

## **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 certificate, the shipment will be refused entry by Korea.

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

### **PET FOOD CERTIFICATES: STERILIZED VS. NON-STERILIZED**

There are two certificates which can be used for the export of pet foods to Korea:

1. Veterinary Sanitary Certificate for the Export of Pet Food from the United States to Korea
2. 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.\**

- Nutritional supplements intended for use in pets should be certified for export using one of the two pet food certificates.
- Although the certificates refer to pet food, Korea has requested that fish food containing animal-origin ingredients be certified using one of the two pet food certificates.
- 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.
- Digests intended for end uses OTHER than in pet food are currently prohibited entry into Korea.

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°C for at least 15-20 minutes; OR
- b. With moisture at a minimum of 115°C for at least 35 minutes; OR
- c. With dry heat at a minimum of 160-170°C for at least 1-2 hours

Use of the certificate for sterilized pet foods may reduce the quarantine times and measures the shipment is subjected to upon importation into Korea. APHIS has verified, however, that U.S. origin pet foods should not be subjected 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.

### **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 their pertinent [VS Service Center](#) to arrange for a facility inspection.

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2. The bilaterally negotiated certification statements found on the certificates may not be amended or revised. Statements must not be added or deleted without express permission from VS National Import Export Services (NIES) Riverdale. 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 pertinent VS Service Center. The VS Service Center will consult with VS NIES Riverdale.
3. Exporters should complete the pertinent fillable pet food certificate and submit to the VS Service Center for endorsement.

*\*In instances when the exporter is NOT the manufacturer, the manufacturer must indicate on their shipping documentation (e.g. bill of lading, shipping manifest, letter of guarantee, etc.) that the product was produced under the requirements of Korea. This documentation must be provided to the VS Service Center with the request for certificate endorsement and must:*

- a. Clearly identify the pet food name, quantity and lot number; and
- b. Include one of the following statements:
  - Product meets Korean requirements for pet food.
  - Product meets Korean requirements for export on the non-sterilized pet food certificate.
  - Product meets Korean requirements for export on the sterilized pet food certificate.

This lot-specific documentation may be provided to the VS Service Center by exporter or the manufacturer, but ultimately the confirmation of eligibility must originate from the manufacturer.

The Service Center will print out the certificate on security paper using the VS Service Center letterhead stationery.

4. With the exception of fish, dairy, and egg ingredients, source animals from which 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 milk, rawhide, and other dairy ingredients) is prohibited from importation into Korea.
7. Tallow containing a maximum level of 0.15% insoluble impurities by weight is permissible for inclusion in pet food exported to Korea and must be verified by laboratory analysis.
8. All pet food must be packaged and ready for retail sale.