

Online Access For Permit Applicants

As part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) overall eGovernment initiative to transform and enhance the delivery of its programs, services, and information, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has implemented an electronic permitting system called ePermits. The ePermits system is a Web-based tool that gives customers online access to agricultural permits.

What Does ePermits Mean for You?

ePermits means no paperwork, no business hours, and no hassles. Switching from a paper-based to a Web-based system also means improved turnaround times and better customer service. ePermits gives APHIS customers the ability to apply for a permit, check its status, and pay application fees online—anytime, anywhere. APHIS customers can save a tremendous amount of time and effort by submitting applications and receiving permits via the ePermits system. The system also enables Federal regulatory officials to issue, track, and rapidly verify the validity of import permits, thus reducing the time and expense for processing and delivering permits.

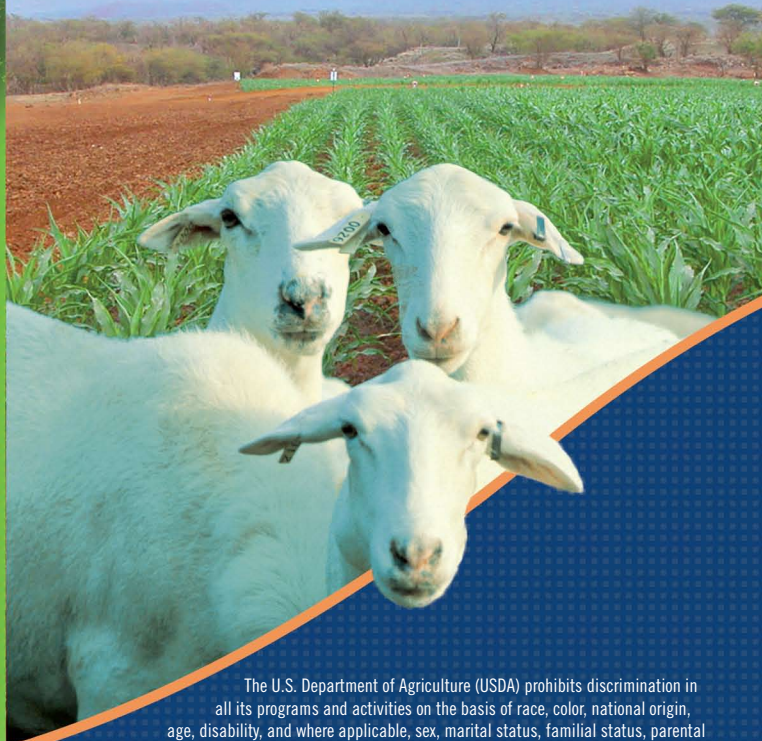


For More Information

For information on ePermits and eAuthentication, please visit APHIS' Web site at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/permits>

If you have additional questions on specific permitting activities, please call the PPQ program at 301-734-0841 or VS program at 301-734-3277. For questions related to BRS permits and notifications, please send an e-mail to biotechquery@aphis.usda.gov.



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Your One-Stop Source for Agriculture Permitting





Who Can Apply?

Currently, customers seeking permits issued by APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), Veterinary Services (VS), and Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) programs can apply online for them through the ePermits system.

Plant Protection and Quarantine

PPQ requires permits for the importation into and transit of plants and plant products through the United States and the importation and interstate movement of plant pests (such as insects, mites, snails, slugs, and plant pathogens), biological control organisms of plant pests, noxious weeds, and soil.

The following PPQ permits are available online:

PPQ Form 525	Application for Permit to Receive Soil
PPQ Form 526	Application for Permit to Move Live Plant Pests or Noxious Weeds
PPQ Form 546	Agreement for Postentry Quarantine State Screening Notice
PPQ Form 585	Application for Permit to Import Timber or Timber Products
PPQ Form 586	Application for Permit to Transit Plants and/or Plant Products Through the United States
PPQ Form 587	Application for Permit to Import Plants or Plant Products
PPQ Form 588	Application for Permit to Import Plants and Plant Products for Experimental Purposes
PPQ Form 621	Application for Protected Plant Permit to Engage in the Business of Importing, Exporting, or Reexporting Terrestrial Plants

VS

Veterinary Services

VS requires permits for the importation of certain animals and animal products. In addition, a VS permit is required for the importation and interstate movement of bacteria, viruses, or prion agents that are disease agents of animals and poultry.

The following VS permits are available online:

VS 16-3	Application to Import or Transport Controlled Material or Organisms or Vectors
VS 16-7	Additional Information for Cell Cultures and Their Products (Supplement to VS 16-3)
VS Notification of On-Hold Shipment	

BRS

Biotechnology Regulatory Services

BRS requires a permit or notification for the importation, interstate movement, and field release of genetically engineered organisms considered to be regulated articles.

The following BRS permits and notifications are available online:

Biotechnology Notifications
Biotechnology Permits

User Registration

To comply with government-wide initiatives, **ePermits** users are required to complete a registration process called eAuthentication. USDA's eAuthentication is a system that enables individuals to obtain user-identification accounts in order to access certain USDA Web applications and services online.

The eAuthentication system identifies and validates USDA customers before they can use participating USDA Web-based business applications. This system provides a unique user-identification code that a USDA Web user can present to any participating USDA Web site. This ensures that customers only have to register once to use USDA online systems, thereby reducing the burden on customers to register for and maintain separate identities for every online system.

An Eye to the Future

APHIS developed the ePermits system as part of an eGovernment effort to improve access, enhance service delivery, and increase internal efficiency through technology-based solutions. The ePermits system is a broad initiative that has been in development for several years and is now being implemented in multiple phases. As part of this ongoing effort, APHIS will continue building on the ePermits system by adding new services and functions to accommodate its customers and improve the Agency's efficiency.

