Plant Inspection Stations

Last Modified:

Experts at APHIS plant inspection stations make sure imported plants and propagative material are free of USDA-regulated pests and diseases and meet U.S. plant health import standards before the shipment is released to the importer. We also certify the health of plants, seeds, and plant products for export from the United States to another country.

Working With a Plant Inspection Station

When shipments containing live plants or propagative material arrive in the United States, U.S. Customs and Border Protection transfers those shipments to an APHIS plant inspection station. Our experts inspect shipments to confirm they are free of pests and diseases that could harm U.S. agriculture or natural resources. They also review shipment documents to make sure they comply with U.S. import requirements. Once a shipment clears a plant inspection station, it is allowed to enter the United States.

Services

- Physically inspect propagative materials, such as plants, plant cuttings, and seeds
- Identify pests intercepted during agricultural cargo inspections

- Monitor chemical and nonchemical treatments of plant material for pests and disease organisms
- Issue USDA Phytosanitary Certificates for plants, seeds, and plant products for export from the United States to attest they are free of pests and diseases

Inspection Process

Plant inspection station staff use [risk-based sampling](#) methods to focus inspections on higher-risk propagative plant material shipments and facilitate cargo inspection.

Frequently Asked Questions

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How do I know whether a plant is generally admissible?

You can use the [Agriculture Commodity Import Requirements database](#) to learn more about a plant's admissibility. Select the "Plants for Planting and Propagation" tile and use the filters to determine the exact commodity import requirements.

I need help with filing an APHIS Core Message Set in the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE). Where can I find resources to assist me?

The U.S. government uses the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) to process imports and exports. ACE streamlines import and export processes by allowing businesses to submit required data electronically. We have a number of resources to help you get started.

[Learn How To Use ACE](#)

If you need help with filing an APHIS message set, contact the APHIS Core Message Set Help Desk at 1-833-481-2102. Select option 1 for new inquiries or option 2 for

existing inquiries with a reference ticket. You can also submit questions by email to ace.itds@usda.gov.

[View Frequently Asked Questions](#)

How do I notify a plant inspection station of the arrival of a noncommercial plant shipment or package?

For noncommercial shipments (for example, packages with green/yellow labels), notify the plant inspection station listed on the label no later than the time the package makes entry to the United States. The plant inspection station will specify what information they need and advise you about any inspection procedures.

What can I expect when my shipment arrives at a plant inspection station?

TRANSFER

U.S. Customs and Border Protection transfers the shipment from the port of entry to a plant inspection station.

1

INSPECTION

Plant inspection station staff check shipment documents for compliance and visually inspect plant material for pests and diseases.

2

RELEASE

If no pests or diseases are found and documents are compliant, plant inspection staff release the shipment to the importer.

3

When propagative material arrives at a U.S. port of entry, U.S. Customs and Border Protection forwards the shipment to an APHIS plant inspection station. There, an inspector reviews shipment documents (such as permits, phytosanitary certificates, etc.) for compliance with U.S. import requirements and visually inspects the

propagative material for plant pests and diseases. If no pests or diseases are found and the documents are compliant, APHIS will release the shipment to the importer. If the inspector finds any plant pests or diseases, the plant inspection station will contact the importer or broker to review available options.

If you have questions about inspection requirements, contact your local plant inspection station using the dropdown at the bottom of this page.

I have a mail or express carrier package that arrived at a plant inspection station. What now?

When a plant inspection station receives a mail or express carrier package that contains propagative material, an inspector will review any documents (such as permits, phytosanitary certificates, etc.) that accompany the package for compliance and visually inspect the propagative material for plant pests and diseases.

Mail Packages: If no plant pests or diseases are found, the inspector will return the package to the U.S. Postal Service for delivery. If plant pests or diseases are found, the package may be refused entry.

Express Carrier Packages: Contact the express carrier with the tracking number the exporter provided you for an update.

My shipment is on hold at a plant inspection station. What should I do?

Someone from the plant inspection station will contact you or or your broker to review the available options.

Learn More About USDA Holds Due to Potential Plant Pests

What is CITES, and how do I obtain a CITES export certificate?

APHIS is responsible for enforcing regulations for importing and exporting plants regulated by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA). If you are importing, exporting, or re-exporting CITES- or ESA-regulated plants and plant products, you must have a valid USDA Protected Plant Permit.

[Learn More About Importing and Exporting CITES- and ESA-Protected Plants and Plant Products](#)

Contact Us

APHIS operates 16 plant inspection stations. They are located at or near major U.S. ports of entry. Use the dropdown below to locate a plant inspection station by State or [view the map](#).

[Download contacts](#)

Plant Inspection Stations

Most imported plant material intended for propagation must move through an APHIS plant inspection station to complete clearance and processing. Contact your nearest station to check the status of a shipment or notify us of a pending shipment. Our staff can also answer questions about local clearance processes.

- Select a State - ▼

Loading...

[Plant Inspection Stations Contacts](#)

Washington
Seattle

New York
Jamaica

New Jersey
Linden

California
San Francisco

Maryland
Beltsville

California
Los Angeles
located in the
City of El Segundo

California
San Diego

Arizona
Nogales

Georgia
Atlanta

Texas
Houston
located in the
City of Humble

Florida
Orlando

Florida
Miami

Guam
Barrigada

Texas
Los Indios

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