

GUIDELINE FOR SHIPPING MICROBES

For: United States Department of Agriculture and
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

USA Guidelines for Shipping #1114 Recombinant Microbes and Their Products

Includes: microbes (bacteria, viruses, yeasts/fungi), proteins, hormones, extracts, plasmids, DNA, RNA.

Not Including:

Materials produced by cell culture techniques

Introduction:

Materials derived from any animal or produced with animal products are extracts of microorganisms are potentially subject to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations and must be cleared by USDA inspectors at the port of arrival before entry into the United States is authorized. A USDA permit is required for any material that may pose a risk of introducing epizootic livestock diseases exotic to the United States.

However, recombinant non-pathogenic bacteria/yeasts (such as *E. coli* & *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) and their products that are not related to livestock or avian species or disease-causing agents and that do not contain animal products such as albumin or serums may be brought into the country without USDA veterinary restrictions.

Procedures:

A USDA veterinary import permit will not be required for recombinant microbes or their products if the following is provided in the shipping documents:

1. A detailed name or description of the microbe/recombinant product.
2. For recombinant products, a declaration with the shipment confirming that the material is produced by recombinant microbial expression (vector must not be considered pathogenic for livestock* or avian species) and that the organism does not contain genes or express antigens of livestock or poultry disease agents.
3. A declaration (on university letterhead) stating the preparation does not contain any animal derived additives, such as albumin, OR, if the preparation does contain animal derived additives, a declaration identifying the additives and stating that the product will be used only in vitro.

The above information should be supplied with each shipment in a clear and concise manner and be available for review by the USDA Inspector at the port of arrival. We recommend that a separate memorandum or letter be included with the shipping documents, such as U.S. Customs declaration and invoice

Please provide the above information and state that goods are non-toxic and non-hazardous and does not contain animal Bi products