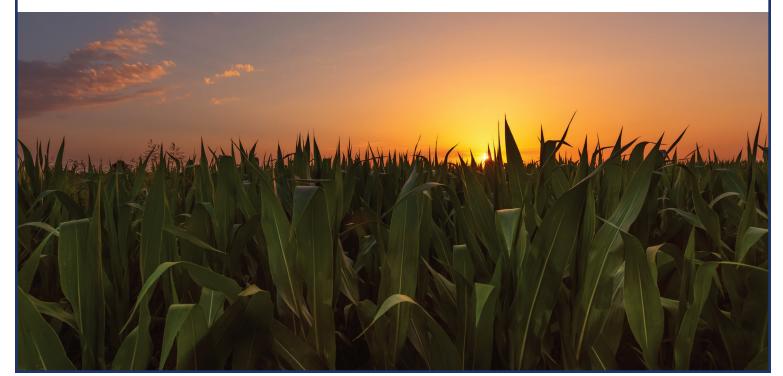# APHIS Core Resources

APHIS Core Background

Beginning August 3, 2020, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will require filing of "Core" partner government agency (PGA) data in ACE. According to the Federal Register notice, "On that date, APHIS intends to begin applying Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) flags, which will alert filers who opt to submit data electronically whether APHIS import data is or may be required. Importers or brokers using ACE must enter APHIS-required import data when they receive an APHIS-specific HTS flag in order to complete their entry in the system."

The APHIS Core Message Set includes Plant Protection & Quarantine (APQ), Veterinary Services (AVS), Biological Regulatory Services (ABS), and Animal Care (AAC) programs. This requirement means that Customs entries of APHIS-regulated plants, plant products, animal products, or live dog imports will need to use the APHIS Core Message Set to provide APHIS-required import data for those items. At this time, the import of other live animals is not included in the requirement. Importers and brokers must submit required data for APHIS-regulated products regardless of the size or value of the shipment.

In a January communication, APHIS shared that "with access to more information about incoming agricultural products, APHIS and CBP can focus on shipments that pose a higher risk of introducing pests or diseases." Furthermore, APHIS anticipates moving to electronic processing will help them "troubleshoot any issues *before* they cause delays at the port of entry, resulting in fewer holds and faster release times."

APHIS General Resources

- APHIS eFile is a platform used to support APHIS regulatory activities, such as permitting, registrations, and obtaining licenses.
- Subscribe to receive APHIS Stakeholder Registry emails to get the latest regulatory information. Your subscription can also be changed or canceled via this site.

ACE Resources

- [APHIS Imports and Exports](#) page provides import and export information, exemptions, entry types where APHIS Core flagging is enforced, and a full list of CBP Appendices referenced for APHIS.
- [APHIS Automated Commercial Environment](#) (ACE) details ACE and the APHIS Core Message Set.
  - Importer specific preparedness: [APHIS ACE Information for Importers](#)
- The [APHIS ACE Information for Brokers & Self-Filers](#) page provides a list of FAQ and Resources:
  - Resources from APHIS:
    - [When to Submit an APHIS Core Message Set, by Entry Type, in the Automated Commercial Environment](#)
    - [APHIS Core Message Set Guidance Webinars](#)
    - [Harmonized Tariff Code Master Correlation Table for APHIS Core Message Set](#) (Excel version of the Harmonized Tariff Code Master Correlation Table found in the APHIS Core Supplemental Trade Guide.)
  - Resources from CBP:
    - [ACE and Automated Systems](#)
    - [ACE Frequently Asked Questions](#)
    - [ACE Automated Broker Interface (ABI) and CBP and Trade Automated Interface Require-ments](#) (To access the APHIS Core implementation guide, click on "Chapters: PGA Message Set" and scroll down to "Implementation Guidelines: Ready for Coding.")
      - Note that APHIS Lacey Act is covered in a [separate guide](#), not the APHIS Core guide.
    - [ACE Appendix PGA](#)
    - [Appendix C - Tariff Abbreviations](#)
    - [Appendix R: Intended Use Codes for ACE](#)
    - [ACE PGA Forms List-Imports](#)

Veterinary Services

- *Regulated Live Animals*- APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) inspects and reviews documentation for VS-regulated live animals directly at ports of arrival and requires shipment-specific information to be submitted into [Veterinary Services Process Streamlining (VSPS)](#) for import clearance. Data for live animals, other than dogs, should be submitted via VSPS and not APHIS Core. The VSPS site also includes some tips and helpful resources.
  - [Steps to using VSPS as an Importer or a Broker](#).
- *Animal & Related Animal Products*- The [Veterinary Services Permitting Assistant VSPA](#) is a search and filter tool that helps applicants easily determine their import requirements for animal products. Specifics about VSPA:

  - Provides guidance on APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) requirements for international import and international transit of animal-origin material, and

  - Applicants can obtain a summary of required import documentation, certificates, informational letters, and more.

  - It is continuously updated to ensure it accurately represents VS regulations, but at this time only provides guidance on single and separate animal materials.

  - Once you determine that a permit is needed, and how your Request Summary is organized, apply for a VS 16-3 application(s) using [ePermits](#).

- [APHIS VS List of Low Risk and Exempted Animal Origin Ingredients and Products](#) is a guide for commodities or animal ingredients that do not require an APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) import permit but can enter the United States utilizing specific documentation, as required by APHIS VS.

- The [Animal Products that Do Not Require an Import Permit page](#) provides a list of materials that do not require a USDA import permit, along with applicable guidelines and procedures.
- [APHIS' Animal Health](#) provides links to Program Priorities with both import and export information.

* The import procedures for cattle at the US Southern Border are vastly different than at the US Northern Border.

Biologicals

- The [Federal Select Agent Program](#) oversees the possession, use, and transfer of biological select agents and toxins, which have the potential to pose a severe threat to public, animal or plant health, or to animal or plant products.
- Federal, international, and state laws strictly regulate shipping, transport, and import of biological materials. CBP's [What You Need to Know Before Importing Biological Materials into the United States](#) provides guidance regarding hand-carried material of this nature (unless filing in ACE).

Training

- The [VSPS Library](#) provides manuals and VSPS trainings available.

- [Manuals](#): Plant Protection and Quarantine Manuals, categorized by Commodity Import and Export Manuals and Domestic Program and Emergency Response Manuals.
  - Other Quick References accessible on the page are the Animal Product Manual, Fruits and Vegetables Import Requirements (FAVIR) Online Database, Plants for Planting Manual, Export Program Manual, and Miscellaneous and Processed Products Manual.

Contact Information

APHIS Core Message Set | Customer Service Center: 1-844-820-2234/ACE.ITDS@usda.gov

Animal Product Materials | APHIS Veterinary Services: 1-301-851-3300/APIE@usda.gov

APHIS Customer Service, Regulatory and Policy, Import/Export Services | [Contact Us Page](#)