

APHIS Veterinary Services Commodity Examples for Express Couriers

Speaker 1: This webinar describes examples of APHIS Veterinary Services regulated commodities imported via express courier and or hand-carried specimens and how these commodities may be filed within the Department of Homeland Security's new electronic system called the Automated Commercial Environment or ACE. The express courier will act as the broker/filer for the importation of the commodity/package entrusted to them whether this is for personal or commercial purposes.

Many of the operational processes will remain the same. Import permits will continue to be required and issued by APHIS Veterinary Services national import/export services. Quarantine and inspection of animals, semen, embryos and hatching eggs regulated as live animals, scheduling port inspections and reserving quarantine space at animal import centers will continue to occur directly with Veterinary Services.

Your commodity may be regulated by other federal state and local agencies. Meeting APHIS import requirements does not confer nor imply the commodity has met the requirements of any other federal, state or local agency. For example, bird bells and rodent feeds may be restricted by APHIS Veterinary Services and APHIS plant protection and quarantine. However, since only one message set is required it will need to include all the information required by each program.

It is the responsibility of the broker to properly describe and or manifest commodities including use of the appropriate harmonized tariff schedule code. Necessary information can be obtained from the documentation provided by the U.S. importer. As currently required, all government-to-government certificates must continue to be properly filled out and endorsed and provide the appropriate customs and or APHIS Veterinary Services personnel in the original paper forms.

Previously, admissibility decision making was performed by a manual review of various submitted paper forms. In the world of electronic entry most information on a shipment must now be provided in an electronic format within the Automated Commercial Environment system. There are three methods by which required information can be submitted, the message set, the document image system and by paper. All APHIS Veterinary Services regulated commodities and live animals will require the submission of message set data. Government-to-government certification must continue to be submitted to customs and or APHIS Veterinary Services personnel in the original paper form as is currently required.

USDA APHIS Veterinary Services issued permits such as the VS form 16-6A for animal products, VS 17-135 for live animals, and APHIS form 2006 permits for research and evaluation of veterinary biologics are now available to customs through a direct link from USDA to ACE, and paper documents are no longer required to be submitted by the filer. However, the permit number must be submitted in the message set in order

to ensure the correct permit can be found by the ACE system. A paper version of this VS 17-135 may continue to be submitted in paper with the shipments. Other documentation such as the VS 17-29, which is the declaration of importation for live animals, manufacturer statements, ingredient lists, labels, invoices and other proof of origin and shipping documents may be submitted through the document image system.

The following information is VS program-wide and is the minimum data that must be provided to the express courier by the client/importer for entry into the message set. Failure to provide required information may result in delay of release of the shipment. When shipment information is entered into the message set it must include coding which directs the information to the agency and program unit commissioned with regulatory authority over that commodity. For imports of commodities regulated by APHIS the government agency code is APH. For commodities regulated by APHIS Veterinary Services the government agency program code is AVS. To ensure appropriate regulatory requirements are applied it is imperative that the correct harmonized tariff schedule HTS code is provided with the shipment.

The category code or AP code identifies the shipment as being within either the live animal category or the animal products category and assists with proper routing of the shipment. For example, semen, embryos and cloning tissues used to produce a living animal are permitted under the VS form 17-135 and must be routed to APHIS port veterinarians. Semen, embryos and cloning tissues used for research purposes that do not result in the production of a live animal are permitted under the VS form 16-6A and are routed to customs and border protection agricultural specialists for document review. Veterinary biologics such as veterinary vaccines or veterinary diagnostic kits are permitted under the APHIS form 2006 and are routed to customs and border protection agricultural specialists for document review and movement to a quarantine location. The category type code further identifies the commodity to ensure it complies with corresponding permit requirements. A list of Veterinary Services category codes or AP codes can be found in appendix PGA.

The permit number must be submitted in the message set in order to ensure the correct permit can be found by the ACE system. The health certificate number is a unique identifier and allows customs agents to match the submitted original paper document with the appropriate message set. Depending on the type of commodity being imported, the name of the country of origin and or country of export must be provided. Finally, the destination address as listed on the permit must be entered into the message set. This information can also be found on APHIS-required documentation. Individual commodities may require additional data.

