

(Revised 10/25)

## IMPORT AND MOVEMENT OF PLANTS, PLANT PRODUCTS, SOIL, PLANT PESTS AND PATHOGENS

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### Introduction

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program safeguards U.S. agriculture and natural resources against the entry, establishment, and spread of economically and environmentally significant pests, and facilitates the safe trade of agricultural products. APHIS-PPQ regulations (7 CFR Part 300-330) govern the movement of plant pests. APHIS permits are required for the importation, transit, domestic movement, including interstate, and environmental releases of organisms that impact plants, and the importation and transit of Plants and Plant Products.

APHIS has established three basic categories of permits, which are discussed in greater detail later in this SOP:

- a) Organism and soil permits;
- b) Plant and plant product permits;
- c) Transit permits.

### Scope

This SOP is limited in scope to federal authority for plant protection permits issued by USDA-APHIS. This SOP does **not** address:

- State of Nebraska Department of Agriculture regulations regarding the domestic import of plants, plant products, and plant pests into Nebraska. Refer to the Nebraska Department of Agriculture website: <http://www.agr.ne.gov/plant/index.html>, 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.
- Genetically engineered plant-related materials, including field trials. For additional information on this topic, see <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/biotechnology>

- Plant pathogens that are regulated as select agents. See EHS SOP, **Select Agents and Toxins**, for additional information.

This SOP is a broad overview. Users are cautioned to review permit requirement details on the APHIS website at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/import-information> and associated regulations at 7 CFR 300-330.

## 1.1 Organism and Soil Permits

With few exceptions, an APHIS-PPQ permit is required for the importation, interstate movement, and environmental release of the following regulated materials:

- Insects and mites
- Bees
- Butterflies and moths
- Biocontrol organisms
- Pet food, fish bait, and animal feed
- Invertebrate pets
- Plant pathogenic bacteria, viruses, fungi, mycoplasmas, and nematodes
- Snails and slugs
- Federal noxious weeds and parasitic plants
- Earthworms
- Soil
- Western corn rootworm, *Diabrotica virgifera*
- Plant Growth Enhancers (PGEs)

## 1.2 Plant and Plant Product Permits

Various APHIS permits cover the following regulated materials:

- Wood products and by-products
- Plants and seed for planting and propagation
- Fresh and processed fruits and vegetables
- Pest organisms
- Seeds not for planting
- Soil, soil amendments and rocks

- Sugarcane products and by-products
- Cut flowers and greenery

### 1.3 Transit Permits

Transit Permits (PPQ 586) are required by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) in advance of arrival for the unloading, landing or other movement of plants, plant products, plant pests, or soil in cargo through the United States. APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) Headquarters issues Transit Permits in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations Title 7, CFR Part 352, which allows for agricultural consignments to move through, but not remain in, the United States as transportation and exportations (T&E) or immediate exports (IE).

Commodities that **do not** require a written Transit Permit are:

- All non-regulated lumber from Canada (except pine and ash lumber with bark attached)
- Cut flowers (admissible cut flowers without botanical fruit attached, which do not require a phytosanitary certificate as an entry requirement)
- APHIS pre-cleared shipments arriving with an original valid PPQ Form 203 issued by APHIS
- Fresh fruit and vegetables for consumption grown in Canada (except fresh *Allium* bulbs, *Ipomoea aquatica*, corn-on-the-cob, potatoes)
- Frozen fruit and vegetables grown in Canada
- Grain harvested in Canada (except corn and corn relatives, including sorghum, millet, pennisetum, etc.) and grain from other sources that do not require an import permit or certification
- Fully processed articles for consumption (i.e. milled flour, roasted coffee or peanuts)
- Agricultural or vegetable seed from Canada except seeds that require an import permit or certification
- Cargo moving on an Emergency Action Notice
- Residue cargo movement by sea or air if the commodity is admissible to the United States without treatment and has no entry restrictions.

### Obtaining a Federal Permit

It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator (PI) to apply for and obtain all required APHIS-PPQ permits before engaging in a regulated activity. APHIS offers both on-line ePermits system and a manual process for application submission. It can take anywhere from



2 – 18 months to get a permit issued. In some cases, a facility inspection may be required before a permit is issued. More information as well as access to the ePermits system can be found here: (<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/import-information/permits>)