

Steps for Importing Commodities for Irradiation Treatment in the United States:

Step 1: Review a Sample Importer Compliance Agreement

The Importer Compliance Agreement outlines the importer's responsibilities and liability related to the importation of untreated articles for irradiation in the United States, including the transit of untreated articles from the port of entry to the certified irradiation facility.

Click on the link to review a [Sample Importer Compliance Agreement](#).

Step 2: Apply for Importer Compliance Agreement

To request an Importer Compliance Agreement, contact:

Roger Holman
National Operations Manager
Telephone: (919) 855-7336
Email: Roger.L.Holman@aphis.usda.gov

The Importer Compliance Agreement may take up to 30 days (after the date of receipt of the initial request) to review and process.

Step 3: Contact an APHIS Certified Irradiation Treatment Facility

Importers must contact the APHIS certified irradiation treatment facility, prior to shipping, to make all necessary arrangements for irradiation treatment services. Click on the following link for the current list of [Certified Irradiation Facilities](#) available throughout the United States.

Step 4: Apply for a APHIS PPQ Import Permit

To obtain a permit, go to [e-Permits](#). Your application must include a copy of the completed signed Importer Compliance Agreement.

APHIS PPQ Import Permits may take up to 30 days, after the date of receipt of the application, to review and process. The Permit and Importer Compliance Agreement are in effect ONLY when used in conjunction with one another.

The permit may include conditions for safeguarding a consignment if required to transit overland from the port of arrival to the APHIS certified irradiation treatment facility. Click on the link to review [Guidelines for Immediate Transportation](#).

The Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection Agency (CBP) will make the final determination on authorizing transit to the APHIS certified treatment irradiation facility.

Step 5: Begin planning logistics for import of consignments

Importers must work with their suppliers in the product's country of origin (exporter's) to ensure that requirements specified in bilaterally signed Operational Work Plan, and commodity specific Addenda, are met prior to importation.

To prevent the escape of pests into the environment, articles intended for irradiation in the United States must arrive in insect-proof packaging. APHIS packaging approval is required in advance of issuance of an import permit. To obtain packaging approval contact:

Dr. Laura Jeffers
Pest Exclusion Specialist
Telephone: (919) 855-7455
Email: Laura.A.Jeffers@aphis.usda.gov

Finally, USDA APHIS recommends that interested importers and brokers contact the intended port of arrival of the shipment to discuss any requirements that the port may have for safeguarding untreated cargo prior to movement to the facility for treatment. Appropriate CBP contacts at the ports can be located by clicking the link to [Customs and Border Protection by Port](#).

Also available from the CBP website are names of Customs Brokers who work at the port. A broker familiar with the local processes for handling and clearing perishable commodities may prove useful.

(Document last updated; January 23, 2015)