

Import Alert: Notification of Requirement for VS Import Permit for Commercial Shipments of Non-Shelf Stable Food Products for Human Consumption Imported from Canada Which Contain Egg/Egg Products as Ingredients

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Effective Date: September 27, 2024

Currently, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) Guideline for Importation # 1122 <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-product-import/no-permit-required> allows for fully finished food products containing egg or egg products as ingredients, which are intended for human consumption and are commercially labeled and packaged and shelf stable (not requiring refrigeration) to be imported without a VS Import Permit or government certification, with proof of shelf-stability*.

Effective September 27, 2024, The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) will require a VS import permit for commercial shipments of non-shelf stable food products for human consumption imported from Canada, which contain egg or egg products as ingredients, and which do not meet the conditions of Guideline #1122.

This permit will be issued to facilitate entry in lieu of Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) issued health certification. The permit will require a signed document from the producer/manufacturer on official company letterhead, which is linked to the shipment and attests to APHIS-Approved highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) inactivation treatments as required on the permit.

This import permit requirement does not apply to food products for human consumption imported from Canada, which contain egg or egg products as ingredients, which are commercially labeled and packaged and shelf stable (not requiring refrigeration) and which meet the conditions of Guideline #1122. These products may be imported unrestricted with proof of shelf stability.

This import permit requirement also does **not** apply to bulk shipments of processed egg products such as liquid eggs, bulk egg powder, and other FSIS regulated products which require the CFIA FA 1024 health certificate.

***Shelf-stable is a condition used to describe a process applied to products rendering the products free of micro-organisms capable of growing in the products under non-refrigerated conditions. In order to meet the shelf-stable exemption for food products for human consumption which contain egg ingredients, as described in Guideline #1122, the label on the product should indicate that refrigeration or freezing is not required, or in lieu of a product label, other documents (e.g., foreign government certification, manufacturer's statement, etc.) must be presented at the time of importation to confirm the products do not require refrigeration or freezing.**

The Animal Product Manual (APM) will be updated to reflect this requirement.

For questions regarding import requirements for imported animal products, animal byproducts and related materials, please contact your local Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), Agriculture Quarantine Inspection Veterinary Medical Officer (AQI VMO).