



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Veterinary Services

Plant Protection
and Quarantine

Washington, DC
20250

Dear Exporter:

Beginning November 1, 2010, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) Officers will no longer be issuing animal product export certificates (VS Form 16-4 or letterhead certificate) for any commodities that contain animal origin ingredients. That responsibility will shift to veterinarians working for APHIS Veterinary Services (VS). Commodities affected include all products containing animal origin ingredients for which a VS 16-4 or letterhead certificate is currently issued by PPQ. Live animals, semen, embryos, and hatching eggs will continue to be endorsed only by VS. This change will impact exporters for products going to all countries, and is not limited to exports to Mexico.

Beginning November 1, 2010, animal product export certificates will only be issued by the APHIS Veterinary Services Area office servicing the State of manufacture or the State where the exporter is located.

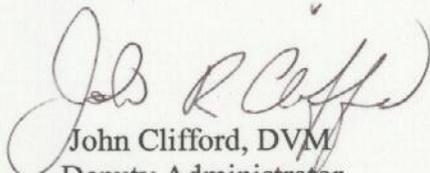
There are no changes in user fees associated with these procedures. The current user fee is \$47 per document.

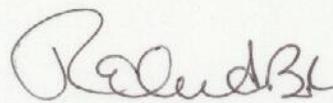
Exporters are advised to begin adjusting their procedures for obtaining export certificates for animal products now in order to prevent any problems or delays in obtaining such certificates after October 31, 2010. Because most countries require that certificates be issued and dated prior to shipment, you should plan to ensure that you receive the pertinent export certificate prior to shipping a consignment of these animal products. Please contact your local VS Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC) for their procedures for requesting such export certificates. Local office contact information can be found at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/area_offices/.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Veterinary Services Area office in your local area or your local PPQ State Plant Health Director. A listing of State Plant Health Directors can be found at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/contact_us/ppq.shtml

Procedures for obtaining export documents for shipments containing solely plant material, such as hay or grains or similar commodities, are not affected by these changes.

Sincerely,


John Clifford, DVM
Deputy Administrator
Veterinary Services


Rebecca A. Bech
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Safeguarding American Agriculture

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