

**\*ALERT REGARDING MAILING SERVICES (E.G. FED EX, UPS, ETC) \***

**Important Information Regarding Animal-Origin Materials Shipped via Courier Services**

We have received confirmation that some major package courier services, e.g. Fed Ex and UPS, are no longer accepting consignments that may be subject to government inspection/clearance upon entry into Japan. These consignments include, but are not limited to, all animal-origin products for which Veterinary Services certification may be required (including all items listed on the previous page). Our understanding is that any of these packages that are accepted by these carriers (either in error or because of lack of knowledge regarding package contents) will be returned by the carrier upon discovery prior to clearance into Japan.

This action is not one by the Japanese government, but rather an independent action taken by the courier services. This action is believed to be a result of commercial concerns regarding the time an entire container (which generally would contain numerous packages from different shippers) is held pending clearance of the animal-origin material.

APHIS-Veterinary Services strongly recommends that exporters and importers work with their courier service prior to shipment to confirm that the courier is aware of the nature of the material being shipped, and that exporters/importers confirm with the courier that the courier will allow shipment to Japan under the courier company's current policy.

APHIS-Veterinary Services will not refuse to endorse certificates (as long as they are prepared and verified consistent with the information on this website and the pertinent Veterinary Services policy) solely because the consignments are being shipped via these carriers. However, exporters are advised that APHIS is not in a position to assist should the commercial carrier make a decision to reject or return the package.

Because these actions are being taken by the commercial courier services, APHIS is not in a position to provide further information or guidance. Exporters and importers seeking further information on this issue should contact the pertinent courier service.

To our knowledge, freight companies shipping entire commercial containers (e.g. a container existing entirely of one consignment of hides) have NOT taken similar actions.