

2

Agricultural
Clearance

Examining and Monitoring Cargo

Clearing Imported Cargo and Inspecting Cargo Holds

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Introduction

This chapter provides directions, guidelines, and information for examining cargo and inspecting cargo holds.

Policy

The general PPQ policy is to clear all foreign cargo of agricultural interest, including returning military equipment and supplies, at the first port of arrival or first port of unloading. Exceptions to the general policy are noted in *Clearing Transiting In-Bond Cargo* on page 2-2-1. In addition, the completion of AQI Monitoring (AQIM) activities on foreign agricultural cargo is essential to provide valuable risk information and is needed to help create or revise operational strategies for mitigating the pest risk of foreign cargo.

Methods and Procedures

The methods and procedures outlined below deal with the administrative side of the work. For procedures dealing with the physical inspection of the cargo, refer to one of the appropriate manuals listed under *APHIS Manuals* on page 2-1-2.

Materials Needed

You will need access to some of the following items to understand and apply agricultural laws and policies to properly control regulated cargo:

APHIS Manuals

- ◆ Animal Product Manual
- ◆ Clearing Nursery Stock and Flower Bulbs-CBP
- ◆ Cut Flowers and Greenery Import Manual
- ◆ CITES I-II-III Timber Species Manual
- ◆ Miscellaneous and Processed Products Manual
- ◆ Nursery Stock Restrictions (List of Regulated Propagative Material) and Nursery Stock, Seeds and Bulbs Regulation
- ◆ PPQ Treatment Manual
- ◆ Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Import Manual
- ◆ Seed Not for Planting

Other Materials

- ◆ APHIS website
- ◆ AQIM sampling schedule and data worksheets
- ◆ Automated Cargo System (ACS) computer and reference manuals
- ◆ CBP Agricultural Alerts and Notices
- ◆ *CBP Form AI-212, Agriculture Inspection Hold*
- ◆ Flashlight

- ◆ Latex gloves
- ◆ Port guidelines for holding miscellaneous cargo
- ◆ Quarantine material tags, tape, and stickers
- ◆ Strip (Tyden), strap, or button seals
- ◆ Various forms (refer to *Appendix A*)

Local Variations

Because of the differences in local practices, the operational methods of controlling cargo may vary from port to port. The electronic transfer of the Customs entry Automated Cargo System (ACS) has changed the method of holding cargo at many ports. The use of automated CBP systems, CBP release programs, and other CBP initiatives may vary from location to location.

Reviewing Cargo Documents

Review as soon as possible the cargo documents, such as manifests, air waybills, bills of lading, PPQ Form 203 (Foreign Site Certificate of Inspection and/or Treatment), Notice of Arrival, Customs entry Form 3461, invoices, APHIS permits, sanitary and phytosanitary certificates, and vessel reports. Look for and note items of agricultural interest. To determine what items are regulated specifically by law, statute or regulation (i.e., prohibited or restricted items), refer to any of the following documents, available online:

- ◆ *APHIS Manuals* on page 2-1-2
- ◆ Port guidelines for holding miscellaneous types of cargo

Holding nonregulated, miscellaneous cargo for assessment of pest risk, including hitchhiking pests and misclassification, is also supported. Follow local management guidelines. While reviewing the cargo documents, determine what cargo will remain on the conveyance (residue cargo) and what cargo will be off-loaded.

Holding Cargo of Agricultural Interest

Depending on local practice, hold all cargo of agricultural interest, using the Automated Cargo System (ACS), Automated Targeting System (ATS), or *CBP Form AI-212, Agriculture Inspection Hold* on page A-1-33.

By placing a hold on the cargo, you are informing the carrier and the other parties involved in the importation (broker, freight forwarder, importer) that the cargo is being restricted for agricultural reasons and should not be released until CBP has authorized the release.

