

Pet Foods (Including Fish Food, Nutritional Supplements and Digests) to Korea

These instructions pertain to the export of pet foods (including nutritional supplements and digests) to Korea.

General Information

Export (health) certificates for Korea must be endorsed PRIOR to the date the product is shipped. If the date the product is shipped precedes the date of endorsement of the export (health) certificate, the shipment will be refused entry by Korea.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services (VS) will not back-date certificates. Export (health) certificates are dated with the actual date they are endorsed. APHIS will also not be able to facilitate the release of shipments refused entry by Korean authorities because the product was certified for export after the product was shipped. Exporters must ensure that the export (health) certificates are endorsed prior to the date the product is shipped to Korea.

Pet Food Certificates: Sterilized vs. Non-Sterilized

1. There are two certificates which can be used for the export of pet foods to Korea: the “Veterinary Sanitary Certificate for the Export of Pet Food from the United States to Korea” and the “Veterinary Sanitary Certificate for the Export of *Sterilized* Pet Food from the United States to Korea.” Both of these certificates are available through the Korea home page of the International Animal Product Regulations. **Only one certificate may be issued per shipment.
2. Use of the “Veterinary Sanitary Certificate for the Export of *Sterilized* Pet Food from the United States to Korea” requires verification by VS that the pet food being exported has been subjected to one of the following heat processing treatments:
 - a. With moisture at a minimum of 121 degrees C for at least 15-20 minutes; OR
 - b. With moisture at a minimum of 115 degrees C for at least 35 minutes; OR
 - c. With dry heat at a minimum of 160-170 degrees C for at least 1-2 hours.
3. Use of the certificate for sterilized pet foods may reduce the quarantine time and measures the shipment if subjected to upon importation into Korea. APHIS has verified, however, that U.S. origin pet foods should not be subject to fumigation during quarantine in Korea so long as the United States is considered free of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) – regardless of which certificate is used.
4. Nutritional supplements intended for use in pets should be certified for export using one of the two pet food certificates.
5. Although the certificates refer to dog and cat food, Korea has requested that fish food containing animal origin ingredients be certified using the pet food certificate.
6. Animal origin, non-ruminant digests intended for use in pet food may also be certified for export using one of the two pet food certificates. Alternatively, poultry digests may be

certified for export to Korea following the instructions on the International Animal Product Regulations for poultry digests.

7. Digests intended for end uses OTHER than in pet food are currently prohibited entry into Korea.

Instructions Applicable to Both Pet Food Certificates

1. The manufacturing facility must be inspected annually by VS to document official supervision and compliance with the required certification statements. Exporters interested in being approved to export pet foods to Korea should contact the VS Area Office to arrange for a facility inspection. Contact information for VS Area Offices can be found at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/area_offices/
2. The bilaterally negotiated certification statements found on the certificates may not be amended or revised; and statements must not be added or deleted without express permission from the VS National Center for Import and Export (NCIE) Animal Products Exports Staff. NOTE: If exporters have an import permit or a waiver from Korea allowing alteration of the bilaterally negotiated certification statements, they should provide this documentation to the VS Area Office. The VS Area Office will consult with the VS NCIE Animal Products Exports Staff.
3. Exporters should complete the pertinent fillable pet food certificate and submit to the VS Area Office for endorsement. The Area Office will print out the certificate on security paper using VS Area Office letterhead stationery.
4. With the exception of fish, dairy, and egg ingredients, source animals from which the raw materials for use in pet food production were obtained must have been subjected to ante-mortem slaughter inspection.
5. Animal origin materials used in the pet food must be U.S. origin. This requirement applies only to mammalian and avian-origin ingredients. Fish ingredients do not need to be U.S. origin and are exempt from the certification statement "The pet food is produced from U.S. origin animal ingredients."
6. All pet food containing ruminant-origin proteins (except for rawhide, milk, and other dairy ingredients) is prohibited from importation into Korea.
7. All pet food must be packaged and ready for retail sale.