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Animal Health Permits

Last Modified:

APHIS eFile is a web-based system that allows users to submit permit applications, track applications, apply for renewals and amendments, and receive a copy of the permit—all while online.

Users are required to sign up for a Verified Identity eAuthentication account to access eFile; however, once you receive your eAuth ID and password, it provides a centralized authentication service for all web-based services across the Federal Government. Learn more at USDA eAuthentication .

If you are **importing a pet dog or cat,** do not apply for an import permit. Contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for requirements.

If you are **importing dogs for resale,** whether through commercial sale or adoption, contact APHIS Animal Care.

If you are **importing food products for human consumption,** visit USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service.

APHIS eFile

Effective May 31, 2022, all **new** and **renewal** permit applications for live animals and animal products, organisms, and vectors must be submitted via APHIS eFile.

We encourage you to take advantage of the online access option to apply for permits via APHIS eFile. This will help to expedite the entire permitting process and allow you to track the status of your permits, confirm receipt, and easily renew or amend existing permits.

Permits Offered Through the eFile System

Permit Application Name	eFile Link	Instructions
VS 16-3: Application for Permit To Import Controlled Material or Transport Organisms or Vectors or Animal Products and Byproducts	eFile	Step-by-step instructions for completing VS 16-3 using eFile
VS 16-7: Application for Permit To Import Cell Cultures and Their Products (Supplement to VS 16-3)	eFile	
VS 16-6A: Renew and/or Amend Existing VS 16-6A Import Permit	eFile	
VS 17-129: Application To Import or Transit Live Animals, Semen, Embryos, and Eggs for Hatching	eFile	Step-by-step instructions for completing VS 17-129 using eFile (2.34 MB)
VS 16-79: On-Hold Shipment Notification Application	eFile	Step-by-step instructions for completing VS 16-79 using eFile (934.88 KB) Frequently Asked Questions

Apply for a Permit by Email (If Unable To Use APHIS eFile)

Complete the appropriate form(s) and send by email. A fully completed VS 16-3 will be required for each new permit, permit amendment, and permit renewal request.

- VS 16-3: Application for Permit To Import Controlled Material or Transport Organisms or Vectors or Animal Products and By-Products
    - General Instructions for Completing VS 16-3 (276.11 KB)
- VS 16-7: Application for Permit To Import Cell Cultures and Their Products (Supplement to VS 16-3) (206.3 KB)
    - General Instructions for Completing VS 16-7 (56.52 KB)
- VS 17-129: Application for Import or in Transit Permit (fillable) (211.74 KB) (for live animals, semen, or embryos)
    - General Instructions for Completing VS 17-129 (266.52 KB)
- VS 16-79: On-Hold Shipment Notification Application (fillable) (200.34 KB) (for animal products and byproducts)

For faster and easier application submission and review, use APHIS eFile to create and submit your application.

Contact Us

Animal Products

Animal Product Import and Export

Email: apie@usda.gov

Phone: 301-851-3300

Mailing Address

VS Strategy and Policy

5601 Sunnyside Ave., #AP-220/3-WS-2504

Beltsville, MD 20705

Note:

Email is preferred. For urgent requests, state "URGENT" in the email subject line.

Live Animals

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

Live Animal Import and Export

Email: laie@usda.gov

Phone: 301-851-3300

For questions about import permits or permit applications:

Live Animal Import Permit Team

Email: laipermits@usda.gov

Phone: 301-851-3300

Select Agents and Toxins

Division of Agricultural Select Agents and Toxins

Email: dasat@usda.gov

Phone: 301-851-2070

Fax: 301-734-3652

Website

- Division of Agricultural Select Agents and Toxins

Website

- Division of Agricultural Select Agents and Toxins