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Non-Compliant Seeds: What You Need To Know

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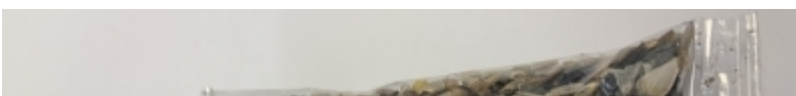
Non-compliant seeds are those imported into the United States that do not meet legal import requirements, whether purchased intentionally or received unsolicited. These seeds can carry harmful pests or diseases that threaten U.S. agriculture and natural resources.

What To Look For

Examples of Non-Compliant Seeds

- Seeds bought online from sellers outside the United States who did not list the country of origin or gave false information
- Unsolicited seeds sent in addition to or in lieu of your original order or with no connection to any purchase

View Examples



From: Sierra Leone

Non-priority Small Packet

In case of non-delivery - treat as abandoned

To: United States

Signature: _____
Date: 2025-04-01 15:15:54

Item-weight description	Weight (kg)	Value (USD)
Buttons	0.005	1.00
Total weight (kg)	0.005	1.00

I the undersigned, whose name and address are given on the item, certify that the particulars given in this declaration are correct and that the item does not contain any dangerous article or articles prohibited by legislation or by postal or customs regulations.

COULNE VYHLÁSENIE
CUSTOMS DECLARATION

Zásilka má byť úradne otvorená
May be opened officially

CN 22

From/Origin: SLOVAKIA

Registered letter

SLOVENSKÁ POŠTA
SLOVAK POST

Základná
Dokumenty
Documents
Prílohy
Attachments

Ošetrovaná tovar
Perfumed goods
Perfumes

Množstvo a podrobný popis obsahu Quantity and detailed description of content	Hmotnosť (kg) Weight	Hodnota (€) Value	Tarifná položka HS tariff number	Krajina pôvodu Country of origin
1 x Miniature Scented Candle	0,050	1,49	3406	SK

Hmotnosť celkom (kg)
Weight total (kg): 0,050

Hodnota celkom
Value total: 1,49 €

To/Address: _____

16.8.2025

Ship To: UNITED STATES

Phone: _____

退件地址: XMDD6R169979

No	Qty	Description of Contents	kg	Val(USD)	Goods Origin
1	1	Paper Greeting Card 纸质贺卡 4805009000 hóng huá30 shuí hóng huá 4805009000	0.01	4.9	CN
1 Total Gross Weight(Kg)			0.010	4.90	

I certify that the particulars given in this declaration are correct and this item does not contain any dangerous articles prohibited by legislation or by postal or customers regulations.





Made In China 7 1/5 166/200
PVC000742_1 倉:9FG16





CUSTOMS DECLARATION
May be opened off

- Gift Sale of goods
 Document Commercial sample
 Return Goods Other

Attachment description	Weight (kg)	Value (USD)
Buttons	0.005	1.00
Total weight (kg)	0.005	1.00

I, the undersigned, whose name and address are given on the item, certify that the particulars given in this declaration are correct and that this item does not contain any dangerous article or articles prohibited by legislation or by postal or customs regulations

Signature:
Date: 2025-04-01 15:15:54



From:

Sierra Leone

Non-priority Small Packet

In case of non-delivery -
treat as abandoned

To:

United States
Tel: +



COLNÉ VYHLÁSENIE
CUSTOMS DECLARATION

Zásielka môže byť
úradne otvorená
May be opened officially

CN 22

From/Odosielateľ:

Slovenská pošta



Online payment

SLOVAKIA

SLOVENSKÁ POŠTA
SLOVAK POST

Registered letter

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Darček Gift	<input type="checkbox"/> Obchodná vzorka Commercial sample
<input type="checkbox"/> Dokumenty Documents	<input type="checkbox"/> Vrátенý tovar Returned goods
<input type="checkbox"/> Predaj tovaru Sale of goods	<input type="checkbox"/> Iné Other

Množstvo a podrobný popis obsahu Quantity and detailed description of content	Hmotnosť Weight (kg)	Hodnota Value (€)	Tarifné číslo HS tariff number	Krajina pôvodu Country of origin
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1 x Miniature Scented Candle	0.050	1.49	3406	SK
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Hmotnosť celkom (kg) Weight total (kg) 0.050	Hodnota celkom Value total 1.49 €
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To/Adresát:

Odosielateľ, ktorého meno a adresa sú uvedené na zásielke, svojim podpisom potvrdzuje, že podrobný opis tovaru, uvedený v tomto vyhlásení, je správny a táto zásielka neobsahuje žiadny nebezpečný tovar, ktorý je zakázaný zákonnými, colnými a poštovými predpismi.

I, the undersigned, whose name and address are given on the item, certify that the particulars given in this declaration are correct and that this item does not contain any dangerous article or articles prohibited by legislation or by postal or customs regulations.

Dátum a podpis odosielateľa
Date and sender's signature 10.6.2025

中国邮政
CHINA POST

IMPORTANT:
The item/parcel may be
opened officially. Please
print in English.

