

Import Procedures for Products of Animal Origin Imported into the Territory of the Russian Federation

In accordance with Article 9 of the Law No. 4979-1 “On Veterinary Practices” of the Russian Federation of 14 May 1993 import (export, transit) into/from the territory of the Russian Federation of products of animal origin as well as of feeds, feeds additives and medicines for animals (hereafter, the regulated cargo) requires a written Permission of the Chief State Veterinary Inspector of the Russian Federation. It is free of charge¹.

The Administrative regulation for the fulfillment by the Federal Veterinary And Phytosanitary Monitoring Service (hereafter, Rosselkhoznadzor or RSN) of the state function of issuing permits to import into the Russian Federation and export from the Russian Federation, as well as to transit through its territory animals, products of animal origin, pharmaceutical products, feed and feed additives for animals, products subject to quarantine is approved by the Order of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the Russian Federation of 9 January 2008 No 1 (hereafter, the Administrative regulation).

According to the Administrative regulation in the field of veterinary the following administrative procedures are established:

1. Review of the documentation for importing regulated cargo into the Russian Federation and the decision-making on whether or not to issue a permit to import regulated cargo into the Russian Federation

1.1 The legal circumstance that serves as grounds for stating this administrative procedure is the receipt by RSN of the petition of the Chief State Veterinary Inspector of the constituent entity of the Russian Federation to issue a permit to import the regulated cargo into the Russian Federation (hereafter, the import petition).

The time frame for completing the review process for a petition to import and the decision-making to permit the importation into the Russian Federation of the regulated cargo (hereafter, the import permit) or to refuse to issue an import permit is not to exceed 30 working days.

Regulated cargo is imported into the Russian Federation from enterprises (ships) of the exporting country that are inspected by the State Veterinary Service of the Russian Federation and listed as enterprises that export into the Russian Federation.

The petition to import must indicate the following information:

1) the name, legal address and INN (taxpayer identification number) of the applicant;

¹ p. 7, Regulations of Rosselkhoznadzor.

2) the name of the regulated cargo and its code (first 4 characters) according to the Russian TN VED (Foreign Economic Activity Commodity Classification);

3) the quantity of the regulated cargo and units in which it is measured;

4) the exporting country and place of origin of the regulated cargo;

5) the types of transportation that will be used to import the regulated cargo;

6) the border crossing points through which the regulated cargo is to be imported into the Russian Federation and cleared through customs;

7) the purpose of the importation (for live animals: breeding, raising, sale, slaughter for meat; for feed and feed additives: the types of animals for which the feed and feed additives, etc. are intended);

8) the destination in the Russian Federation indicating the organization;²

9) the number of the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) permit when importing live animals, hunting trophies or easily-recognizable parts of these, or derivatives thereof, including those which, according to the documentation, packing labels, markings, or other features are or may be parts or derivatives of endangered animals and regulated by the CITES Convention;

10) the registration number of the pharmaceutical product and feed additive, the series number and validity period of the state registration certificate for pharmaceutical products for animals and feed additives (when importing pharmaceutical products for animals and feed additives);

11) the list of ingredients (when importing feed and feed additives)

12) the producer and country of origin (when importing feeds, feed additives and pharmaceutical products for animals);

13) the number assigned by the State Registry of Feeds containing genetically modified organisms (hereafter, GMO), the number of the registration certificate for feeds containing GMO (when importing feed and feed additives containing GMO);

14) where the biological water resources were caught (harvested) (for biological water resources and products made from these);

15) other necessary information requested by the Chief State Veterinary Inspector of the Russian Federation.

1.2 The petition to import must be signed by the Chief State Veterinary Inspector of the constituent entity of the Russian Federation (or acting inspector) where the regulated cargo is planned to be imported.

1.3 The petition to import must be accompanied by the following documents:

1) when importing live animals and genetic materials: a legalized copy of the deed of the commission inspection performed by the agencies of the executive branch of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation in the field of veterinary medicine of production facilities (livestock farms, zoological bases, other places),

²The organizations must be listed as economic entities of the Russian Federation having the necessary conditions for storage and/or processing of imported raw meats.

where placement (quarantine) of imported live animals and genetic material is planned;

2) when importing pharmaceutical products for animals and feed additives: a copy of the state registration certificate for the pharmaceutical product for animals or feed additives;

3) when importing feeds containing GMO: a copy of the state registration certificate for feeds containing GMO.

1.4 The import permit is issued within the declared time period of one calendar year.

Applications for permits for the following year are considered starting on 1 December of the current year.

