



FedEx Regulatory News

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Import Process Changes Effective January 25, 2021

January 5, 2021

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) regulates the importation of a wide variety of plant and animal products. These products are regulated to ensure the health and well-being of imported animals as well as prevent the introduction of harmful plant and animal pests.

APHIS Regulated Products Include (not an all-inclusive list):

Cut Flowers and greenery	Products derived from animals such as blood or tissue samples for research use
Fresh or frozen fruits and vegetables	Propagative materials such as seeds, bulbs or live plants intended for planting
Miscellaneous products manufactured from or containing plant materials such as firewood or dried teas	Seeds not for planting that are intended for decoration, food or industrial use
Processed agricultural products such as milled and polished rice, roasted nuts, or chopped fruits and vegetables	Used agricultural machinery, animal carriers, and bags or sacks that previously held agricultural products

Most APHIS regulated products require a License, Permit, Certificate, or Other documents (LPCO) as a condition of entry into the United States. The entry requirements vary based upon many factors such as the country of origin, destination, product type, and animal or plant species.

What has changed?

The underlying entry requirements for APHIS regulated products have not changed, but the process for declaring U.S. imports of APHIS regulated products is changing.

Effective January 25, 2021, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will require electronic submission to APHIS of all data elements for APHIS Core regulated products. This requirement is part of the ongoing implementation of the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE).

What are the impacts of this change?

Importers of APHIS regulated products will need to provide FedEx Trade Networks with all applicable APHIS Partner Government Agency (PGA) data elements and LPCO documents in order for FedEx Trade Networks to file an entry and obtain release of the imported goods. APHIS and CBP will no longer accept post-release paper submissions of required import documentation.

For most APHIS regulated products, the genus and species of animal or plant from which the product was obtained will be required. The source (country of origin) of the APHIS regulated material and its intended end-use will also need to be provided. For products regulated by APHIS but eligible for a LPCO exemption, a detailed description of the product and statement of usage in accordance with existing APHIS requirements will be necessary for submission of the ACE entry to CBP.

APHIS entry requirements are enforced regardless of the size or value of the shipment. There is no *de minimis* (Section 321) exemption allowed under the ACE entry requirements effective January 25, 2021.

To avoid shipment delays, please ensure all required PGA information is available on the shipping documents and provide the required documentation, such as an import permit, if applicable. Alternatively, please make other arrangements to provide FedEx Trade Networks with the required data.

How do I know if my product is APHIS regulated?

Refer to the [USDA APHIS Import/Export website](#) for additional information on import requirements that may apply to your product.

References

[APHIS ACE Information website](#)

[CSMS #44840710 – Upcoming implementation dates in ACE CERT and PROD, for enforcing the mandatory submission of the APHIS Core Message Set](#)

[Federal Register notice – 85 FR 60756 International Trade Data System: Timeline for Enforcing APHIS Core Message Set Flags in the Automated Commercial Environment](#)

FedEx Regulatory News

Keep up with the latest alerts, trade-related rules, updates and learning opportunities. [Sign up to receive FedEx Regulatory News](#) emails.

For more updates and news about regulatory topics, visit [Regulatory News](#).