

Veterinary Sanitary Certificate for Export of Unprocessed (Raw) U.S. Pet Foods from an APHIS-Approved Facility to Canada

This certificate is ONLY to be used for shipments of unprocessed, raw or “biologically appropriate raw food (BARF)” pet foods or diets from facilities that have been inspected and approved by APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) for export to Canada. The certificate is intended to cover all raw or BARF pet foods/ diets exported from APHIS-approved facilities, including shipments that contain no bovine-based pet foods.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency defines BARF diets as “biologically appropriate raw food or bones and raw food diets.” A typical BARF diet is made up of 60-80% raw meaty bones (RMB), that is bones with about 50% meat (e.g., chicken necks, backs, and wings) and 20-40% fruits and vegetables, offal, meat, eggs, or dairy.

CFIA requires all facilities involved in the production of raw, unprocessed (BARF) pet foods or diets to be inspected and approved by APHIS VS prior to issuance of this certificate and export to Canada. For more information on how to obtain facility approval, the interested party should contact their [local VS Service Center](#).

The certificate is posted as a basic two page certificate with an optional (as needed) continuation page. The certificate and continuation page are available as fillable PDF forms which can be completed electronically by the exporter and sent via email to the endorsing VS Service Center. These documents are also posted as non-fillable PDF forms which can be printed and completed and then scanned and emailed or faxed to the endorsing VS Service Center. Exporters should work with their endorsing VS Service Center regarding ways to expedite the return of endorsed certificates.

For the VS Service Center to certify U.S. origin pet foods using the Veterinary Sanitary Certificate for Export of Unprocessed (Raw) Pet Foods from a Bovinae Approved Facility to Canada:

- The exporter must present a valid, current import permit issued by CFIA allowing entry of the products to be exported;
- If the exporter is not the approved manufacturing facility, the exporter must provide documentation to show that the pet foods for export were manufactured in facilities approved by APHIS/VS; and
- The VS Area Office must verify that the manufacturing facility (ies) has/have been approved by VS and are listed in the APHIS internal database as being approved to export the pertinent product to Canada with a last validated inspection date in the previous 365 days.

Instructions for Completion of Health Certificate:

1. If using the fillable PDF forms, navigation through the certificate can be accomplished using the tab key or mouse.
2. Page numbers: these blanks should be completed to reflect the page numbers and the total number of pages in the certificate. For example, if two continuation pages are needed, the pages should be numbered “Page 1 of 4, Page 2 of 4, Page 3 of 4, and Page 4 of 4.”
3. Health Certificate No.: Leave this blank. The HC number is assigned by the VS Service Center.

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4. Name and address of consignor (exporter): Self-explanatory. In the fillable PDF, the first line can be used for the name of the exporter, and the second line can be used for the address.
5. Name and address of consignee (importer): Self-explanatory. In the fillable PDF, the first line can be used for the name of the importer, and the second line can be used for the address.
6. Product description and identification: CFIA requires identification of the animal species of origin of raw materials, plus a brief description of the brand and product names of the pet foods, treats, or chews included in the shipment. Different formulations of a product can be added sequentially. For example, “Supreme Pet Food – lamb & rice: adult, senior; puppy.” If more space is needed, use the continuation page, and note that in this block.
7. Quantity of product: Indicate the total quantity of product shipped (total gross or net weight/total number of package).
8. Port of export: Indicate the port where the product will leave the United States and enter Canada.
9. Veterinary Attestations:
 - All applicable boxes in this section should be checked. In the fillable PDF forms, boxes can be checked by “right clicking” with the mouse, or by hitting the “enter” key or space bar.
 - If all or some of the products contain bovine ingredients (other than exempt items such as milk/dairy, protein free tallow, and rawhide), then the first block should be checked to indicate this.
 - If the box is checked to indicate the shipment includes pet foods, treats, or compound chews with bovine ingredients, at least one of the blocks under this section must be checked to indicate the source of the bovine ingredients. Check one, two, or all three of these boxes, as applicable.
 - If some of the products in the shipment contain NO bovine ingredients (except for exempt ingredients such as milk/dairy, protein free tallow, and rawhide), then the block at the top of the second page should be checked to indicate this.
 - For the NON-bovine pet foods, check the boxes for milk or dairy; protein free tallow; or rawhide, if appropriate. Note that if the block for protein free tallow is checked, the endorsing VS Area Office will ask for lot specific lab results.
 - For the section on the manufacturing facility, one of the two boxes must be checked to indicate that either the bovine-approved facility is dedicated (no specified risk materials or SRMs are on the premises) OR that the pet food for Canada was manufactured on a totally dedicated line from receipt of raw materials through manufacture, packaging and load-out.