

USDA APHIS Recycling Material Exemption

- APHIS regulated garbage is unconsumed fresh fruit, vegetables, and meats, or other plant or animal (including poultry) material, and other refuse of any character whatsoever that has been associated with any such material. The following items, if offloaded from a conveyance as part of its waste stream, may be recycled under conditions as specified below and would not have to be handled as APHIS regulated garbage. Note that **neither** separation **nor** sorting of regulated garbage and recyclable material is allowed **outside** the conveyance. Also cans or containers commingled with or visibly contaminated with APHIS regulated garbage will be handled as regulated garbage.
- Cans, glass, and plastic containers (as long as they **never** held milk or other dairy products), if stored separately from food waste or other APHIS regulated garbage and are **not** required to be incinerated or sterilized.
- Bottles, including bottles with processed fruit or vegetables. Note that bottles containing fresh fruit may not be recycled, except beer and other drink bottles containing small pieces of fruit.
- Baled, clean, cardboard boxes or paper that are **not** contaminated with animal material and that are **not** meat, egg, or poultry containers if stored separately from APHIS regulated garbage. Boxes that are not recycled must be incinerated or sterilized.
- Cardboard boxes that have held fresh fruits or vegetables, which have been stored separately from APHIS regulated garbage. Boxes that are **not** recycled **must** be incinerated or sterilized. Outer boxes, such as those that contained plastic milk jugs, are unrestricted and are **not** required to be incinerated or sterilized.
- Containers stored in the carrier separate from APHIS regulated garbage.
- Broken crockery (dishes and plates) that has been cleaned and rinsed, if stored separately from food waste, which is **not** required to be incinerated or sterilized. Clean broken crockery may be also sent to a landfill.

Regulating Baled Cardboard or Paper for Export

If there is baled cardboard or paper that is ready for export to a foreign country, you may allow removal and storage, but **only** if the port where it was offloaded from the conveyance is also the port from which it will be exported.