

Exporter Guidance:
***Veterinary Health Certificate for the export of Hides & Skins
From the United States to South Africa***

The certificate, *Veterinary Health Certificate for the export of Hides & Skins from the United States to South Africa* may only be used for the export of hides and skins obtain from slaughter facilities and many not be edited, altered or amended, except as noted in this guidance document.

The Declarations in section IV are being endorsed based upon APHIS VS annual inspection, U.S. government regulatory controls, oversight and certification, the U.S. disease status and a notarized affidavit from the manufacturing facility.

NOTE: The only declaration that may be endorsed based upon a notarized affidavit from the manufacturing facility is discussed and described below.

A. APHIS VS must verify the follow items during their annual and compliance Inspection:

1. The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) or other written policy to insure and document that the hides and skins for export to South Africa are obtained only from approved slaughter facilities,
 - a. SOP/policy and compliance records for **at least** the previous 12 months must be available for review during the annual or compliance inspections,
 - b. SOP/policy must include a method to ensure the hides and skins from animals slaughtered in an official disease eradication campaign will **not** be included in consignment of hides and skins for export to South Africa,
2. A SOP or other written policy for the loading and sealing of shipping containers, and a method to record compliance. This SOP/policy must include the following components:
 - a. A protocol for the loading of hides and skins into containers for export to South Africa,
 - b. A protocol for the sealing of the containers, containing hides and skins for export to South Africa,
 - c. A protocol for the supervision of the loading and sealing of containers containing hides and skins for export to South Africa, and
 - d. Identification of a facility representative (person and/or position) authorized to supervise the loading and sealing of the containers containing hides and skins for export to South Africa.

NOTE: The facility is subject to unannounced compliance inspections by APHIS VS; user fees will apply.

B. Guidance for completion of the *Veterinary Health Certificate for the export of Hides & Skins from the United States to South Africa*

- a. It is the exporter's responsibility to ensure, prior to shipping, compliance with the South African import requirements for each consignment.
 - i. The South African importer should have a valid import permit issued by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for all consignments. It is not necessary to include a copy of the South African Veterinary Import Permit when submitting the certificate for endorsement. However, the veterinary import permit number **must** be included on the veterinary health certificate.
- b. All information in sections I. – III. must be complete prior to submitting the certificate to APHIS VS for endorsement.
- c. Endorsements of declarations in section IV.A are based upon the results of inspections by APHIS VS, and the disease status of the United States.

- d. Endorsements of declaration IV.B is based upon a notarized affidavit provided by the approved facility consistent with the SOP/policy verified during inspection. The affidavit must accompany each veterinary health certificate submitted for endorsement.
 - i. An example of the affidavit is included as an addendum to this document.
 - e. APHIS VS will place the first page of the certificate on VS letterhead and print onto certificate on the front and back of the VS Export Products security paper.
- C. Reminders & additional Information: VS - Export Products Policies etc.
- 1. Letterhead Certificates may not be edited, altered, or amended, except as directed on the IREGS or in Guidance documents.
 - 2. Exporters are responsible for confirming, **prior to shipping**, that they have all certification required for the consignment.
 - 3. Most countries will not accept certificates issued after consignments have shipped; the exporter should obtain the required certificates **prior** to shipping.
 - 4. Exporters should contact the VS Area Office with jurisdiction in the area of their production facility or where the exporter is located, for assistance or if they have any questions.

ADDENDUM 1

[COMPANY LETTERHEAD]

To: APHIS VS

From: [NAME & POSITION OF AUTHORIZED SUPERVISOR -- must be consistent with information in SOP/policy]

Re: Export of Hides & Skins from the United States to South Africa
Type of product:
Contains animal origin ingredients from the following species:
Lot Number(s):
Type packaging:
Net Weight (kg / lb):

The hides and/or skins described above were loaded/containerized and sealed consistent with the protocols, standard operating procedures /policies of [NAME OF COMPANY] under my supervision:

Container number(s)

Seal number(s)

I certify that the statements listed above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature of Authorized Supervisor

Date

[DOCUMENT MUST BE NOTARIZED]