1.5 When importing raw meat into the Russian Federation under license from the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation, the administrative procedure is completed within 5 days.

1.6 The outcome of the administrative procedure is the issuance of an import permit or a refusal to issue an import permit in the form of an RSN letter or telephone message (hereafter, RSN letter) signed by the Chief State Veterinary Inspector of the Russian Federation.

1.7 An import permit must be obtained before importing animals, products of animal origin, pharmaceutical products, feed and feed additives for animals into the Russian Federation.

An import permit is not required for:

- small domestic animals belonging to citizens (not more than 2 animals);
- industrially-produced products of animal origin that have undergone thermal treatment, prepared products made from raw materials of animal origin, factory-processed, prepared in conformity with the requirements of the standards and regulations when they are imported from countries that are safe from infectious animal diseases, included in the list of animal diseases that are subject to obligatory declaration by the World Animal Health Organization (hereafter, infectious animal diseases), and on which no limits have been placed. Permits to import them are issued by the Chief State Veterinary Inspector of the constituent entity of the Russian Federation to which the indicated regulated cargo is to be imported.

2. Review of the petition to import

2.1 The legal circumstance that serves as grounds for starting this administrative action is the receipt of the petition to import with the set of documents by the appropriate RSN division.

2.2 The responsible executor within 20 days reviews the petition to import and analyzes the information contained in it.

2.3 Reasons for refusal to issue an import permit are:

1) the introduction of limits with regard to separate countries (regions of countries), including:

- due to their being unsafe with regard to infectious animal diseases;
- due to the discovery of chemical or biological substances in the regulated cargo from these countries (regions of countries);

- 2) submission by the applicant of incomplete or inaccurate data;
- 3) the organization indicated as the destination in the Russian Federation is not listed as an economic entity of the Russian Federation having the necessary conditions for storage and/or processing of the imported raw meats;
- 4) an investigation is conducted in response to complaints lodged against the importer and exporter concerning the quality and safety of the imported regulated cargo or due to a violation of the laws of the Russian Federation in the field of veterinary medicine;
- 5) the documents contain materials showing that it would be impossible to fulfill the norms and rules established in the laws of the Russian Federation in the field of veterinary medicine.

3. Decision-making on the petition to import

3.1 The legal circumstance that serves as grounds for starting this administrative action is the receipt by the Chief State Veterinary Inspector of the Russian Federation of the draft RSN letter containing the draft decision on the petition to import.

3.2 If the draft RSN letter requires modification or the draft decision contained within it is disputed, the Chief State Veterinary Inspector of the Russian Federation returns the draft letter with comments to the responsible executor.

3.3 The responsible executor within 3 days faxes the RSN letter containing the decision on the petition to import to the territorial office having jurisdiction over the place where the regulated cargo is planned to be imported, as well as to the territorial office having jurisdiction over the area through which the regulated cargo is planned to be transported.

3.4 Within 2 days, the territorial office having jurisdiction over the territory to which the regulated cargo is planned to be imported informs the Chief State Veterinary Inspector of the constituent entity of the Russian Federation (or the acting inspector) where the regulated cargo is planned to be imported about the issuance of the import permit or the refusal to issue an import permit.

3.5 Within 2 days, the territorial office having jurisdiction over the territory through which the regulated cargo is planned to be imported informs the officials of the territorial office that carries out state veterinary monitoring at the border crossing points through which the regulated cargo is planned to be imported about the issuance of the import permit.

4. Revocation of an import permit

4.1 The legal circumstance that serves as grounds for starting this administrative procedure is a discovery of systematic violations, by the importer of the regulated cargo, of the laws of the Russian Federation in the field of veterinary medicine (including the presentation of forged veterinary documents or a discovery of non-conformity between the presented documents and the regulated cargo).

4.2 the maximum duration of this administrative action is 15 days.

5. Suspension of import permits

The legal circumstance that serves as grounds for starting this administrative procedure is:

receipt by RSN of a letter from a territorial office containing assertions that legal entities or individuals involved in the movement of the regulated cargo violated laws of the Russian Federation in the field of veterinary medicine

receipt by RSN of information about the unsafe conditions in the exporting country with regard to infectious animal diseases.

Imported cargoes subject to veterinary control should also be accompanied by:

- veterinary certificate (in the agreed or general form³) of the exporting country; and
- invoice.

In the customs clearance points veterinary certificates of the exporting countries are exchanged to Russian veterinary accompanying documents.

³Agreed form - form of certificate agreed between importer-country and exporter-country; and

General form - certificate worked out on the basis of Russian requirements for import of live animals and products of animal origin.