

Safe Operating Procedure

(Revised 10/25)

IMPORT AND MOVEMENT OF ANIMALS, ANIMAL PRODUCTS, AND/OR ORGANISMS AND VECTORS AFFECTING ANIMALS

Introduction

Federal authority for regulating the import of organisms or vectors, animals or animal products and by-products is split between several federal agencies. The agency with jurisdiction depends on the specific type of material. Federal agencies that may have authority include:

- Food and Drug Administration (e.g., vaccines, feeds)
- Public Health Service (e.g., human vaccines and pharmaceuticals)
- Fish and Wildlife Service (e.g., fish, marine animals)
- USDA - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (organisms and vectors, animals and animal-derived materials)
- The United States Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Import Permit Program, or IPP (e.g., bats, civets, non-human primates, etc.)

Scope

This SOP is limited in scope to federal authority for international import permits issued by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and Veterinary Services (VS). This SOP does not address:

- State of Nebraska Department of Agriculture regulations regarding the import of certain animals into Nebraska. Refer to the Nebraska Department of Agriculture website for information about Nebraska requirements.
- Export regulations. The UNL Office of Research compliance is responsible for administering the UNL export compliance program. Export restrictions are beyond the scope of this SOP.
- Plant and plant related import and transfer requirements.
- Materials that fall under the authority of the CDC



General Permit Requirements

An APHIS-VS permit is generally required for importing any animals, materials derived from animals, or materials exposed to animals. This includes live animals, semen, embryos, and materials derived from animals or exposed to animal-source materials such as animal tissues, blood, cells, or cell lines of livestock or poultry origin, RNA/DNA extracts, hormones, enzymes, microorganisms including bacteria, viruses, protozoa and fungi. In addition, animal material including dairy products (except butter and cheese), and meat products (e.g., meat pies, prepared foods) from countries with livestock diseases exotic to the U.S. Detailed information regarding federal import requirements is available using the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) “Veterinary Services Permitting Assistant” (<https://efile.aphis.usda.gov/s/vs-permitting-assistant>)

Exclusions

APHIS provides for several exclusions from the permit requirements. While excluded materials do not require an APHIS-VS import permit, they will be reviewed at the port of entry by USDA inspectors. In general, those materials excluded from APHIS-VS permit requirements must be accompanied with documentation to show why they are excluded (i.e., free of livestock or poultry disease agents). Furthermore, materials excluded from APHIS-VS permits may require permits from other federal agencies. Refer to the following APHIS-VS Guidelines for additional information on whether a permit is required for materials in each of the listed categories, including the proper permit-granting agency (<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/import-live-animals/no-import-permit-req>).

- Guideline 1100: Human and Veterinary Pharmaceuticals and Vaccines
- Guideline 1101: Non-Human Primate Material (excluding cell cultures)
- Guideline 1102: Feline and Canine Material
- Guideline 1103: Live Laboratory Mammals and Their Material (for research purposes)
- Guideline 1104: Amphibians, Fish, Reptiles, Shellfish and Aquatic Species (includes venom)
- Guideline 1105: Chemically Synthesized Materials
- Guideline 1107: Importation of Lactose and Lactose Derivatives
- Guideline 1110: Microbially Produced Materials
- Guideline 1114: Recombinant Microbes and Their Products



- Guideline 1116: Non-Pathogenic Microorganisms (and their extracts)
- Guideline 1119: Pet Chews and Treats Made of Antlers or Rawhide
- Guideline 1120: Cell Cultures/Lines, Recombinant Cell Cultures/Lines, and Their Products (for in vitro use)
- Guideline 1121: Self-Contained Test Kits Containing Animal-Derived Ingredients
- Guideline 1122: Vitamins and Minerals
- Guideline 1123: Histopathological Fixed Slides

Obtaining APHIS Veterinary Permit

It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator (PI) to make an application for and obtain required APHIS-VS permits and/or meet the requirements of the State of Nebraska Department of Agriculture animal importation regulations before engaging in the transport of regulated animals and animal products.

APHIS permit application forms submitted in two ways; researchers can download the forms at https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/resources/forms/ct_vs_forms and submit them via fax or U.S. mail or researchers can use the APHIS ePermits web-based system. The APHIS ePermits system allows users to submit import /interstate movement/transit/release permit applications, track applications, apply for renewals and amendments, and receive copies of their permits. The ePermits system often allows for faster approvals than submitting a hardcopy application.

APHIS also offers an on-line e-tool, Veterinary Services Permitting Assistant, to assist the user in determining whether a permit is required and to apply for a permit, when necessary. This tool is available at <https://efile.aphis.usda.gov/s/vs-permitting-assistant>. Users will need to apply for a user account to submit permit applications and to renew permits.

NOTE: Research involving the use of live vertebrate animals is subject to requirements of UNL's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).