Completing CBP Form AI-212, Agriculture Inspection Hold

Use CBP Form AI-212 only in the event that the automated CBP systems for holding cargo are not operational or the commercial carrier is unable to receive the cargo hold information electronically. CBP Form AI-212, Agriculture Inspection Hold, serves the following three purposes:

1. Record of cargo held or cargo that is of interest
2. Warning, hold, information, and clearance document when stapled to the front of the manifest or other cargo listing used by CBP or the air freight clerk
3. Combination worksheet and port record

CBP Form AI-212 is a worksheet for local use in holding cargo. Completing CBP Form AI-212 varies from port to port depending on the information needed at each port. Fill in the information as required by local practice at your port (see *CBP Form AI-212, Agriculture Inspection Hold* on page A-1-33 for directions on completing the form).

Inspecting Non-precleared Cargo

Non-precleared cargo of agricultural interest may consist of either *Plant Material* or *Animal Material*.

Plant Material

Plant material may be either propagative or nonpropagative.

Propagative Plant Material

Propagative plant material is typically inspected by USDA-APHIS. Refer to **Table 2-1-1** below.

TABLE 2-1-1: Determine Which Shipments of Propagative Materials to Send to a Plant Inspection Station

If the material is:	And is:	Then:
Identified with a green and yellow label (PPQ Form 508)	—————▶	SAFEGUARD ¹ and SEND ² to the Plant Inspection Station listed on the permit or permit label, along with all the accompanying documentation ³
Prohibited by Federal Regulation (refer to the List of Regulated Propagative Material in the Nursery Stock Restrictions Manual)	Accompanied by a departmental, postentry, or plant pest permit	
	Not accompanied by a departmental, postentry, or plant pest permit	PROHIBIT ENTRY
A small lot of seed	Accompanied by a small lots of seed permit	SAFEGUARD ¹ and SEND ² to the Plant Inspection Station listed on the permit or permit label, along with all the accompanying documentation ³
	Not accompanied by a small lots of seed permit	GO to Table 2-1-2 on page-2-1-6
Neither prohibited nor a small lot of seed	—————▶	

- 1 The plant material must be stored in a CBP restricted access area.
- 2 The importer is responsible for making arrangements, and for the cost of forwarding the materials to the plant inspection station. The importer is also responsible for making arrangements for picking up or shipping the propagative materials after they have been released.
- 3 See **Appendix O** for a list of plant inspection stations.

TABLE 2-1-2: Determine Which Shipments of Non-prohibited Propagative Materials to Send to a Plant Inspection Station

If origin is:	And is:	And is:	Then:
Canadian	Admissible with a written permit issued by USDA-APHIS ¹	Accompanied by the permit and a phytosanitary certificate or one of the following forms (unless the permit states that a phytosanitary certificate is not required): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ CFIA Form 5309 ◆ CFIA Form 5289 ◆ PPQ Form 925 	INSPECT and RELEASE
		Not accompanied by the permit and phytosanitary certificate or one of the forms used in lieu of the phytosanitary certificate listed above	PROHIBIT ENTRY
	Is admissible without a written USDA-APHIS permit	Accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate or one of the forms used in lieu of the phytosanitary certificate listed above	INSPECT and RELEASE
		Not accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate or one of the forms used in lieu of the phytosanitary certificate listed above	PROHIBIT ENTRY
Other than Canadian	Admissible with a written permit issued by USDA-APHIS ²	Accompanied by a copy of the phytosanitary certificate issued by the country of origin	SAFEGUARD ³ and SEND ⁴ to the Plant Inspection Station listed on the permit or permit label, along with all the accompanying documentation ⁵
		Not accompanied by a copy of the phytosanitary certificate issued by the country of origin	PROHIBIT ENTRY
	Admissible without a written permit issued by USDA-APHIS	Accompanied by a copy of the phytosanitary certificate issued by the country of origin	INSPECT and RELEASE
		Not accompanied by a copy of the phytosanitary certificate issued by the country of origin	PROHIBIT ENTRY

