

USDA has decided to extend the temporary grace period policy which allows, wherever possible, continuation of a grace period of up to six months after the inspection expiration date (ending no later than December 31, 2022) to continue VS certificate endorsements and for some facilities to supply materials. This grace period either ends on December **31, 2022**, or **18 months** after the facility's relevant last validated inspection date, whichever comes **first**. As previously requested, they encourage you to use caution in how this information is shared with your members so they do not think it means everyone should wait until December 2022 to request inspections. They urge everyone to stay on their annual schedule to the extent possible.

*This temporary policy does not mean that all facilities are automatically either granted a 6-month extension or are automatically eligible for certificate endorsement until December 31, 2022. Industry members should check with their service center to verify whether the temporary policy applies to their specific commodities and destination countries.*

For specific questions, please encourage you should reach out to your local Service Center for additional guidance and clarifications.