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The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Announces Two-Stage Enforcement of the APHIS Core Message Set.

January 27, 2021

Background information

On January 21, 2021, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced an update to the mandatory implementation of U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Core import entry requirements. The full implementation of the APHIS Core message set in CBP's Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) will now occur over a two-stage enforcement period. The two-stage rollout is intended to allow members of the importing trade community to adjust to the new data requirements.

What has changed?

Beginning January 25, 2021, APHIS expects importers of APHIS Core regulated products to begin reporting all required partner government agency (PGA) message set data to CBP via the ACE portal. Failure to report required information at the time of entry filing will result in a warning message being generated via the Automated Broker Interface (ABI). Effective March 15, 2021, the APHIS message set will be fully enforced in ACE, and failure to report required APHIS PGA data will result in ABI rejecting the entry with CBP.

What are the primary impacts of these changes?

From January 25, 2021 through March 14, 2021, a soft enforcement period will allow for shipments of APHIS Core regulated merchandise to continue to their destination even if APHIS PGA data is missing from the entry filed with CBP. For these impacted shipments, a warning message will be received, and additional information may be requested by APHIS after the release of a shipment.

On March 15, 2021, the soft enforcement period will end. Shipments of APHIS Core regulated products will not be eligible for release from the first port of entry until all required information is provided and transmitted via ACE to CBP.

Q&A

Q1: Does this mean that U.S. imports are exempt from APHIS Core requirements until March 15, 2021?

A1: No, existing APHIS Core import requirements remain in effect. The delay of full enforcement until March 15, 2021, is technical only. Members of the importing trade community are expected to begin transmitting the APHIS Core PGA message set in ACE as of January 25, 2021.

Q2: Where can I find additional information on USDA APHIS import requirements?

A2: Refer to the [USDA APHIS Import/Export website](#) for additional information on the requirements for importing animal and plant products subject to APHIS regulations.

References: (See examples below – text should be linked)

[APHIS ACE Information website](#)

[Cargo Systems Messaging Service \(CSMS #45773761\) update to rollout of APHIS Core](#)

[Federal Register Notice \(85 FR 60756\) timeline for enforcing APHIS Core message set](#)

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