



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

July 6, 2017

1400 Independence
Avenue, SW.
Washington, D.C.
20250

Dear Industry Stakeholder:

As previously [announced](#), FSIS will implement the Public Health Information System (PHIS) automated export application on June 29, 2018. FSIS has posted materials—including YouTube videos and instructions for ordering a compact disk copy of the February 14 and March 27, 2017 export webinars—to its website (see <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/inspection/phish>) to assist you in preparing for implementation.

Attached is the *Preliminary Batch Export XML Specification, Version 0.2* and a new XSD schema. These documents replace the drafts distributed prior to the March 27, 2017 webinar. We have updated the PHIS schema and user interface to improve the system based on feedback we received. Improvements include the ability to use metric units for product weight and to identify product catch weights. The attached will be the final document unless industry testing identifies problems that impede FSIS' ability to re-inspect and verify exported product. It is important that you share this document with those responsible for the development of the export batch schema within your organization.

We are planning a conference call to answer general questions on Export Batching and further discuss Agency plans for testing and technical support. We will notify you with further details when available.

FSIS would like to remind you that all parties doing business in PHIS are required to have electronic Authorization Level 2, which is managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. You can register online and find the steps to complete this process here: <https://www.eauth.usda.gov>.

We encourage you to visit the FSIS website for PHIS - Export information routinely, as we will use it as a means to share updated information. For questions concerning the XSD/XML templates, design, troubleshooting and performance, please send an email to the PHISTechnicalQA@fsis.usda.gov. For questions on PHIS access, contact the FSIS Service Desk at 1-800-473-9135. For export policy questions, please visit askFSIS at <https://askfsis.custhelp.com>.

Thank you for your collaboration as we coordinate efforts to ensure the PHIS Export module is a success.

Sincerely;

William C. Smith
Assistant Administrator, Office of Field Operations
PHIS Executive Sponsor