

Guideline for Completion of “Did Not Transit” Letterhead Certificate

In accordance with US/ Japan agreements, FSIS must certify that from raw as well as cooked poultry, when certified in non-restricted states, either will not transit any restricted states or if transiting restricted states the applicant must request that the transport vehicle (usually truck or rail car) be sealed before shipment. The applicant must determine the shipping route and request the proper certification.

If it is known at the time of requesting certification that the consignment will not transit any restricted states, the applicant may request FSIS to certify the product at the applicant establishment as in the example below:

[Example 1]

1. *"To the best of FSIS' knowledge, the exported poultry meat did not transit New York, Nebraska, or Virginia before leaving the United States."*

OR

2. *"The container was sealed by FSIS prior to transiting _____ with USDA seal number _____. If Seal number _____ was removed by FSIS, the exported poultry meat did not transit restricted states after the removal in _____."*

If it is known at the time of requesting certification, that the product will transit restricted states, the applicant may request a USDA seal. If the product must be transloaded upon reaching the port of departure, the exporter/applicant must arrange for the seal to be broken after transit through restricted states. The exporter/applicant may request signature of the letterhead certificate from the FSIS program employee breaking the seal. The certificate is completed as in the example below:

[Example 2]

1. *"To the best of FSIS' knowledge, the exported poultry meat did not transit _____ before leaving the United States."*

OR

2. *"The container was sealed by FSIS prior to transiting New York, Nebraska, or Virginia with USDA seal number 123456. If Seal number 123456 was removed by FSIS, the exported poultry meat did not transit restricted states after the removal in California."*