

1. What documentation is needed for every export shipment?

The export application, export certificate, and if necessary, additional documents as required by the importing country. Other documentation for verifying the information on the application or certification is only necessary if there are concerns.

2. What additional types of documentation are appropriate when verifying that export requirements have been met?

Documents from the Export Library, producing establishments, State agencies, APHIS, and the grower are types of documentation appropriate for verifying that requirements have been met.

3. What does an inspection program employee do if he or she needs additional documentation to verify that product has met all foreign country requirements?

An inspection program employee does not sign the application if he or she has reason to believe it is not accurate or complete. He or she informs the applicant of the reason for not signing and what additional information is needed. Time permitting, the inspection program employee may choose to locate the necessary information. However, the inspection program employee should inform the applicant that the process may be expedited if he or she supplies the information.

4. What do certifying officials do if they need additional information before signing the certificate?

First, a certifying official verifies that a certified (signed) application is present and, if not, requests a copy before signing the certificate. He or she compares the application and any additional documentation included with the information on the certificate. If a certifying official feels there are discrepancies, or needs more information, he or she contacts the inspector who signed the application or the applicant. Also, if a certifying official has concerns about disease condition, he or she first consults the Export Library, then the Technical Service Center (TSC). If specific questions still remain after consulting those two sources, he or she contacts the APHIS Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC) for that State. A list of AVIC's is included in the Meat and Poultry Inspection Directory.

As indicated on the application, the applicant is responsible for the truthfulness of the information. However, the certifying official does not sign the certificate if he or she has reason to believe the information is not accurate or complete. If the certifying official does not sign, he or she notifies the applicant as to why and identifies what additional information is needed.

5. Is a VMO's signature required for every export shipment?

No. It depends on the importing country requirements. Refer to the Export Library to determine this.

6. What does an inspection program employee do if product is being exported to a country whose requirements are not reflected in the Export Library?

At the exporter's request, the inspection program employee provides FSIS Form 9060-5, Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness to the exporter. However, the inspection program employee does not include additional certification statements in the "Remarks" section. The inspection program employee may caution the exporter that the foreign country has not provided any additional information regarding products imported from the U.S., and suggest that the exporter work closely with the importer to ensure that the product will be allowed entry accompanied only by the FSIS Form 9060-5.

7. What does an inspection program employee do if the exporter presents an import permit from the importing country stating that additional certification statements are to be included on the health certificate?

The inspection program employee forwards a copy of the import permit to the TSC. The TSC will advise the inspection program employee how to proceed.

8. What does an inspection program employee do if the exporter requests an "in-lieu-of" certificate for product that was intended for one country but will now be exported to another country which requires additional certification?

If the inspection program employee can provide the additional certification, then an "in-lieu-of" certificate is provided, e.g., that the U.S. is a BSE free country. If the additional certification cannot be provided, he or she will not issue an "in-lieu-of" certificate. In this case, the inspection program employee advises the exporter that the product: (1) may be returned to the U.S.; (2) the product may be re-exported to another country where the

product is eligible; or (3) the product may be destroyed. The inspection program employee contacts the TSC for further guidance if necessary.

9. What does an inspection program employee do if an exporter requests an “in-lieu-of” certificate because the product is being consolidated for one consignee and the exporter prefers to provide one export document rather than numerous documents?

An in lieu of certificate can be issued to consolidate 2 or more certificates into one certificate if a single consignee and destination country is requested on the new certificate. The export certificate number of each of the original certificates should be included on the new certificate. Refer to paragraph X of the directive for additional information regarding in lieu of certificates. The inspection program employee contacts the District Office for further guidance.

10. What does an inspection program employee do if an exporter requests an export certificate for product that has already been shipped and has arrived at its foreign destination?

Re-inspection must be performed before an export certificate can be issued, therefore certification cannot be issued. The inspection program employee contacts the TSC for further guidance.