

Guidance
For the export of Raw and Processed Poultry Feathers and Down
From the United States to South Africa

The declarations on the *Veterinary Certificate for the export of Feathers and Finished Products containing Feathers from the United States to South Africa* are direct attestations. Therefore, facilities manufacturing/processing raw or processed poultry feathers or down for export to South Africa must be inspected and found compliant with the South African import requirements outlined on the certificate, at least once every 365 days.

To be eligible for export to South Africa, all facility's must:

1. Take all necessary precautions to avoid contamination of finished (raw or processed) feathers and/or down.
2. Have a procedure in place to package all feathers and/or down for export to South Africa to prevent contamination of products during handling, storage, and transport.

Both of these procedures and their application must be verified at inspection by APHIS VS at least once every 365 days.

To be eligible for export to South Africa as raw:

1. The facility must have in place a written procedure for obtaining the poultry feathers and/or down from either,
 - a. an approved slaughter facility, from poultry that have been subjected to ante and post mortem inspection, OR
 - b. from live poultry that did not show signs of suggestive of notifiable avian influenza (NAI) on the day of collection

The written procedure, application and documentation must be verified at inspection by APHIS VS at least once every 365 days.

2. The facility must have in place a written procedure for processing the feathers to ensure the removal of hatchery waste and fecal matter.

The written procedure, application and documentation must be verified at inspection by APHIS VS at least once every 365 days.

3. The exporter should cross off the statement certifying to the processing of the feathers, including processing methods a-f, prior to submitting the certificate to APHIS VS for endorsement.

In addition to ensuring the poultry and slaughter facility are in a highly pathogenic notifiable avian influenza (HPNAI) free country zone or compartment, prior to endorsing the certificate APHIS VS must also ensure the facility processing the feathers and/or down is located in a NAI free country, zone or compartment.

To be eligible for export to South Africa as processed:

1. The facility must have in place a written procedure for subjecting the feathers and/or down to one of the following processes/treatments:
 - a. an approved method of treatment with ethylene oxide,
 - b. loosely placed on spaced supports in an airtight chamber and fumigated with formalin (40% formaldehyde) and potassium permanganate, in the proportion of 53 ml and 35 g respectively per cubic metre of air space in the chamber for a period of 24 hours,
 - c. exposed to moist heat at 110°C for a minimum period of 15 minutes,
 - d. exposed to a minimum temperature of 82°C, thoroughly cleaned and subjected to fumigation with formalin vapour, for a minimum period of 10 hours,
 - e. irradiated at 20kGy,
 - f. heated to a minimum temperature of 74°C

The written procedure, application and documentation must be verified at inspection by APHIS VS at least once every 365 days.

2. Prior to submitting the certificate to APHIS VS endorsement, the exporter should cross off the first certification statement declaring the feathers and/or down “Are derived from:”, including items a-c.