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Importing Poultry Hatching Eggs and Day-Old Poultry into the United States

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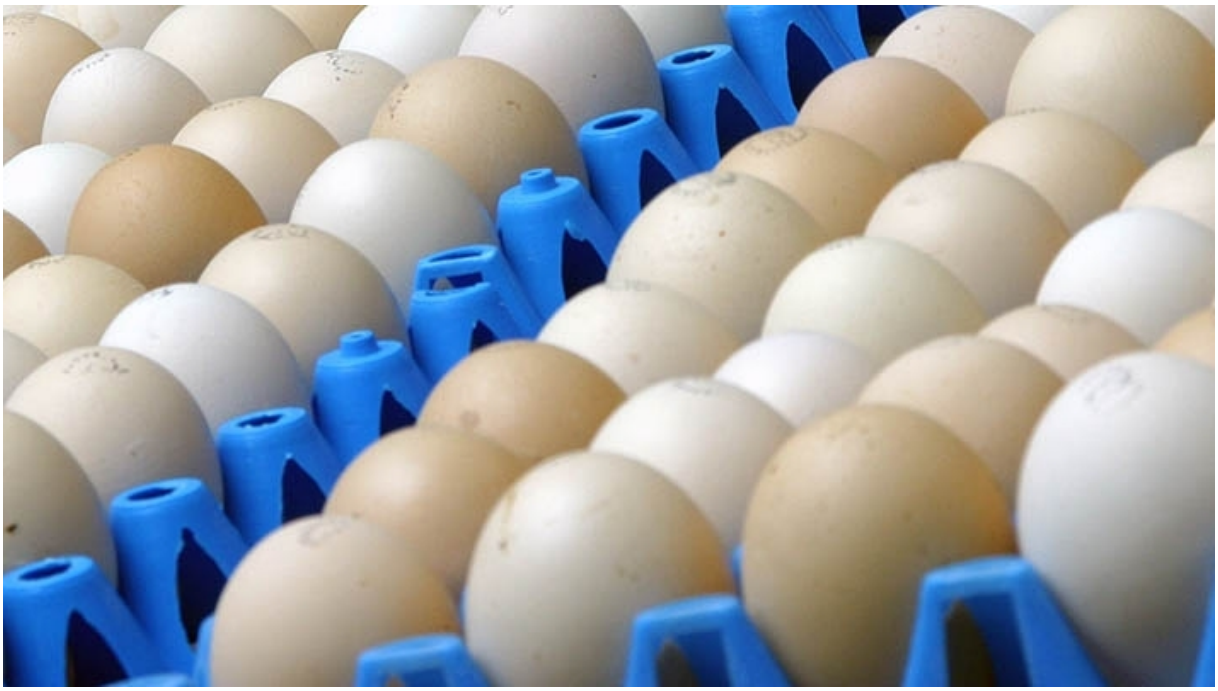

The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines poultry as chickens, doves, ducks, geese, grouse, guinea fowl, partridges, pea fowl, pheasants, pigeons, quail, swans, and turkeys (including hatching eggs of these species). Day-old poultry are poultry of

less than 72 hours of life.

With few exceptions, poultry hatching eggs may not import from or transit through countries or zones affected with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).

USDA requires the following for all poultry hatching eggs and day-old poultry **imports:**

- **USDA Import Permit**
- **Veterinary Health Certificate**
- **Port Inspection**
- **Import Quarantine**

USDA requirements for **transiting** poultry hatching eggs and day-old poultry through the United States are detailed below under USDA Transit Process.

European Poultry Trade Region

Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain (England, Scotland, and Wales), Greece, Hungary, Ireland (Republic of), Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden

European Free Trade Association

Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland

How To Import Poultry Hatching Eggs and Day-Old Poultry

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USDA Import Permit

Use the Veterinary Services Permitting Assistant (VSPA) to confirm your live animal import permit requirements. Select the "Live Animals" tab. The VSPA will provide you with a summary of required import documents, including permit applications, certificates, informational letters, and more.

- Poultry hatching eggs and day-old poultry shipments must be accompanied by a USDA import permit, except shipments imported from Canada through a land border port.
- Importers should apply for an import permit online using the APHIS eFile system . This will help expedite the entire permitting process and enable users to track the status of their permits, confirm receipt, and easily renew or amend existing permits. For more information on import permit application, visit Animal Health Permits.
- Alternatively, importers may submit a paper application using the VS Form 17-129 Application for Import or In-Transit Permit (211.74 KB).
- Importers must submit the import permit application at least 7 business days prior to shipping poultry hatching eggs and day-old poultry.
- The original **import permit is valid for 30 days** and must accompany all poultry hatching eggs and day-old poultry shipments.

Veterinary Export Health Certificate

- Poultry hatching eggs and day-old poultry imported from any region of the world must be accompanied by a health certificate in English or with English translation that is:
    - Issued by a salaried veterinarian of the national government of the exporting region, **or**
    - Issued by a certifying official, **and**
    - Endorsed by the competent animal health authority of that country.
- Any allowable or required deviations of endorsement will be specified on the import permit.

