Import Permit Policies

Guidance for Products Containing Small Amounts of Meat, Poultry or Processed Egg Ingredients
FSIS protects public health:

- Food safety
- Food defense
- Regulation of imported food products
FSIS regulates domestic and imported meat, poultry, and processed egg products.
Meat, poultry, or processed egg product ingredient required to originate from an approved source.

FSIS has supported:
- Customs and Border Protection
- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Food Safety and Inspection Service

APHIS Role

- Regulates imports under the Animal Health Protection Act
- Ensures that exotic animal and poultry diseases are not introduced into the United States.
Application for APHIS Import Permit

- Complete and submit the permit application (VS Form 16-3) to APHIS

- Form may be found on APHIS’ Web site at www.aphis.usda.gov
  - Download and fax to (301) 734-8226.
  - Submitted via ePermits.
Food products that may not pose a threat to animal health and are eligible for VS Form 16-6A may be ineligible for entry into the United States.

Ingredients were not prepared from an approved source.
APPROVED SOURCE

- Prepared under FSIS inspection in the U.S.,

- From a certified establishment in an equivalent country

New Procedures

FSIS will play a direct role in issuance of APHIS permits:

- Permit application submitted to APHIS will be reviewed by FSIS
- Importer will provide FSIS the necessary supporting documentation
- FSIS will communicate directly with the importer if clarification is needed
New Procedures

- Must provide documented evidence to support the origin of the meat and/or poultry ingredient

- Must be supplied before the APHIS permit is issued
Supporting Documentation

- Bill of lading
- Invoice from the producing establishment
- Statement from government agency from which ingredient or product originated
For products containing processed egg ingredients:

- FSIS will not implement procedures for several months
- Must ascertain whether processed eggs or shell eggs are used in the food products
Next 12-18 Months

- Outreach to importers, trade associations, and other interested parties.
- Evaluate trade impacts
- Rulemaking
Questions may be directed to FSIS at permits@fsis.usda.gov or at (888)-287-7194
FSIS will continue surveillance of product that has entered the U.S.

- Both products that requireAPHIS permits and products that do not require an APHIS permit

- Importer will need to provide, upon request, supporting documentation to demonstrate the meat or poultry ingredient came from an approved source
Importer responsible for obtaining any required authorization from APHIS

Meat, poultry or egg product ingredients used in FSIS-exempted products must be prepared under FSIS inspection or under an approved foreign inspection system

Contact permits@fsis.usda.gov; (888) 287-7194.