- 1 A shipment from Canada requires a written permit if it contains **any** of the following:
 - ◆ Articles that require a Postentry Permit
 - ◆ Plants regulated by CITES or ESA
 - ◆ Articles that require treatment as a condition of entry
 - ◆ Articles (except seeds) of *Malus*, *Pyrus*, *Prunus*, *Cydonia*, *Chaenomeles*, and/or *Rubus*
 - ◆ Articles (except seeds) of *Castanea* or *Castanopsis* destined to California or Oregon
 - ◆ Articles (except seeds) of *Pinus* (5-leaved), destined to Wisconsin
 - ◆ Articles of *Ribes* destined to Massachusetts, New York, West Virginia, or Wisconsin
 - ◆ Articles (except seeds) of *Planera* or *Zelkova* destined to California, Nevada, or Oregon
 - ◆ Seeds of *Prunus* destined to Colorado, Michigan, New York, Washington or West Virginia
 - ◆ Articles (except seeds) of *Vitis* destined to California, New York, Ohio, Oregon and Washington
 - ◆ Articles (except seeds) of *Corylus* from provinces east of Manitoba and destined to Oregon or Washington
 - ◆ Articles (except seeds) of *Pinus*
 - ◆ Articles (except seeds) of *Ulmus* destined to California, Nevada or Oregon
- 2 A shipment from any country **other than** Canada requires a written permit if it contains **any** of the following:
 - ◆ Articles that require a Postentry Permit
 - ◆ Plants regulated by CITES or ESA
 - ◆ Articles that require treatment as a condition of entry
 - ◆ Lots of 13 or more articles (other than seeds, bulbs or sterile cultures of orchid plants)
 - ◆ Seeds of woody plants (trees or shrubs)
 - ◆ Bulbs of *Allium sativum*, *Crocsmia*, *Gladiolus* and *Watsonia* from New Zealand
 - ◆ Articles of *Cocos nucifera* (coconut)
 - ◆ Articles (except seeds) of *Dianthus* spp.
 - ◆ Articles (except seeds) of *Castanea* or *Castanopsis* destined to California or Oregon
 - ◆ Articles (except seeds) of *Pinus* (5-leaved), destined to Wisconsin
 - ◆ Articles (except seeds) of *Planera* or *Zelkova* from Europe, St. Pierre Island, or Miquelon Island, and destined to California, Nevada, or Oregon
 - ◆ *Solanum tuberosum* true seed from New Zealand and the area of Chile between 39 degrees and 44 degrees South latitude
- 3 The plant material must be stored in a CBP limited access area.
- 4 The importer is responsible for making arrangements, and for the cost of forwarding the materials to the plant inspection station. The importer is also responsible for making arrangements for picking up or shipping the propagative materials after they have been released.
- 5 See **Appendix O** for a list of plant inspection stations.

Nonpropagative Plant Material

For restricted or unrestricted (admissible) plant material, follow instructions in the appropriate import manual to inspect and regulate plant products appropriately.

Normally prohibited plant products manifested for unloading in the United States may be imported only if approved by a valid Departmental permit. Use **Table 2-1-3** to determine the action to take on items requiring Departmental permits.

TABLE 2-1-3: Determine Action to Take on Cargo Containing Prohibited Nonpropagative Plant Material Requiring a Departmental Permit

If the cargo is:	And it is:	Then:
Approved by a Departmental Permit	Moving to a research facility or educational institution	REVIEW the APHIS import permit conditions and treat the shipment as directed
	Not moving to a research facility or educational institution	FORWARD the shipment to the Plant Inspection Station listed on the permit
Not approved by a Departmental Permit	→	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ SAFEGUARD the shipment ◆ COMPLETE PPQ Form 523, Emergency Action Notification on page A-1-105 ◆ ORDER the item destroyed or reexported

Animal Material

Prohibited cargo may consist of either live animals or animal products and by-products.

Refer to local VS for procedures on safeguarding live animals, including poultry.

Prohibited Cargo: Live Animals, Including Poultry



Do **not** handle live animals, except pet birds or smuggled birds! Use personal protective equipment when handling birds. Refer to local VS for appropriate procedures, especially if the birds are from VS-defined areas considered to be affected with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) (H5N1). Refer to the APM for country disease status or contact your local Plant Protection and Quarantine Veterinary Regulatory Services Agricultural Quarantine Inspection PPQ VRS AQI Veterinarian or a PPQ HQ Staff Veterinarian for current information on VS-defined areas for areas defined as "regionalized countries."

