



United States Department of Agriculture

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

ATTENTION SHIPOWNERS: Where's Your Garbage Going?

Has your boat or ship been to a port outside of the continental United States or Canada within the last 2 years? Has it been to a port in Hawaii, Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands in the last year?

If you answered yes to either of these questions, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) would like you to know that the garbage from your boat or ship is regulated and must be disposed of per APHIS regulations, regardless of where your stores were purchased.

What Does This Mean?

If you answered yes to either of these questions, please ensure that all garbage is placed in covered, leak-proof containers within the vessel railings while in U.S. waters. If you plan to off-load your garbage, please contact the APHIS office nearest you to notify us of your intention to off-load garbage.

Regulated garbage cannot be thrown into domestic garbage containers or be taken to the local landfill.

All regulated garbage off-loaded from a vessel in the United States must be placed in a container labeled as "Foreign Garbage," "Regulated Garbage," or "International Garbage."

In order to prevent the introduction and spread of plant pests and animal diseases into the United States, APHIS regulates any garbage that is of plant or animal origin, including food scraps, packaging materials, and any items that have come in contact with these materials. It must be handled by an APHIS-approved facility that is capable of incinerating or sterilizing the garbage. Dumping of regulated garbage into U.S. territorial waters or non-designated garbage receptacles is illegal, and under Federal law, you can be fined or criminally prosecuted for such actions. More information is available on the USDA APHIS Web site at www.aphis.usda.gov. Click on "Plant Health," then "Import into the U.S.," and then "Regulated Garbage."

For More Information

If you have questions about where to dispose of regulated garbage properly or what constitutes regulated garbage, please contact the APHIS office nearest you (www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/sphd), or call the number listed below.

Help protect American agriculture— dispose of your ship's garbage properly!