



July 7, 2021

USDA APHIS Import Updates

Dear Valued Customer,

Sixth Phase of USDA Lacey Act Delayed Until October 2021

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has delayed enforcement for the sixth phase of enforcement until October 1, 2021 according to the notice published in the Federal Register (notice 86 FR 35259 can be found [here](#)) on July 2, 2021. This phase was supposed to go into effect October 2020 but was delayed several times due to concerns over wood pallets and containers. The Lacey Act was originally implemented in 2009 to prevent any importations of illegally harvested plant or plant products into the U.S.

APHIS made a few adjustments to the sixth phase of enforcement. APHIS clarified the rule on imported pallets and advised that only new wood packing formally entering the U.S. will require a Lacey Act declaration. The notice stated that declaration will not be required for "used, recycled, or reclaimed pallets or to pallets, empty or under load, that are used to carry goods imported into the United States". APHIS also amended the final rule to exclude "other" essential oils. A full list of HTS numbers that are covered by the Lacey Act can be found [here](#).

Commodities covered in the sixth phase include:

- Chapter 33 Heading – Essential oils
- Chapter 42 Heading – Trunks, cases, suitcases
- Chapter 44 Heading – Wood pallets, cases, crates, containers, etc.
- Chapter 92 Heading – Musical instruments
- Chapter 96 Headings – Monopods, bipods, tripods and similar articles of wood.

For additional information on the Lacey Act, including the required information necessary to submit a declaration, go to [USDA APHIS Lacey Act Website](#).

USDA APHIS To Allow Electronic Copies of Certificates in ACE Until December 2021

USDA APHIS announced that the department will continue to accept electronic copies of the veterinary and phytosanitary certificates via ACE Document Imaging System (DIS) through December 31, 2021 via CSMS message #48666151. The guidance was originally set to expire on June 30, 2021. Click [here](#) to view the CSMS message and access the corresponding USDA notices.

Thank you for being our Valued Customer. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your C.H. Robinson commercial representative for further information.

Sincerely,
C.H. Robinson