Prohibited Cargo: Animal Products and By-products

If you know there is prohibited material aboard, do not allow off-loading until you are satisfied adequate safeguarding procedures are in place to hold and control the movement of the prohibited material at the port of arrival. If the carrier arrives with prohibited material aboard, take the following action:

1. Safeguard the product until it is disposed of.
2. If contamination is present, refer to **Table 2-1-4** on **page 2-1-8**. After disinfecting, proceed to **3.** below.

TABLE 2-1-4: Action to Take if Contamination is Present

If the carrier is:	Then:
An aircraft	GO to Cleaning and Disinfecting on page 3-2-5 in the chapter Examining Carriers
Other than an aircraft	GO to Cleaning and Disinfecting on page 6-1-5 in the chapter Preventing the Spread of Pests and Diseases

3. Give the consignee these options to complete within specified time frame¹:
 - A. Reexport
 - B. Incinerate to ash
 - C. Sterilize at 212°F internal temperature for 30 minutes

If none of the options are possible, contact Headquarters VRS at 301-734-7633.

4. Issue a violation and complete *PPQ Form 518, Report of Violation* on page A-1-97.
5. Complete PPQ Form 523 (see Table A-1-33 on page-A-1-109 for directions).

Taking Action on Precleared Cargo

Precleared cargo is inspected by APHIS-PPQ or under APHIS-PPQ work plans that are negotiated with the foreign country's National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO). Examples of precleared cargo may include the following commodities:

- ◆ Fresh fruits and vegetables
- ◆ Bulbs for planting
- ◆ Certain seeds
- ◆ Military cargo (with Form DD2855, DD1253, or Label 30-1)



The following procedures **do not** preclude the option at port of entry to monitor or inspect precleared shipments.

Follow these procedures for precleared cargo:

1. For precleared **fruits and vegetables**, make sure that all commodities precleared at foreign site locations are accompanied by *PPQ Form 203, Foreign Site Certificate of Inspection and/or Treatment* on page A-1-65, or a vessel report sent by fax or e-mail that verifies PPQ precleared the shipment.²
2. For precleared **flower bulbs**, refer to Procedures for Clearing Shipments of Flower Bulbs.

¹ Information to be supplied by Dr. Berthoud

² PPQ Form 203 may also be emailed or FAXED by APHIS-IS.

3. For precleared **irradiated articles**, refer to *Special Procedures for Precleared Irradiated Fruits and Vegetables* in the Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Import Manual.
4. For precleared **military cargo**, the following conditions apply:
 - a. USDA APHIS has a permanent preclearance program in the European Command, led by a USDA Advisor. All US military shipments **originating** in Europe are considered precleared.³
 - b. USDA APHIS may preclear military cargo from specific operations and exercises at the request the military. USDA will notify CBP.
 - c. Military cargo will be accompanied by DD Forms 1253, 2855, or Label 30-1.
5. Verify that APHIS and/or carrier seals are intact upon arrival at the first port of entry in the United States. Allow only authorized persons⁴ to remove seals. Follow established protocols for shipments of precleared products with sealing discrepancies entering through a Mexican border port.
6. Confirm that the information and conditions contained on the preclearance form agree with the cargo manifest and/or other Customs entry documents. Verify the seal numbers with the documentation mentioned above.
7. Follow any special instructions such as cold treatment verification, fruit cutting, etc. Then release the cargo without further inspection if the seals are intact and documentation has been verified. If seals are **not** intact, assess a civil penalty against the carrier. See *Seizure of Agricultural Merchandise* on **page 8-1-4**.
8. Monitor unloading of bulk shipments that include both precleared and noncleared cargo to prevent commingling.
9. Ensure the placement of precleared and noncleared cargo in separate areas using **either** of the following methods:
 - a. If there is one warehouse site, remove the precleared cargo before unloading the noncleared cargo. **or**
 - b. If there are separate warehouses or a separation in the warehouse (floor to ceiling and buffer zone), off-load the cargo to the appropriate section.

