

**Rodent Carcasses Export to Japan for Commercial Purposes Such as  
Feeding to Reptiles  
(does not cover carcasses and tissues sent as research samples)**

The “VETERINARY CERTIFICATE FOR EXPORT OF FRESH OR FROZEN RODENT CARCASSES TO JAPAN FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN RESEARCH” is required for the export of mouse carcasses to Japan for most purposes.

Prior to endorsement of this certificate, the production facility must be approved by the APHIS under special criteria. If the carcasses are stored or exported from a facility other than the one where the carcasses were derived from rodents born and kept through slaughter at, then those facilities must also be approved by APHIS under special criteria.

For more information on the criteria for approval and the approval process, please contact the [APHIS-VS Area Office](#) in the State from which the carcasses will be exported.

Below please find the “CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE FOR FRESH OR FROZEN RODENT CARCASSES TO JAPAN FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN RESEARCH” which is a bilateral agreement between APHIS and the government of Japan. Additional requirements regarding the necessary approval and approval process are available from the above referenced APHIS-VS Area Office.

## **CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE FOR FRESH OR FROZEN RODENT CARCASSES TO JAPAN FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN RESEARCH**

Prior to export to Japan, the following steps must be completed.

1. Standards and specifications for the establishments where rodents are kept
  - 1) The establishment must be inspected by an official full-time salaried veterinarian employed by USDA (APHIS) at least once every 365 days. The establishment seeking approval should contact their local APHIS Area Office and request the relevant pre-inspection package. The inspection will include, but not be limited to, verification of the following items.
    1. The construction of the establishment is appropriate to preclude the intrusion of animals from the outside.
    2. Appropriate sanitary controls, such as disinfection, are periodically implemented.
    3. Appropriate steps are taken to notify APHIS of any detections of plague (*Yersinia pestis*), rabies, monkey pox, hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome, hanta virus pulmonary syndrome, tularemia and leptospirosis has been clinically reported in human beings or animals in the establishment. Approval will not be granted if these detections have been confirmed in the past 12 months. Approvals will be withdrawn if these detections are confirmed after initial approval.
    4. Appropriate records regarding the introduction, feeding, maintenance, and death of rodents, and export records, are retained.
    5. Appropriate steps are followed to verify the clinical health (no signs of rabies) prior to slaughter are followed.
    6. Carcasses are derived from rodents kept from birth through slaughter at an establishment approved under the above criteria.
    7. After slaughter, carcasses may be moved to another known establishment approved under the above criteria for storage prior to export.
    8. The carcasses and the live rodents from which they are derived are not commingled with carcasses or rodents not meeting the requirements of this document.
    9. Prior to export to Japan, the packages of the carcasses are labeled with the address of the establishment of slaughter.
  - 2) If USDA (APHIS) verifies that the establishment meets the requirements, USDA (APHIS) will report through the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo the following items to Tuberculosis and Infectious Diseases Control Division, Health Service Bureau, MHLW immediately after the above-mentioned approval:
    - a. Name of establishment.
    - b. Address of establishment.
    - c. Number of establishment.
    - d. Verification of approval.
    - e. Verification if the establishment is a collection establishment where live rodents are kept from birth to slaughter, and/or a storage establishment where carcasses are stored.

Exporters may not ship carcasses to Japan until their local USDA (APHIS) office has verified that APHIS has formally approved them for the export.

- 3) The information of certified establishments shall be kept by USDA (APHIS). When there are any changes in the information, MHLW shall be notified.

## 2. Posting the form of Health Certificate

The form of the Health Certificate is attached herewith as “VETERINARY CERTIFICATE FOR EXPORT OF FRESH OR FROZEN RODENT CARCASSES TO JAPAN FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN RESEARCH”. This certificate shall be posted on the website of USDA (APHIS).

## 3. Issuing Procedure

It shall be confirmed that the establishment is currently approved by USDA (APHIS) before a Health Certificate is issued or the exporter ships.