

## Certification Requirements for Pet Foods to Paraguay from the United States

The following certification statements, as applicable, should be provided on a VS Form 16-4 for the export of canned, dry, or semi-moist pet foods containing animal origin ingredients to Paraguay. Product description (product box on VS Form 16-4) should include the species of origin for all animal origin ingredients, as well as the nature of the product.

The export of pet foods to Paraguay requires that an importer authorized by the exporting company be registered by SENACSA, Paraguay's Animal Health authority; such registration may be valid for up to 5 years. While product registrations are also required and are valid for 10 years, they must be renewed yearly through payment of a fee. Product registration requires evidence that the product and the manufacturing company are authorized to produce the product in the United States. These documents must be translated into Spanish and legalized by a Paraguayan consulate. In the case of pet food containing bovine ingredients, SENACSA may require in the product registration additional documentation.

The first (unnumbered) certification statement must be made by APHIS. The remaining, numbered certification statements are to be made on the basis of a notarized affidavit from the manufacturer. Certification statements are provided in English and in Spanish if required. Please see asterisked comments at the end, including \* pertaining to formatting.

The certified pet food products described herein are unlikely to disseminate agents of infectious diseases of domestic animals. *Los alimentos para mascotas descritos en este documento presentan poca posibilidad de diseminar agentes de enfermedades infecciosas para los animales domésticos.*

This office has on file a notarized affidavit from [company name] verifying the accuracy of the statements below. *Esta oficina tiene en sus archivos una declaración juramentada de [nombre de la compañía] certificando la veracidad de las afirmaciones enunciadas a continuación:*

1. All animal origin ingredients in dry, semi-moist and dehydrated pet food products have been heated to a minimum internal temperature of 70<sup>0</sup> C. Canned pet food products have been treated in hermetically sealed containers with an F<sup>0</sup> of 3.0 or more. *Todos los ingredientes de los alimentos secos, semi-húmedos y deshidratados para mascotas han sido calentados a una temperatura interna mínima de 70<sup>0</sup> C. Los alimentos enlatados para mascotas han sido tratados en empaques herméticamente sellados con un F<sup>0</sup> de 3.0, o mayor.*

2. Precautions have been taken to avoid recontamination of the product with pathogenic agents after heat treatment. *Precauciones han sido tomadas para evitar recontaminación del producto con agentes patógenos después del tratamiento con calor.*

3. The product has been packed using new containers and packaging materials in a manner intended to prevent contamination. *El producto ha sido empacado usando empaques nuevos y materiales nuevos de tal manera para prevenir contaminación.*
4. The product is freely sold in the United States as pet food. Product is not intended for human consumption. *El producto se comercializa libremente en los Estados Unidos como alimento para mascotas. El producto no está elaborado para consumo humano.*
5. The product contains no ruminant origin ingredients except (include as applicable) 1) dairy; 2) protein free tallow with a maximum level of insoluble impurities of 0.15% in weight; 3) ovine or bovine (specify) ingredients legally imported from Australia, New Zealand, or other countries (list as applicable) recognized as free of scrapie and negligible risk for bovine spongiform encephalopathy\*\*; 4) bovine ingredients not containing specific BSE risk materials\*\*\*, and 5) hides and skins. *El producto no contiene materiales de origen rumiante excepto (incluir según el caso) 1) lácteos 2) cebo desproteinizado con un nivel máximo de impurezas del 0.15% en peso; 3) ingredientes de origen ovino o bovino legalmente importados de Australia o Nueva Zelanda o de otros países reconocidos libres de prurigo lumbar y de riesgo insignificante para la encefalopatía espongiforme bovina (lista según el caso)\*\*; 4) ingredientes bovinos los cuales no contienen materiales de riesgo específicos para EEB\*\*\*; y 5 cueros y pieles.*
6. Adequate precautions have been taken during processing and storage of the certified products to prevent any commingling or cross-contamination with prohibited ruminant-origin materials. *Se han tomado las debidas precauciones durante el procesamiento y almacenamiento de los productos certificados para evitar contaminación cruzada con ingredientes prohibidos de origen rumiante.*
7. The product has been manufactured in plants authorized by the official competent authority of the United States. *El producto ha sido elaborado en plantas autorizadas por la autoridad oficial correspondiente de los Estados Unidos.*
8. The product has been manufactured in accordance with a U.S. system of laws and regulations designed to validate microbial, physiochemical, and compositional quality. *El producto ha sido elaborado de acuerdo al sistema de leyes y regulaciones de los Estados Unidos diseñadas para validar calidad microbiológica, fisicoquímica y composicional.*
9. The manufacturer maintains records verifying the nutritional and compositional quality of their products. *El fabricante mantiene registros verificando la calidad composicional y nutricional de sus productos.*

\***FORMATTING:** Please be sure that certification statements included on the VS Form 16-4 do NOT cover (are not typed over) the official USDA seal. To provide the required certification statements in both English and Spanish (ifs required), and avoid typing over the official USDA seal, a continuation page to the VS Form 16-4 will be needed. Exporters should include additional statements that will not fit on the VS Form 16-4 on plain bond paper such that it can be copied onto VS Area Office letterhead stationary.

The affidavit line (“This office has on file a notarized affidavit from [insert company name] verifying the accuracy of the statements below:”) should precede the certification statements placed on the continuation page. Both pages of the certificate should be appropriately numbered (i.e., page 1 of 2, page 2 of 2).

\*\* The following countries are considered negligible risk for BSE: Australia, Argentina, Finland, Iceland, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Singapore, Sweden and Uruguay. Updated information available from the World Animal Health Organization, Official Animal Health Status, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (<http://www.oie.int/>).

\*\*\*Bovine ingredients not containing specific risk materials can include meat (including diaphragms, tongue, cheek), offal, tripe, lips, glands, and organs (heart, kidneys, liver)). Age-specific risk materials were removed. Bovine ingredients do not include the following tissues: tonsils and distal ileum (bovine animals of any age originating from zones categorized as controlled risk) and brain, eyes, spinal cord, cranium, and vertebral column (bovine animals over 30 months of age originating from zones categorized as controlled risk). Removal of risk materials includes methods approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or USDA Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS).