is created, complete it by re-entering information that wasn't copied over. This information includes the commodities this application is for. You'll need to re-list them on the application's Commodities page.

What will be copied:
- My Details
- Importer Details
- Delivery Recipient Details
- Emergency Contacts Details
- Shipper Details
- Transportation Details
- Route of Travel Details

What IS NOT copied:
- Commodities Details
- Quarantine Details
- Uploaded Files
- Payment Information

If you'd rather fill out this information from scratch, start a new VS 17-129 application.

Cancel   I Understand & Continue

I want to Clone an Application

C — Previously identified details have been copied over to your application. Select **Add Another Commodity**.

D — Read the VS Permitting Assistant notice and proceed accordingly to add your commodity to a cloned application.

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APPENDIX

System Setup

- **Compatible browser** – For the best user experience, please use **Google Chrome**. Other available browsers include Firefox, Safari, and Edge.

- **Emails** – Add the APHIS eFile email at aphis.efile@usda.gov and support@salesforce.com to your address book so that any automatic emails are not sent to junk

- **Zoom** –100%
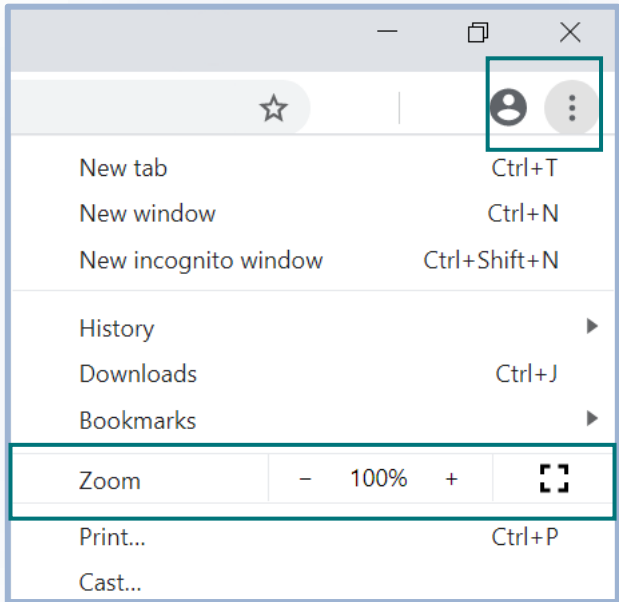
Contact

If you require assistance with your **applications** (including status requests), please contact:

Veterinary Services Live Animal Imports

(301) 851 3300

LAIPermits@usda.gov

If you require **technical assistance**, please contact:

Help Desk

help@usda.gov