

Dear Industry Leaders,

We are writing to inform you that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services is updating the VS Form 16-4 (Export Certificate for Animal Products) for the first time since March 2010. The new JUL 2022 version is similar to the previous version except in that the following statement is no longer pre-printed on the certificate: *This is to certify that rinderpest, foot-and-mouth disease, classical swine fever, swine vesicular disease, African swine fever, and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia do not exist in the United States of America.* For most exports, initially this statement should be placed as the first sentence in the “ADDITIONAL DECLARATIONS” section of the form pending verifications of specific scenarios where the importing country does not require the addition. Exceptions will be specified on the country specific International Regulations (IREgs) for Animal Product Export webpages as they are verified.

Fillable versions of the new JUL 2022 versions of the new VS Form 16-4 and its updated continuation page, the VS Form 16-4A are available on the main IREgs export products page (https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/export/iregs-for-animal-product-exports/ct_iregs_animal_product_exports_home) from selecting “VS Export Certificates and Instructions”:

[VS Form 16-4](#) (pdf 130kb)*

[VS Form 16-4A](#) (pdf 99kb)

[Combined VS form 16-4 and VS form 16-4A](#) - (pdf 192kb)*

These posted versions currently have the *“This is to certify that rinderpest, foot-and-mouth disease, classical swine fever, swine vesicular disease, African swine fever, and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia do not exist in the United States of America”* text inserted as the first sentence in the “ADDITIONAL DECLARATIONS” area. The sentence should be left prior to any other required additional declarations unless the relevant commodity specific IREG page indicates that it should be removed (or that an alternative statement should be utilized), in which case it can be removed. Please advise your members to utilize only the new JUL 2022 versions of the VS Form 16-4 and VS Form 16-4A moving forward. APHIS is informing our trading partners that either the MAR 2010 or JUL 2022 versions may be endorsed until June 4, 2023, and after that time only the JUL 2022 versions will be endorsed. However, due to the 30-day validity of the certificate and potentially extended shipment transit times, APHIS has asked that our trading partners inform their port officials to accept either version of the form until September 4, 2023.

The updating of the forms will have no effect on exports where the VS Form 16-4 is not utilized, such as to the European Union, and other countries which require other types of certificates.

If your members have any questions, they should reach out to their local [Veterinary Services service center](#) who will be prepared to provide all necessary assistance.



Linda J. Buss, DVM
Director, Animal Products Exports (APE)
USDA APHIS Veterinary Services

Strategy & Policy
Animal Product Import and Export

Cell: 501-993-1782 *preferred

Office: 301-851-4135

linda.buss@usda.gov