Animal Plant and Health Inspection Services (APHIS)

CONTACT INFORMATION
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The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service’s (APHIS) mission is to help ensure the safety of animal and plants in the United States. An important focus of APHIS, which is an arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is to try to eliminate pests and diseases in food imports into the U.S. APHIS also promotes U.S. agricultural exports by monitoring food and safety procedures in foreign markets to ensure that they do not result in unjustified barriers.

APHIS specializes in disease management, research in sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) issues, and biotechnology. APHIS assists in the trade process through developing science-based standards on agriculture and animal products and standardizing them through collaboration with importers of U.S. products. These regulations also help maintain the safety of U.S. agricultural exports. APHIS monitors foreign food safety regulations to help identify and eliminate unnecessary restrictions as they enter other countries.

Certifications for Exporters and Importers
APHIS can issue import and export certifications for animal and products through an ePermits electronic system. These certifications certify that the incoming or departing products meet U.S. SPS standards. APHIS also provides import and export standards information for specific animal and plant products.

International Visitors and Capacity Building
APHIS also takes the lead in international standard setting and capacity building in the animal and plant fields. Its International Services Office works with the World Organization for Animal Health and International Plant Protection Convention to develop norms for sanitary and phytosanitary policies. Further, APHIS collaborates with foreign counterparts to ensure they meet their obligations under the WTO regarding management. Within this mandate, APHIS’s International Technical and Regulatory Capacity Building Center provides services such as training and technology transfer to developing countries.

APHIS offers a Visitor’s Program for international guests to learn more about U.S. management of plant and animal standards. Visitors have the opportunity to learn about latest developments in biotechnology, disease eradication, SPS global standards, and implementation and monitoring
procedures.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

**For Foreign Governments**


Provides access to all APHIS external publications on topics such as biology studies, emergency responses, information on pests, etc.


Provides information on APHIS international services including the International Visitors Program.

**For Business**


This site provides requirements for importing and exporting particular animal and plant products to and from the United States.

*ePermits*  [https://epermits.aphis.usda.gov/epermits](https://epermits.aphis.usda.gov/epermits)

The ePermit system to apply for specific certificates for import/export.


Includes all electronic forms and permits that can be submitted on ePermits.