



United States
Department of
Agriculture

August 6, 2009

Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

Exporter contact information

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Dear *Exporter*,

Veterinary Services
National Center for
Import and Export

Beginning August 10, 2009, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will be transitioning the responsibility for issuing export certificates (VS Form 16-4) for animal feeds, animal feed supplements, and pet foods containing animal-origin ingredients from Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) to Veterinary Services (VS). This change will principally impact exporters for these products to Mexico, but also applies for exports to certain other countries. The transition period will end on October 11, 2009.

Plant Protection
and Quarantine
Veterinary
Regulatory Support

Beginning October 12, 2009, APHIS PPQ Officers will no longer issue certificates (VS Form 16-4) for pet foods, animal feeds, and animal feed supplements that contain animal-origin ingredients. Certificates will be issued by the APHIS Veterinary Services Area office servicing the State of manufacture or in the State where the exporter is located. You will need to change your current procedures in order to obtain an export certificate for animal product-containing pet foods, animal feeds, and animal feed supplements.

Not affected by these changes are the procedures for obtaining export documents for shipments containing solely plant material, such as hay or grains or similar commodities. In addition, APHIS PPQ Officers will continue current policies for issuing export certificates for other commodities including dairy products and hides.

Because most countries require that certificates be issued and dated prior to shipment, you should plan for these changes in procedure 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) or PPQ State Plant Health Director (SPHD) for their procedures for requesting such export certificates. Local office contact information can be found at

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/services/report_pest_disease/report_pest_disease.shtml.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Veterinary Services, Area office in your local area or your local SPHD.

Karen James, Director
National Center for Import and Export

Maurine Bull, Director
Veterinary Regulatory Support, PPQ



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Safeguarding American Agriculture

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