



SEP 18 2007

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Veterinary Services

National Center for
Import/Export

4700 River Road
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TO: Importers, Brokers, and Other Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Online Reservations for Miami's Animal Import Center

We are pleased to announce that on November 19, 2007, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS), National Center for Import and Export (NCIE) will begin using the Veterinary Services Process Streamlining (VSPS) Web-based system to process online reservations for the USDA Animal Import Center in Miami, Florida. All required documentation and procedures for online reservations will remain the same, but you will access the system through VSPS.

Before making a reservation in VSPS, you must first register with USDA's eAuthentication program. (Anyone who wishes to conduct electronic business with any USDA agency must obtain an eAuthentication account.) Instructions for registration are provided on the eAuthentication Web site, www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/. We suggest you register for eAuthentication well before November 19, because the process can take up to two weeks. As part of the registration process, you must request a Level 2 Access Account. Creating a Level 2 account requires a valid e-mail address and establishment of a customer profile, user identification, and password.

Within 7 days after your request, you will be required to respond to a confirmation e-mail. In addition, you must visit the nearest USDA service center, VS Area Office, or VS Animal Import Center in person to verify your identity with a current U.S. State driver's license, U.S. State photo identification, U.S. passport, or U.S. military identification. Locations of the USDA service centers are available on the USDA eAuthentication Web site at <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>.

The VS Information Technology Service Desk is available to assist you with the eAuthentication system by phone at 800-457-3642 or by e-mail at eAuthHelpDesk@usda.gov. VSPS has its own help desk, available 6:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m. EDT at 877-944-8457; select option 3, then option 2. You may also e-mail questions to vsithelp@cofcs18.aphis.usda.gov. Once you have access to VSPS, you will find online resources specifically for importers and brokers.



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Right now this change is for the Miami center only. We estimate that the USDA Animal Import Center in Rock Tavern, New York, will similarly start to use VSPS for online reservations in early 2008, and we will send an update at that time. For individuals who are unable to use an electronic system for making reservations, written requests with payment in full must still be submitted in a timely fashion prior to arrival of the shipment. There is no change to the import permit application process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. David', is positioned above the typed name.

Michael David, M.S., V.M.D. M.P.H.
Acting Director; Animals, Organisms and Vectors, and Select Agents
Technical Trade Services
National Center for Import and Export