These are examples of APHIS Veterinary Services permits VS form 16-6A for products which is on the left and VS 17-135 for live animals which is on the right. The red outlined areas on these documents indicate where you can find required message set information. Additional required information may be found on other shipping documents. As previously stated, APHIS Veterinary Services issued permits are no

longer required to be submitted in paper. However, VS 17-135 permits may continue to accompany live animal shipments as paper documents. Information such as the permit number and permitted destination address are listed on the permit. The permit number can be found in the upper right hand corner of the permit and the permitted destination address can be found under address of permittee on form VS 16-6A and under address of importer on form VS 17-135. The shipper information and commodity description may provide additional information on an as-needed basis.

These are examples of APHIS Veterinary Services permits APHIS form 2006 for veterinary biologics. The red outlined areas on these documents indicate where you can find the required message set information. Additional required information may be found on other shipping documents. APHIS form 2006 permits for research and evaluation of veterinarian biologics do not need to be submitted in paper. This version of the APHIS form 2006 is available to customs through a direct link from USDA to ACE. The permit number must be entered into the message set for customs to view the permit electronically. The permit number can be found in the upper right hand corner of the permit and the permitted address can be found in the body of the permit text. APHIS form 2006 for sales and distribution of veterinary biologics, pictured on the right, must be submitted via the document image system. Failure to provide APHIS form 2006 via the DIS may result in failure of the shipment to be allowed entry.

APHIS form 2006 permits for sales and distribution of veterinary biologics do not have a permit number to be entered into the message set. Information such as the establishment number and permitted destination address, which may be the quarantine site, are listed on the permit and should be entered in the message set. The exporter can be located in the body of the APHIS form 2006 text. The shipper information and commodity description may provide additional information on an as-needed basis.

This is an example of VS form 17-29, declaration of importation for live animals. This document may be submitted by the document image system. However, information contained on the 17-29 may also be of assistance when entering message set data. For example, the type and number of the commodity, importer address, destination address and country of origin are listed on this document. Please note, the entry number must be provided in the remarks section of the form 17-29. This is important in order to ensure the correct ACE entry is associated with the corresponding veterinary services process streamlining (VSPS) documentation. Failure to provide the entry number on forms VS 17-29 may result in delay of release of the shipment.

This is one example of a foreign veterinary health certificate. Foreign veterinarian health certificates vary by country and come in many different formats. Foreign veterinary health certificates may also be referred to zoo sanitary certificates. While the veterinary health certificate itself must continue to be submitted in the original paper form, the certificate number must be provided in the message set. This is important in order to ensure the correct certificate is attached to the corresponding message set and VS permit in the ACE system. Additionally, other information

required in the message set may be found on certificates such as exporter name and address, importer name and address, commodity description, country of export, et cetera.

This slide list the contact information to learn more about USDA APHIS Veterinary Services import requirements and ACE. As described on this slide, please visit our website, call us, or email us to determine import requirements for veterinary services regulated commodities. Please also visit our website or email us if you have any questions about ACE and APHIS. The following commodity examples make reference to the ACE CATAIR appendix PGA and data elements. This document is located at the web address as describe on this slide.

Example one: semen and or embryos. The importation of semen and or embryos may be regulated as a live animal or as an animal product depending on the intended use. It is imperative that the correct harmonized tariff schedule HTS code is provided to ensure appropriate regulatory requirements are applied. Failure to provide the correct HTS code may result in improper routing of the shipment. Improper routing which prevents the required inspection by APHIS Veterinary Services personnel is a violation of the terms and conditions of permits and may result in criminal and civil penalties in accordance with applicable law. In addition, all permits may be canceled and future permit applications denied.

All HTS codes for the importation of semen/embryos can be found in chapter five of the harmonized tariff schedule. If the semen/embryo is being imported for the production of a live animal, then the APHIS Veterinary Services live animal category and category type codes must be used to fully describe this intended use. For semen/embryos for this purpose this would be category type code AP0100 and category type code 116 for production of live animals. If the semen/embryo is being imported for research purposes that will not result in the production of a live animal then the APHIS Veterinary Services animal products category and category type codes must be utilized. For semen/embryos this would be category code AP0300 and category type code 399 for research purposes.

