Facilities wishing to export rendered poultry and/or feather meals to China must be approved by APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) under the requirements of the non-ruminant fats and feeds protocol (see International Animal Product Regulations (IREG) entry for China entitled “Pet Food, Feed Ingredients, and Animal Fats”). Please contact your local VS Service Center for more information regarding the APHIS inspection and approval process.

Following APHIS approval and issuance of an APHIS reference number, facilities are still ineligible to export these commodities until they have completed facility registration with China General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection, and Quarantine (AQSIQ) and received a Chinese approval number. China has implemented new requirements for facility registration which are complex and cumbersome. Issuance of both an APHIS reference number and Chinese approval number are required before an export health certificate may be endorsed. Facilities are encouraged to work with their Chinese importers to accomplish this registration process.

Although poultry and feather meal facilities are approved under the Non-Ruminant Fats and Feeds Protocol, these commodities may not be exported using the export health certificate associated with that protocol. Poultry and feather meals must now be exported under the guidelines and certification statements as issued below. (NOTE: This new certificate was negotiated to restore trade following the detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza [HPAI] in the United States in December 2014.)

The agreement as detailed below went into effect April 1, 2015. All poultry and feather meals to China must be certified using these certification statements. This certificate can also be located on the main IREG page for China.

**Export Certification Process**

1. Facilities must be approved by both APHIS/VS and China.
2. The product to be exported must be free of ALL ruminant material (including dairy).
3. The product must be tested for the presence of ruminant protein using the PCR test at an approved laboratory. There are three approved laboratories:
   a. Genetic ID NA, Fairfield, IA. Telephone: (641) 472-9979
   b. Eurofins Gene Scan, Inc. Matairie, LA 70001 Telephone: (504) 297-4330
   c. NSF International, Ann Arbor, MI 48105-9723 Telephone: (734) 769-8010 or 1 (800) NSF-MARK

   A copy of the test results must be provided to the endorsing VS Service Center. Although product is tested prior to export, China performs random testing of imported product. If a product tests positive for evidence of ruminant DNA, the facility will not be allowed to continue exporting to China.

4. The product should be exported using the fillable “Export Certificate for Animal Products” VS Form 16-4. This is the only electronically generated VS 16-4 that China will allow. Please see “Export Certification Requirements” on the next page for further instructions.
Export Certification Requirements

Links to the VS Form 16-4, the VS Form 16-4A (continuation page), and the general instructions can be accessed from the home page of the IREGs for Animal Products Exports.

Exporters will need to provide a supporting notarized affidavit from the manufacturer to the endorsing VS Service Center with the required certification statements.

The following certification statements must be included in the “ADDITIONAL DECLARATIONS” section of the VS Form 16-4. These statements should not be modified. Product that does not meet these requirements will not be permitted into China.

This office has on file a notarized affidavit from [manufacturer] verifying the accuracy of the statements below.

1. The certified poultry meals or feather meals were manufactured in a facility approved by APHIS and registered with AQSIQ.
2. The manufacturing facility is located more than 50km from the center of any active HPAI control zone; and no raw materials from an active HPAI control zone were used in the manufacture of the products.
3. The products were manufactured in accordance with U.S. laws and regulations and may be freely sold in the United States for use in animal feed.
4. The products were processed by one of the following ways:
   (    ) At a minimum temperature of 118°C for a minimum of 40 minutes;
   (    ) With a continuous hydrolyzing process under at least 3.79 bars of pressure at a minimum temperature of 122°C for a minimum of 15 minutes;
   (     ) With an alternative rendering process in which the internal temperature throughout the entire product reached at least 74°C.
5. The products are not intended for human consumption.
6. The products were tested in a USDA approved laboratory by PCR test and were shown to be free of ruminant contamination.
7. The products are packed in new and impermeable packaging materials, and were handled in a manner to prevent cross-contamination with other animal products.
8. Effective measures were taken during transportation to avoid cross-contamination with other products.
9. Adequate precautions were taken to avoid contact of the product with any source of avian influenza viruses.

In the “NAME AND ADDRESS OF EXPORTER” section of the VS Form 16-4, the AQSIQ registration number of the manufacturing facility must be included in addition to the name and address of the exporter.

In the “PRODUCT” section of the VS Form 16-4, either “poultry meal” and/or “feather meal” should be identified.

In the “IDENTIFICATION” section of the VS Form 16-4, lot number(s) should be included.