3 The instructions apply only to the USDA-APHIS European Preclearance Program. Handle broken seals from Mexico issues according to established protocol.

4 Authorized persons include CBP Agriculture Specialists or Officers, PPQ Officers, and agents designated by CBP or APHIS, such as fumigators, bonded warehouse operators, or other government agency employees.

10. When monitoring or inspecting precleared cargo reveals noncompliance and/or additional quarantine action is required, notify APHIS PPQ through appropriate channels. Please report military preclearance noncompliance using the Military Cargo Report in *Appendix A*.

Safeguarding Cargo

Safeguarding is a preventive action for handling, maintaining, or disposing of prohibited or restricted products and articles to eliminate the risk of plant and animal pest and disease dissemination. These commodities are subject to safeguarding when any of the following actions apply:

- ◆ **Not** unloaded, and the products or articles are temporarily in the United States (freight remaining on board (FOB) or residue cargo)
- ◆ Unloaded for transshipment and direct exportation, Immediate Exportation (IE)
- ◆ Unloaded for transportation and exportation (T&E)
- ◆ Unloaded for entry at a subsequent port (for restricted items)



Prohibited and restricted agricultural cargo may not move to free trade zones (FTZ)

Safeguarding is the control, by whatever means, of cargo to prevent plant and animal pest and disease dissemination. When you safeguard, prescribe controls that impose a minimum of impediment but are consistent with preventing pest dissemination. Appraise the actual or suspected plant pest, its suspected mobility under the conditions of transit, and the ecological conditions in the area of transit. Then apply a safeguard appropriate for the pest risk.

EXAMPLE

You find a snail on a 20-foot cargo container. To safeguard the container, you might require a salt barrier or require it to be mounted on a chassis and not allow movement from the container yard. These safeguards would prevent pest dissemination that might occur if the container were placed on the ground or transported to a distant location.

Unloaded cargo may be for entry at the port of arrival/discharge, immediate transit to another port for entry, immediate exit from the port, or transportation and exportation out of the US. Additional restrictions may be placed on animal origin materials.

Use **Table 2-1-5** on **page-2-1-12** to determine action to take after obtaining final destination from Customs documents.

TABLE 2-1-5: Action to Take After Determining Final Destination of Agricultural Regulated Cargo from Customs Documents

If the cargo is of agricultural interest¹ and:	And:	Then:
Transits the United States	The cargo is accompanied by a USDA APHIS issued transit permit for Plants and Plant Products	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. REVIEW and ENFORCE the conditions on the permit 2. GO to <i>Inspecting Cargo Holds</i> on page 2-1-13 3. GO to <i>Clearing Transiting In-Bond Cargo</i> on page 2-2-1
	The cargo lacks a USDA APHIS transit permit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DIRECT the importer to apply for a permit to transit Plants and Plant Products Phone: 1-877-770-5990 or refer to the PPQ permits website 2. GO to Table 2-1-6 on page-2-1-13 after the importer provides proof of application for a permit
Is destined for entry in the United States	The importer, broker, airline representative, or carrier operator requests that CBP allow movement of held cargo to another port for CBP clearance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DIRECT the importer to contact USDA APHIS PPQ Permit Services at 1-877-770-5990 or refer to the PPQ permits website and apply for IT stipulations on their import permit 2. GO to Table 2-2-1 on page-2-2-3
	The importer, broker, airline representative, or carrier operator moves or releases cargo held without CBP authorization	GO to <i>Cargo Violations</i> on page 8-1-2
	The importer, broker, airline representative, or carrier operator requests that CBP allow exportation of cargo on HOLD	ALLOW export out of the U.S. under CBP bond
	The importer, broker, airline representative, or carrier operator does not request either of the above actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. REQUIRE that conditions of entry be met or that inspections are made 2. GO to <i>Documenting Action Taken</i> on page 2-1-16

1. These are procedures for plants and plant products. For procedures on animal products and transiting procedures, including prohibitions, refer to the Animal Product Manual.

