



MAR 30 2007

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

TO: Stakeholders

Veterinary Services

SUBJECT: Discontinued use of the Import Authorization System (IAS) to apply for permits issued by the National Center for Import-Export (NCIE)

National Center for
Import-Export

4700 River Road
Unit 40
Riverdale, MD 20737

Effective April 30, 2007, Veterinary Service's (VS) NCIE will discontinue the IAS and encourage customers to become eAuthenticated and use ePermits to apply for and obtain permits for animal products and by-products and organisms and vectors.

Telephone:
(301) 734-3277

Facsimile:
(301) 734-8226

On July 3, 2006, NCIE officially launched the new ePermits system that facilitates permitting requests by providing customers direct access to the ePermits database for application information. The ePermits system is more effective and efficient than the IAS; therefore, NCIE is replacing the IAS with the ePermits system. In addition, the ePermits system enables customers to maintain control over the data entry and payment method of the permit process.

Additionally, NCIE announced on the VS Web site that, as of August 1, 2006, the IAS would be unavailable for permit applications. After that date, customers were instructed to submit requests to NCIE via ePermits, fax, or mail. However, despite the announcement, many customers continue to use the IAS to electronically submit permit applications, permit renewals, and permit amendments.

Accordingly, effective April 30, 2007, NCIE will discontinue the IAS and encourage customers to become eAuthenticated and use ePermits to apply for and obtain permits for animal products and by-products and organisms and vectors.

Applicants, however, will not be able to use ePermits for select agent permits. NCIE is working diligently to accommodate the use of ePermits for select agent permits. In the interim, customers must send their select agent permit requests via either of the following addresses:

- 1) fax: (301) 734-3652; or
- 2) mail: USDA APHIS VS Select Agent Program
4700 River Road, Unit 2, Mailstop 22, Cubicle 1A07
Riverdale, MD 20737



Safeguarding American Agriculture

APHIS is an agency of USDA's Marketing and Regulatory Programs
An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Federal Relay Service
(Voice/TTY/ASCII/Spanish)
1-800-877-8339

Stakeholders

This letter has been posted on the Internet one month before the scheduled implementation to allow stakeholders sufficient time to become e-Authenticated.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.



Karen A. James-Preston, DVM
Director
Veterinary Services
National Center for Import and Export
Technical Trade Service
Animal Products



Lee Ann Thomas, DVM
Director
Veterinary Services
National Center for Import and Export
Technical Trade Service
Animals, Organisms and Vectors and Select Agents