

Pet Food Exports to India

Prior to exporting pet food to India:

- A. **Indian importer must obtain import permit from DADF:** The Indian importer must apply to the Indian Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying, and Fisheries (DADF) for an import permit. In order to do this, the importer will need information on the processing of the product (and other details). If the product is processed at a MINIMUM of 70 C for a MINIMUM of 30 minutes, then this method should be noted; otherwise a delay in approval of the import permit will possibly occur while DADF considers the alternative method for approval. For pet foods produced using methods other than “a MINIMUM of 70 C for a MINIMUM of 30 minutes,” the US exporter will need to submit a copy of the Indian importer’s import permit when they submit their VS Form 16-4 for endorsement.
- B. The pet food production facility must be inspected by Veterinary Services to verify statements 2 and 3 in the “Statements to be in the Additional Declarations of the VS Form 16-4.” The Additional Declaration Area of the VS Form 16-4 should only contain the information in statements 1-3 in the “Statements to be in the Additional Declarations of the VS Form 16-4.” These statements may be found in their entirety at the end of this document. Further information/instructions on them are noted below.

For endorsement of the required VS Form 16-4 (export product health certificate):

- A. Species of origin: The species of origin must be clearly identified in the “PRODUCT” section of the VS Form 16-4 and it must not include items of bovine origin (other than milk-based). VS Inspection must confirm the species of origin of the product.
- B. Statement 1:

“The United States is free of Highly Pathogenic Notifiable Avian Influenza Virus (HPNAI).”

This statement must be included on the certificate. The United States must be free of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPNAI) at the time of export. (As of July 2005 the US is free of HPNAI).

C. Statement 2a:

“No ingredient of ruminant origin has been incorporated into the pet food, except for the following (check any that apply):

Milk or milk-products

Protein-free rendered fat of ovine or caprine origin”

This statement must be included, however if neither of the noted items are included, then neither item needs to be checked.

D. Statement 2b:

“ The following ovine or caprine material(s) imported from countries free of BSE and scrapie: (The following information must be provided for each imported ovine or caprine ingredient.)

Ingredient:

Certificate Number:

Country of Origin:

Animal Health Authority Issuing Certificate for Ingredient:

Date of Certificate Endorsement:.....”

This statement must be included, however if no imported ovine or caprine materials are included, the item does not need to be checked and “none used” can be inserted instead of the list “Ingredient, Certificate Number, etc.” However, if any ovine or caprine origin materials (other than US origin protein-free rendered fat) are utilized, then:

- The five specific items must be included for each imported ingredient (ruminant origin, for each lot of imported material –unless multiple lots were imported on the same certificate). Certificate number refers to the certificate number issued by the government authority of the original country. For instance if pet food is produced using Australian origin lamb meal, this would refer to the Australian government certificate number–the certificate that was issued for the specific lot of lamb meal that is in the specific lot of pet food being exported to India. Country of Origin in this case would be Australia (country of origin for the ingredient). Animal Health Authority refers to the authority issuing the certificate for that ingredient (in this example the Australian Animal Health Authority–AQIS). The date refers to the certificate for the specific lot of ingredient used to produce the specific lot of pet food now being exported.

- A copy of the referenced export certificate must be provided to the endorsing VS Area Office for review, but should not be part of the export certificate. This must be provided for each imported ruminant origin ingredient.
- **The export certificate from the country of origin must state the country of origin of the product, and state that the country of origin is free of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and scrapie. The export certificate must be specific for the lot of the ingredient used in the pet food. If the export certificate does not indicate that the product was shipped directly to the pet food manufacturer, explanation of non-commingling should be provided. Inspection of each facility may be required.**
- Even imported bovine products are not allowed.

E. Statements 3a-b:

“The certified materials (or the animal origin components) have either:

a. ___ been processed at a temperature to attain an internal temperature of not less than 70 degree Centigrade for a minimum of 30 minutes; or

b. ___ been processed through an alternative method offering equivalent guarantees with regard to microbiological safety approved by Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying, and Fisheries (DADF), Government of India. The alternative approved method is:”

These statements are required on the VS Form 16-4 and ONE (only one) must be checked.

- If the pet food is heated to a MINIMUM of 70 C for a MINIMUM of 30 minutes (item **3a** is checked), then:
 - A copy of the DADF import permit does not need to be presented to the endorsing VS Area Office with the VS Form 16-4 presented for endorsement (although the importer will need to have this prior to the product arriving in India); and
 - The processing noted in 3a as well as information in statement 2 will still need to be verified by inspection.

➤ If the pet food is **not** heated to a MINIMUM of 70 C for a MINIMUM of 30 minutes (item **3b** is checked), then:

- **A copy of the DADF import permit must be presented to the endorsing VS Area Office** with the VS Form 16-4 presented for endorsement (a copy of the import permit should not become an actual part of the export certificate);
- The “alternative method of treatment” noted on the DADF import permit must be added to statement 3b; and
- The “alternative method of treatment” noted on the DADF import permit must have been verified by the VS inspection of the facility.

Statements to be in the Additional Declarations of the VS Form 16-4

1. *The United States is free of Highly Pathogenic Notifiable Avian Influenza Virus (HPNAI).*
2. *a. No ingredient of ruminant origin has been incorporated into the pet food, except for the following (check any that apply):*

Milk or milk-products

Protein-free rendered fat of ovine or caprine origin

- b. The following ovine or caprine material(s) imported from countries free of BSE and scrapie: (The following information must be provided for each imported ovine or caprine ingredient.)*

Ingredient:

Certificate Number:

Country of Origin:

Animal Health Authority Issuing Certificate for Ingredient:

Date of Certificate Endorsement:

3. *The certified materials (or the animal origin components) have either:*
 - a. been processed at a temperature to attain an internal temperature of not less than 70 degree Centigrade for a minimum of 30 minutes; or*
 - b. been processed through an alternative method offering equivalent guarantees with regard to microbiological safety approved by Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying, and Fisheries (DADF), Government of India. The alternative approved method is:*