TABLE 2-1-6: Action to Take on Agricultural Regulated Cargo with Proof of Application for a USDA APHIS Transit Permit

If the product is:	And:	And:	Then:
Admissible ¹	—————→	—————→	ALLOW to transit
Restricted ²	—————→	—————→	ALLOW to transit only if: 1. Adequate safeguards ³ are in place 2. Transloading ⁴ activity is monitored by an Agriculture Specialist
Prohibited	Moving on an IE bond	No transloading ⁴ activity is necessary for movement to continue	ALLOW to transit only if adequate safeguards ³ are in place
		Transloading ⁴ activity is required or requested for movement to continue	ALLOW to transit only after APHIS permit is issued
	Moving on a T&E bond	—————→	

- 1 Admissible product: an article that if presented for entry, would require inspection only.
- 2 Restricted product: an article that if presented for entry, would be subject to treatment and/or other restrictions in addition to inspection.
- 3 Adequate safeguards means the shipment is packaged or presented in a way that prevents any chance of pests escaping, including: boxes in the shipment or containers undamaged, not leaking, and pests not present upon a visual examination.
- 4 Transloading is a breakdown of pallets, transfers of boxes from container to container, or transfer of pallets from one conveyance to another.

Inspecting Cargo Holds

Inspect self-contained cargo holds that have separate compartments with walls in the following manner:

Inspect each cargo hold separately by selecting a representative sample. Close each hold after selecting the sample.

Refer to **Table 2-1-7 on page-2-1-14.**

TABLE 2-1-7: Action to Take on Pests Found in Holds

If inspection reveals a pest that is:	And the pest is:	And after ID the pest is:	Then:
A hitchhiking pest	Found at large or in open containers	Actionable	REQUIRE action for the contents of the cargo hold
		Not actionable	RELEASE the shipment
	Found in enclosed containers ¹	Actionable	FOLLOW instructions from the USDA-APHIS- PPQ Plant Inspection Station that made the final determination ²
		Not actionable	RELEASE the shipment
Not a hitchhiking pest, but one associated with a host	→	Actionable	FOLLOW instructions from the USDA-APHIS- PPQ Plant Inspection Station that made the final determination ²
		Not actionable	RELEASE the shipment

- 1 For example, cardboard boxes with lids (6 covered sides and reduced number and size ventilation holes).
- 2 The Plant Inspection Station may consider the following factors when action is required and when treatment is selected:
 - ◆ Grower
 - ◆ Lot number
 - ◆ Packing shed designation

Controlling Barge Shipments

Since barges are vessels, you must control all barge shipments that are likely to present a pest risk. One primary interest in barge shipments is unmarked wood packaging materials including dunnage. Regulations for wood packaging materials (WPM) are listed in 7 CFR 319.40-3. Information on regulating WPM is available in the Miscellaneous and Processed Products Manual.

Empty barges may carry dunnage residue. Do **not** allow the discharge of unmarked dunnage, and safeguard infested dunnage on board. If a barge of interest is moving to an inland destination, alert the CBP inland destination about the condition of the dunnage on board.

Determining Where to Inspect the Barge

TABLE 2-1-8: Determine Where to Inspect the Barge

If the barge is:	And the:	And:	Then:
Moving to an inland location that is covered by CBP	CBP office can inspect the incoming barge shipment	→	1. AUTHORIZE MOVEMENT to the inland location for clearance by CBP 2. SEND a copy of the Hold to the inland CBP office
	CBP office can not inspect the incoming barge	→	REQUIRE removal of dunnage for inspection at the port of arrival
Not moving to an inland location that is covered by CBP	Barge is empty	Barge is safely accessible	INSPECT for dunnage
	→	Barge is not safely accessible	REQUIRE removal of dunnage from barge
	Barge is not empty	→	REQUIRE removal of dunnage for inspection

Notice to Inland Ports

Using a compliance agreement may be helpful in controlling unmarked dunnage from barges. When completing a compliance agreement, incorporate the following considerations:

- ◆ Obtain a compliance agreement template from APHIS PPQ
- ◆ Refer to *Completing a Compliance Agreement (PPQ Form 519)* on page 3-1-15
- ◆ Require notification when dunnage is removed
- ◆ Make work plans that include a regular schedule for monitoring

When you intercept a plant pest in properly marked dunnage that is confirmed by USDA APHIS personnel to be quarantine significant and requires a quarantine action, initiate an Emergency Action Notice. If the barge has moved inland, notify CBP at the next port of arrival by providing copies of *PPQ Form 523, Emergency Action Notification* on page A-1-105 and *PPQ Form 309A, Pest Interception Record* on page A-1-90, if needed.