- Some exporting countries have specific health certificates for poultry hatching eggs and day-old poultry. Other countries may use the U.S. model health certificate for poultry hatching eggs and day-old poultry or their own document that contains the same requirements as the model health certificate.
    - Brazil: Avian - Poultry Hatching Eggs and Day-Old Poultry - Brazil - Health Certificate (316.41 KB)| June 2026
    - Canada: Avian - Day-Old Poultry and Hatching Eggs - Canada - Health Certificate (125.14 KB) | June 2022
    - European Poultry Trade Region (EPTR):
        - Avian - Poultry Hatching Eggs - EPTR - Model Health Certificate (268.99 KB) | January 2025
        - Avian - Day-Old Poultry - EPTR - Model Health Certificate (181.36 KB) | July 2025
        - Avian - SPF Eggs of Poultry - EPTR - Model Health Certificate (200.95 KB) July 2026
    - Ireland: Avian - Poultry Hatching Eggs for Research - Ireland - Approved Health Certificate (207.78 KB) | June 2026
    - Netherlands: Avian - Poultry Hatching Eggs - Netherlands - Health Certificate (226.63 KB) | February 2026
    - Netherlands: Avian - Day-Old Poultry - Netherlands - Health Certificate (228.41 KB) | February 2026
    - United Kingdom (including Northern Ireland): Avian - Poultry Hatching Eggs - United Kingdom - Health Certificate (Certificate 898) (www.gov.uk) | June 2024
    - United Kingdom (including Northern Ireland): Avian - Day-Old Poultry - United Kingdom - Health Certificate (Certificate 5937) (www.gov.uk) | April 2025
    - Spain: Avian - Day-Old Poultry - Spain - Health Certificate (283.77 KB) | October 2026
    - All other countries: Avian - Poultry Hatching Eggs - Not EPTR - Model Health Certificate (297.1 KB) | January 2025

Port Inspection

- Poultry hatching eggs requiring import quarantine must be shipped directly to the U.S. port of entry closest to the intended quarantine facility.
- A USDA port veterinarian must inspect the poultry hatching eggs and day-old poultry at the first U.S. port of entry, unless otherwise indicated on the U.S. import permit.
- The importer must arrange for this inspection **at least 72 hours in advance** by contacting the USDA port veterinarian, whose contact information is listed on the import permit.
- The port veterinarian will visually inspect the shipment, export health certificate, and U.S. import permit. View user fee rates for inspection services.

Import Quarantine

- Import quarantine is required for Poultry Hatching Eggs originating from regions that APHIS considers to be affected with virulent Newcastle Disease.
- When Canada is affected with HPAI or Newcastle disease, Day-Old Poultry imported from areas of Canada that are restricted due to highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) or Newcastle disease, and that have transited such areas, do require quarantine.
- Quarantine for Poultry Hatching Eggs and Day-Old Poultry is a **minimum of 30 days** and must take place at an APHIS-approved private quarantine facility or hatchery. View guidance for establishing a private quarantine (218.64 KB) (280.97 KB). The initial approval process for a private quarantine may take several months and must be completed before USDA will issue the import permit.
- Quarantine of Poultry Hatching Eggs and Day-Old Poultry requires the use of a dedicated area of the facility for the duration of the quarantine.
- The importer is responsible for all costs and fees associated with the import, including but not limited to USDA fees for port inspection and laboratory testing during quarantine.
- USDA will provide a cost estimate for USDA fees associated with quarantine. View user fee rates.

USDA Transit Process

- Poultry hatching eggs and day-old poultry shipments transiting the United States from the exporting country to a third country destination must be accompanied by a USDA transit permit and a contingency plan as described in Transit Shipments of Live Animal Commodities (479.88 KB).
- Poultry hatching eggs and day-old poultry originating from an HPAI-affected region may not transit the United States.
- The transit permit application process is the same as the import permit application process (see USDA Import Permit section above). Denoting the route of travel on the application distinguishes the type of permit requested.
- USDA oversees transit shipments while they are in the United States. The importer must arrange for USDA services **at least 72 hours** in advance by contacting the USDA port veterinarian listed on the transit permit.
- The importer must submit the contingency plan with the permit application and the request for service at the U.S. transit port.
- The transit permit lists any special instructions for the importer and port staff. For more information, see Transit Shipments of Live Animal Commodities (479.88 KB) and Notice Regarding APHIS Live Animal Import and Third-Country Import Transit Permits.

For more information about importing poultry hatching eggs and day-old poultry or to view associated guidance documents, see VS Guidance and Other Documents for Avian Importation.

Questions?

Live Animal Import Permit Team

Contact APHIS' Live Animal Import Permit team if you have questions before you apply for a permit.

For questions about import permits or permit applications:

Live Animal Import Permit Team

Email: laipermits@usda.gov

Phone: 301-851-3300

APHIS Port Services

For questions about import inspections at a port of entry, quarantine of animals arriving from a foreign country, or requesting approval as a private animal import quarantine facility, contact APHIS Port Services.

- Select a State - ▼

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Live Animal Import and Export

Contact APHIS' Live Animal Import and Export team for questions about current trade restrictions, or other questions not related to permits.

For general questions related to the import of a live animal:

Live Animal Import and Export

Email: laie@usda.gov

Phone: 301-851-3300

All Contacts
Print