The permit number can be found in the upper right hand corner of all VS issued permits. Please note, permits submitted via the DIS or in paper form will no longer be accepted. The permit number must be submitted in the message set in order to ensure the correct permit can be found by the ACE system. The health certificate number required if the shipment will result in the production of a live animal is a unique identifier and allows customs agents to match the submitted original paper document with the appropriate message set. The manufacturer's statement which is submitted if the shipment will not result in the production of a live animal may be submitted via the document image system.

Continuing with example one, semen and or embryos. The country of origin may be found on the health certificate or manufacturer's statement. The genus and species may be entered by choosing the corresponding category type code or by submitting the taxonomic serial number TSN as a data element. It is not acceptable to enter this

information within the free text box for genus/species. The importer and exporter name and address can be found on various shipping documents including the health certificate. The destination address must be provided. This is the address listed on the import permit as a permittee, which is on the VS form 16-6A for animal products or the importer, which is the address listed on form 17-135 for live animals. This shipment must be sent from the port of arrival directly to this address unless otherwise specified in the permit. Failure to do so is a violation of terms and conditions of the permit and may result in civil and criminal penalties in accordance with applicable law.

If the semen/embryo is intended for production of a live animal additional information is required. This includes the total number of ampules or straws, inspection status, scheduled date of inspection, port of inspection/arrival and donor identification number. This is an example of a permit and health certification for the importation of ovine embryos from Australia. For this example the HTS code used was 0511.99.40.70. The category code would be AP0100 Live Animal. The correct category type code would be 105 OVIS.

Points to remember: VS form 17-29, declaration of importation, must be submitted via the document image system and the CBP entry number must be provided on this document. The CBP entry number can be submitted on the VS 17-29 and VSPS or by providing the information directly to the VS port veterinarian. Importations regulated as live animals include eggs for hatching, embryos and semen for production of a live animal and embryos, gametes, and or other tissues for cloning. Semen, embryos and or other tissues imported for research purposes that do not involve the production of a live animal are regulated as animal products. The original government-issued documents such as the health certificate must continue to accompany this shipment, but the health certificate number must be provided in the message set.

Continuing with this example, if the ovine embryos were being imported as an animal product, which means they were being used for research that did not result in the production of a live animal, the correct category code would be AP0300. The correct category type code would be 309, Animal Byproducts for technical use. In the case of animal products the species of animal must also be entered. However, you will not be able to choose category type code 105 because that is for live animals. You must choose the appropriate species from the list provided for all animal product entries. Providing these codes helps ensure proper restrictions and mitigations are applied to your shipment.

Example two: eggs for hatching. There are several possible choices of HTS code that includes eggs for hatching. Choose the one that best fits the species and intended use of the eggs. All HTS codes for the importation of eggs for hatching can be found in chapter four of the harmonized tariff schedule. It is imperative that the correct harmonized tariff schedule code is provided to ensure that all regulatory requirements are applied. Regardless of which HTS code is used, the correct category code for eggs for hatching is AP0100. The correct category type code is AP0114. The permit number can be found in the upper right hand corner of all VS issued permits.

The permit number must be submitted in the message set in order to ensure the correct permit number can be found by the ACE system.

The health certificate number is required and is a unique identifier that allows customs agents match the original paper document with the appropriate message set. The country of origin of the eggs must be provided. Additional required information includes the total number of eggs, the genus and species, the importer/exporter name and address, the destination address, the inspection status, the scheduled date of inspection and the port of arrival/inspection. Reminder: the genus and species may be entered by entering the information into the genus/species free text box or by submitting the taxonomic serial number as a data element. It is not acceptable to enter the taxonomic serial number within the free text box for genus/species.

Example three: live fish. There are several possible choices of HTS codes that include live fish. Choose the one that best describes the species and intended use of the fish. All HTS codes for the importation of live fish can be found in chapter three of the harmonized tariff schedule. Regardless of which HTS code is used the correct category code for live fish is AP0100 and the correct category type code is AP0119. As with the previous example, the permit number, health certificate number, country of origin, total number of fish, genus and species, importer and exporter name and address, destination address, inspection status, scheduled date of inspection and port of inspection/arrival must be provided.