TABLE 2-1-9: Action to Take with Your Findings after Inspection

If:	Then:
Inspection reveals that cargo is infested with quarantine significant organisms	GO to <i>Reshipment of Cargo Infested With Quarantine Significant Organisms</i> on page 2-1-17 (IT and T&E)
Cargo is not infested or has not been inspected	GO to <i>Authorizing Movement of Transportation and Exportation (T&E) Cargo</i> on page 2-2-4

Documenting Action Taken

Document all regulatory action you take in response to a hold placed on cargo. Interested parties may need to know the final action you have taken in response to the hold. A release serves as a notification to interested parties that the cargo has met agricultural requirements or that it is authorized to move. Appropriate actions to be documented are:

- ◆ Caution: Shipment Authorized
- ◆ Inspected and Released
- ◆ Prohibited Entry (cargo destroyed or re-exported)
- ◆ Released for Export
- ◆ Seized
- ◆ Treated and Released

Depending on the method of holding cargo used at your port, document your final regulatory action.

Inform private personnel (air carriers, freight forwarders, clerks, brokers) at the cargo offices of the final regulatory action.

Agricultural Quarantine Activity Systems (AQAS)

Record your inspection data for input into the AQAS web site.

This web site includes databases for:

- ◆ WADS (Work Accomplishment Data System)
- ◆ *PPQ Form 280, Web Based Database* on page A-1-75
- ◆ AQIM

The PPQ 280 is for specific agricultural commodities and Work Accomplishment Data System (WADS) is a tally system for total activities performed by day/month. Both are required systems to use in recording inspection data and totals so PPQ can make risk management priority decisions and policies.

Seized Assets and Case Tracking System (SEACATS)

Initiate seizure case for seized agricultural merchandise.

Reshipment of Cargo Infested With Quarantine Significant Organisms

If the importer requests that cargo infested with quarantine significant organisms be reshipped from the United States to Canada, call PPQ, QPAS at 301-734-8295, through appropriate channels and provide the following information:

- ◆ Confirmed identity and life stage of organism(s)
- ◆ Identity and quantity of infested or infected cargo
- ◆ Identifying marks (such as bill of lading, container number)
- ◆ Origin of cargo
- ◆ Original foreign shipper
- ◆ Consignee (if cargo is moving to Canada or Mexico)

Hold and safeguard the cargo. QPAS will contact their counterparts in Canada and get a reply back to CBP.

TABLE 2-1-10: Determine if Cargo Should Be Reshipped

If the cargo is moving to:	Then:
Canada	HOLD the cargo; Quarantine Policy, Analysis and Support (QPAS) will contact you on the appropriate action to take
Countries other than Canada	ALLOW reshipment of the infested cargo

Special Procedures for Landing Meat Carried as Cargo Aboard U.S. Military Vessels Returning from Foreign Countries

Follow the special procedures in the order that is listed below for landing meat that is carried as cargo aboard U.S. Military vessels that are returning from foreign countries:

1. Supervise the movement of all meat.
2. Allow meat to move only if it is in unopened cartons.
3. Release the meat without restriction if the cartons are marked by the Defense Procurement Services Center (D.P.S.C.) as a product of the United States. If the meat is **not** so marked, continue to 4.
4. Allow movement of meat to take place only within the metropolitan area of the port where the meat is off-loaded.
5. Move meat to refrigeration units.
6. Seal refrigeration units until meat is to be loaded on an outbound vessel for use outside the United States.

- 7.** Break the seals and supervise loading of meat back to vessel's stores when meat sealed in refrigeration units is ready for loading on outbound vessel.
- 8.** Contact Headquarters VRS at 301-734-7633 for approval of any deviations from the above procedures.