US

5F



FROM:

Ship To:

CHINA
PHONE:

UNITED STATES
Phone:

退件地址:

XMDD6R469979

No	Qty	Description of Contents	Kg.	Val(USD)	Goods Origin
1	1	Paper Greeting Card 纸质贺卡:30 shuǐ hóng huā 30 shuǐ hóng huā 4909009000	0.01	4.9	CN
1 Total Gross Weight(Kg)			0.010	4.90	

I certify that the particulars given in this declaration are correct and this item does not contain any dangerous articles prohibited by legislation or by postal or customers regulations.

Sender's signature & Data Signed:

LFDF-4941-2



Show Info

Examples of non-compliant seed packages

Example of a non-compliant seed package

Close-up of a non-compliant seed package

Example of a misdeclared package containing seeds

Example of a misdeclared package containing seeds

Example of a misdeclared package containing seeds

Non-compliant seeds received with a greeting card





May be opened officially

Gift Sale of goods
 Document Commercial sample
 Return Goods Other

Invoice Description	Weight (kg)	Value (US\$)
Buttons	0.005	1.00

Total weight (kg) 0.005 1.00

I the undersigned, whose name and address are given on the item, certify that the particulars given in this declaration are correct and that this item does not contain any dangerous article or articles prohibited by legislation or by postal or customs regulations

Signature
Date: 2025-04-01 15:15:54

From:
Sierra Leone

Non-priority Small Packet

In case of non-delivery - treat as abandoned

To:
United States

Tel: +1 202 261 4100



If You Received Non-Compliant Seeds

- Do **not** plant the seeds.
- Report them immediately.
- Keep seeds and packaging intact for inspection.

Already planted the non-compliant seeds? Please still report them! Our plant health experts can advise you on next steps based on the type of seed and potential risks.

How To Report

1. Contact your [State Plant Health Director](#) for guidance.
2. Provide as much information as possible:
 - Your name and contact information
 - Date received
 - Carrier (such as USPS or FedEx) and tracking number
 - Whether seeds were ordered (include vendor/website) or unsolicited
 - Photos of seeds, shipping labels, and packaging
 - Invoice
3. Seal seeds in a bag and place them in the freezer until contacted. Keep packaging and documents until someone from your State Plant Health Director's office contacts you.

APHIS and State agriculture officials will examine seeds for harmful weeds, pests, or plant diseases.

Buying Seeds Online Safely

Check U.S. import rules before buying seeds or plants online.

Many seeds and plants need an import permit and a phytosanitary certificate. This certificate attests the seeds are free of pests and diseases. Most imported seeds and plants also need inspection when they arrive in the United States.

Use the resources below to buy seeds online safely and legally.

[How To Buy Plants and Seeds Online](#)

[Verify Requirements in the Agricultural Commodity Import Requirements Database](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

[Expand All](#)

Why is APHIS looking into non-compliant packages of seeds?

Non-compliant seeds have the potential to introduce damaging pests or diseases that could harm U.S. agriculture and natural resources. Thankfully, APHIS is not aware of any incidents of seeds that have resulted in new pests or disease outbreaks.

Why is it important to report non-compliant seed packages?

While seeds may not be harmful to people or pets, they can carry plant diseases that threaten U.S. crops and ecosystems. Some seeds are banned entirely because they can spread harmful weeds or pests.

To find out more about seed import requirements, visit [How To Buy Plants and Seeds Online](#) and use the [Agricultural Commodity Import Requirements \(ACIR\)](#) database to understand the specific regulations for plant products you wish to import.

Are all non-compliant seeds unsolicited?

No. By engaging recipients, we learned a larger portion of the shipments may not be "unsolicited" as initially thought. Instead, we estimate that about one-third of seed shipments were intentionally ordered from websites that appear to be U.S.-based but are actually operated overseas and ship seeds internationally.

To prevent the misleading sales of non-compliant seeds, APHIS has contacted counterparts in foreign countries with information on foreign-managed websites and sent letters directly to websites informing them of non-compliance with regulations and requirements for importing seeds. Some have complied with requests to suspend sales until they can comply.

What is APHIS doing with the seeds that are collected?

APHIS works with State agriculture departments to collect seeds that people report. Experts check the seeds to see if they could harm U.S. plants or the environment. They look for invasive weeds, pests, or plant diseases. No serious threats have been found in the non-compliant seeds APHIS received from the public.

What caused non-compliant seed imports to decrease starting in 2025?

APHIS observed a significant decrease in the number of seed importations since the initial incident in 2020. This decline is due in part to new trade rules that removed

duty-free exemptions for low-value shipments, making it harder for sellers to ship seeds cheaply. Some online sellers have stopped shipping seeds to the United States or removed seeds from their websites entirely after learning they were not compliant with U.S. import rules.

Need help with a different importing issue?

[Visit Our Trade Contacts Directory](#)

[Print](#)