

## **Important Information for Affidavit-Based Declarations on Certificates for Exports to Japan**

This message is specific to certificates issued for exports to Japan.

The VS Form 16-4 may contain two types of attestations in the “Additional Declaration” section.

**Type One:** Direct attestations- These attestations are made on the basis of the first hand knowledge of APHIS.

**Type Two:** Affidavit-based attestations- These attestations are based upon both APHIS evaluation of the attestations and upon a notarized affidavit from a private individual with first hand knowledge of the content. Significant additional verification is also often required.

Both types of attestations must meet very complex criteria. Please see the other articles on the Japan page for further information on attestations available for products exported to Japan.

All affidavit-based statements on the VS Form 16-4 must be preceded by the following exact text (no changes or alternative text may be included). This statement may not be placed on the notarized affidavit itself.

*This office has on file a notarized affidavit from [insert name of company here] verifying the accuracy of the statements below. I, the endorsing official listed below, have read the notarized affidavit referenced above, and to the best of my knowledge and belief these statements are true.*

Please see the next page for a graphic representation of a certificate containing both types of attestations.

For more information on the contents of this article or certification of products exported to Japan, please contact your local Veterinary Services Area Office. Contact information for these offices is available at: [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/area\\_offices/](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/area_offices/)

Print Form

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

**HEALTH CERTIFICATE  
EXPORT CERTIFICATE  
ANIMAL PRODUCTS**

PORT  
DATE  
AND NO.

This certificate is for Veterinary purposes only. It is valid for 30 days after the date of signature (in the case of transport by ship or rail, the time is prolonged by the time of the voyage).

This is to certify that rinderpest, foot-and-mouth disease, classical swine fever, swine vesicular disease, African swine fever, and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia do not exist in the United States of America.

ADDITIONAL DECLARATION

[Insert additional direct attestations.]

If additional affidavit-based attestations are included:

This office has on file a notarized affidavit from [insert name of company here] verifying the accuracy of the statements below. I, the endorsing official listed below, have read the notarized affidavit referenced above, and to the best of my knowledge and belief these statements are true.

[Insert affidavit-based attestations.]



(SIGNATURE OF ENDORSING OFFICIAL)

(TYPED NAME)

(TITLE OF ENDORSING OFFICIAL)

DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSIGNMENT

NAME AND ADDRESS OF EXPORTER

NAME AND ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE

PRODUCT (quantity, unit of measure, and kind)

IDENTIFICATION

CONVEYANCE