



United States
Department of
Agriculture

August 17, 2006

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Veterinary Services

National Center for
Import-Export

4700 River Road
Unit 40
Riverdale, MD 20737

Dear Permit Holders, Stakeholders, and Interested Parties:

We are pleased to announce that on July 3, 2006, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), National Center for Import and Export (NCIE), ePermits system will be available to the public. APHIS ePermits is a web-based system designed to improve the VS permit system. Under ePermits, applicants can apply for a permit, track applications, receive notifications, and receive a copy of their permits—all while on the Internet. Visit www.aphis.usda.gov/permits for more information about ePermits.

To apply for a permit for the importation of an animal product, animal by-product, or organism and vector (other than select agents) under e-Permits, you must first register with USDA's eAuthentication. Instructions for registration are provided on the eAuthentication Web site, www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/. Please note that you may register for eAuthentication before July 3rd.

As part of the registration, you must create a Level 2 Access Account. Creating a Level 2 Access Account requires a valid e-mail address and establishment of a customer profile, user identification, and password. Within 7 days after creating the Level 2 Access Account, you will be required to respond to a confirmation e-mail. In addition, you must visit the nearest USDA service center at <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/> or USDA's Area Veterinarian-in-Charge Office at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie/iregs/products/vsavic.pdf> in person to verify your identity with a current State driver's license, State photo identification, U.S. passport, or U.S. military identification.

Alternatively, APHIS representatives have been attending meetings to help stakeholders establish their accounts. APHIS may be able to coordinate your eAuthentication with the travel schedule of its representatives if you are unable to access a USDA service center. For assistance, please contact NCIE at 301-734-3277 or 301-734-5960. Further, the Information Technology Services Service Desk is available to assist you with the eAuthentication system by phone at 800-457-3642 or by e-mail at eAuthHelpDesk@usda.gov.

Sincerely,



Safeguarding American Agriculture

APHIS is an agency of USDA's Marketing and Regulatory Programs
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Federal Relay Service
(Voice/TTY/ASCII/Spanish)
1-800-877-8339

Karen James-Preston, DVM, MPA Director Technical Trade Services Team – Products National Center for Import/Export	Lee Ann Thomas, DVM, MS Director Technical Trade Services Team – Animals, Organisms and Vectors, Select Agents National Center for Import and Export
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