

Permits for the Import or Export of Biological Materials

It is common, and often necessary, to transfer biological materials while conducting biological research. Because of this, it is important to know that the movement of certain categories of biological agents is tightly regulated by federal agencies such as the CDC, USDA, APHIS, etc. Failure to comply with regulations when transporting regulated biological materials may result in shipment delays or destruction at the port of entry, refusal of the shipment by carriers, and may be subject to fines and/or criminal penalties. This page will help you to determine if you need a permit, and if so, what kind of permit. Some materials may require multiple permits. Based on the type of material being imported, the CDC or USDA/APHIS may require a facility inspection prior to issuance of a permit.

CDC Import Permit

The CDC Import Permit Program, or IPP, regulates the importation of infectious biological materials:

- Infectious biological agents,
- Materials known or reasonably expected to contain an infectious agent
- Vectors of human disease (e.g., mosquitoes, ticks, bats)



The program ensures that the importation of these agents is monitored and that facilities receiving permits have appropriate biosafety measures in place to work with the imported agents.

Importation permits are issued only to the importer, who must be located in the United States. Additionally, the importer is legally responsible to ensure that the import-permitted material is packaged and shipped in accordance with all applicable shipping regulations by the party initiating the shipment.

If you are unsure if you need a CDC Import permit, go here for more information:
<https://www.cdc.gov/cpr/ipp/docs/DoYouNeedanImportPermitFactSheetFINAL.pdf>
And contact the Dartmouth Biosafety Officer.

More information & details can be found here:

- [CDC Import FAQ](#)
- <https://www.cdc.gov/cpr/ipp/resources.htm>

USDA (United States Dept. of Agriculture) APHIS (Animal & Plant Health Inspection Services)

USDA APHIS issues permits to ensure the safe import and transport of materials related to the health and care of animals and plants, especially those that are vital agricultural commodities. These permits outline the controls necessary for the import, export, interstate transport and release of these regulated products.

The Veterinary Services branch of USDA APHIS issues the Veterinary Services (VS) Import, Export or Transport permits and the Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) branch of APHIS issues the PPQ permit. APHIS also regulates the movement of certain genetically engineered organisms through its Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS). VS permits have a service charge of \$137, though this price can vary depending on number of revisions reviewed, need for facilities inspections, etc. There is no service charge for PPQ or BRS permits.

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/organisms-vectors/ct_organisms_and_vectors



A VS permit is required for organisms and vectors that can cause pathogenic diseases in livestock and poultry:

- Certain live animals and animal products
- Specimens from animals infected with pathogens or exposed to pathogens or vectors
- Livestock and poultry pathogens.
- Cell cultures or cell culture products exposed to organisms that cause disease in livestock or poultry.
- Vectors that can serve as the carrier of or have been exposed to an infectious disease of livestock or poultry
- Human viruses and human vaccines intended for research use in livestock or poultry
- Attenuated live viruses and vaccine strains for use in livestock or poultry

A partial list of regulated animal pathogens can be found [here](#).

A list of materials that **do not** require a USDA VS permit can be found [here](#).

A Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ permit) is required for the importation into and transit through the U.S. of regulated plants and plant products for consumption or propagation: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/ppq-program-overview>

- **Organisms in soil**
 - Insects, mites, bees, butterflies, moths
 - Earthworms, slugs, snails
 - Plant pathogenic bacteria, viruses, fungi, mycoplasmas, and nematodes
 - Federal noxious weeds and parasitic plants
 - Biocontrol organisms & entomopathogens
 - Plant growth enhancers
 - Widely prevalent regulated organisms
 - Soil of foreign origin

- **Plants and plant products**
 - Plants, nursery stock, and seeds for planting
 - Fruits and vegetables, rice, maize, sugarcane, foreign cotton, cut flowers
 - Timber and timber products
 - Plants or plant products for experimental, therapeutic, or developmental purposes
 - Post-entry quarantine plants
 - Protected or rare plant species ([CITES](#))

A BRS permit is required for genetically engineered organisms:

- Genetically engineered plants, insects, or microbes that may pose a plant pest risk
 - [BRS Permit User's Guide \(PDF\)](#)
 - [BRS Permits page](#)

US Fish & Wildlife

US Fish and Wildlife permits are required for the import and export of certain live animals, including bats, as well as materials from certain endangered species that are listed under [CITES](#) (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)

More information about US Fish & Wildlife permits can be found here:

<http://www.fws.gov/permits/importexport/importexport.shtml>