

**PORT (TRADE)
INFORMATION
NOTICE**NUMBER: 2008-60
ISSUE DATE: September 22, 2008**SUBJECT: Guidance on agriculture in-transit shipments****DISTRIBUTION: Importers, Brokers, carriers, and Other Interested Parties****PURPOSE: To inform the trade that as of September 30, 2008, US Customs and Border Protection will begin enforcing the Memorandum of Agreement (Articles 2 and 3) between the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), to monitor transit movements of agricultural commodities.**

Effective September 30th 2008, CBP Agriculture will begin to enforce the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Stakeholders Announcement dated June 30th 2004.

All shipments of admissible, restricted, and prohibited plants and plant products moving as Transportation and Exportation (T&E), Immediate Export (IE), and Immediate Transfer at the time of entry (with the exception of cut flowers under the National Cut Flowers Release Program), will require a USDA APHIS PPQ transit permit issued by the APHIS Headquarters Permit Unit.

In addition to APHIS PPQ Transit Permits, importers will be required to provide documentation to include invoices, phytosanitary certificates, shipper export declarations, outbound manifests, etc. as requested by CBP Agriculture. It also requires annotating the APHIS permit number on the CBP 7512 (or equivalent QP style electronic transmission) in the "description and quantity of merchandise" block. Additionally, most APHIS transit permits will require the movement to be completed within 4 days.

Immediate Transportation (IT) shipments are not affected by this APHIS Stakeholder announcement and will continue to be processed in accordance with existing guidelines.

Shipments of admissible, restricted, and prohibited plants and plant products offered as Transportation and Exportation, Immediate Export, or Immediate Transfer not covered under a PPQ Transit permit will be refused entry by CBP. In addition, shipments subject to APHIS PPQ transit permits may be held for CBP Agriculture review during normal inspectional hours:

- Blaine Cargo- Monday-Friday 24 hours, Saturday and Sunday 0800-2400 hours, phone (360) 332-1640
- Sumas Cargo- Sunday through Saturday 0800-2400 hours, phone (360) 988-2971

APHIS PPQ transit permits can be obtained by:

FAX - Application may be downloaded from the APHIS website and faxed to Permit Services, fax (301) 734-0572, phone (301) 734-7472

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/permits/downloads/forms/ppqform586.pdf

On line - Go to the APHIS website for supplemental Transit Permit information and the link to apply online via e-Permits.

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/permits/transit.shtml

ONE TEAM ★ ONE FIGHT

BUREAU OF CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

DISCLAIMER: *This information has been prepared for your convenience by the Customs officers at Blaine, Washington. This material is intended to provide guidance. Recognizing that many complicated factors are involved in Customs matters, an importer may wish to obtain a binding ruling under 19 CFR Part 177. Reliance solely on this information may not be considered reasonable care. Importers are referred to Treasury Decision 97-96, which was published in the **Federal Register** of December 4, 1997, and in the **Customs Bulletin** of December 17, 1997, for in-depth information on the concept of reasonable care.*

Kenneth Williams
Acting Assistant Port Director
Trade Operations