Example four: Pet food/animal feed. Commodities intended for animal consumption sent via express courier are considered a commercial shipment even if intended for personal use and not for sales or distribution. Please provide the correct ten digit HTS code. All HTS codes for the importation of animal feed and pet food/chews/treats can be found in chapter 23 of the harmonized tariff scheduled. Regardless of which HTS code is used correct category code for products intended for animal consumption is AP0300 and the correct article category type code is AP0305, Animal Consumption Products. As with the previous example, the permit number, health certificate number, if required by the permit, country of export, actual quantity imported, importer name and address, shipper/exporter name and address and destination address must be provided and can be found on the shipping documents.

The manufacturer statement, if required by the permit, must be submitted by the document image system. If the permit limits the shipment to a specific commodity type, please see the permit commodity description, then this information must also be provided. This may include the species from which the animal origin materials contained within the product are derived from and or the type of commodity, for example, canned, pouched, semi-moist, dry kibbled, et cetera.

Example five: Commodities intended for human consumption. Commodities intended for human consumption sent via express courier are considered commercial shipments even if intended for personal use and are not for sales or distribution. The correct ten digit HTS code must be provided. Regardless of the HTS code used the

correct category code for this commodity is AP0300. The article category type code will depend varying on the type of commodity being imported. 301 is for meat and poultry and commodities containing meat and poultry. 302 is for milk and milk products. 303 is for eggs and eggs products, and 304 is for commodities containing egg and or egg product and or milk and or milk products. Reminder: additional information and detailed description of article category type codes can be found in the ACE CATAIR appendix PGA.

As with previous examples, the permit number, health certificate number, if required, country of export, country of origin or manufacture, the actual quantity imported, the importer name and address and shipper/exporter name and address must be provided. All this information can be found on the shipping document. If the permit limits the shipment to a specific commodity type then this information must also be provided. This may include the species from which the product and or animal origin materials contained within the product are derived from and or the type of commodity such as ham, sausage, bouillon, etc.

Example six: hand-carried specimens and trophies. Code 9705.00.0091 is the correct HTS code for all trophies and hand-carried specimens intended for research purposes and or display in museum or educational facilities. This does not include specimens intended to be sold to museums or educational facilities. Sales and distribution of museum or educational specimens requires a USDA veterinary services import permit. The correct category code for animal specimen/trophies is AP0300. The article category type code will vary depending on intended use. For research or other technical uses choose code 309. For museum, educational or personal display choose code 316. If the shipment is for technical/research uses a USDA veterinary services import permit is required. As with previous examples the permit number, country of export, country of origin, importer name and address and destination address must be provided. The manufacturer's statement or letter of authorization, if required by the permit, must be submitted via the document image system.

Example seven: Cell cultures and their products. The correct ten digit HTS code must be provided. Regardless of which HTS code is use the correct category code for cell cultures and their products is AP0300. The correct article category type code for cell cultures and their products is 309. The species of animal from which the materials have been derived must be included. For a listing of species please see the ACE CATAIR appendix PGA, APHIS characteristics animal products and byproducts and choose the code which corresponds to the species from which the materials have been derived. When required, the permit number, health certificate number, country of export, country of origin, importer name and address and shipper/exporter name and address and destination address including the building and room numbers must be provided.

Example eight: Veterinary biologics for research and evaluation. The correct ten digit HTS code must be provided. Regardless of which HTS code is used the correct category code for products veterinary biologics is AP0300. The correct article category type code, if veterinary biologics, is 307. The permit number, health certificate

number, country of export, country of origin, importer name and address, exporter name and address, producer's name and address, if different from the exporter, and destination address, including the building number, must be provided.

Example nine: Veterinary biologics for sales and distribution. The correct ten digit HTS code for veterinary vaccines is 3002.30.0000. If the commodity you are importing is not a veterinary vaccine you must provide the correct harmonized tariff schedule code. Regardless of which HTS code is used, the correct category code for veterinary biologics is AP0300. The correct article category type code for veterinary biologics is 307. The producer/manufacturer name and address as well as the destination/quarantine address must be provided in the message set.

As a reminder, sales and distribution permits for veterinary biologics, which is the APHIS form 2006, must be submitted by the document image system. APHIS for 2006 permits for sales and distribution of veterinary biologics are not available electronically in ACE. Failure to provide the APHIS form 2006 via the DIS may result in failure of the shipment to be allowed entry. That concludes this webinar. Please give us a call, visit our website or email us if you have any questions regarding the import requirements for USDA APHIS VS regulated commodities. Please also give us an email if you have any questions regarding ACE and APHIS.