



## Import, Export and Transfer of Biological Materials

The U.S. Government actively regulates the import, export and interstate transfer of many microorganisms, toxins, vectors and other infectious substances and biological materials. In many cases, a permit or license from the Department of Commerce, the [Centers of Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) and/or the [Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service](#) (APHIS) will be required. Below is a table detailing current permit and licensing requirements by type of material.

Human infectious substances	In general, a permit is needed to import into the U.S. any infectious agent known or suspected to cause disease in humans. In some cases subsequent distribution of an agent (e.g., SARS-CoV, or a select agent) is prohibited or requires a CDC authorization/permit prior to transfer to another location within the U.S. These permits may be obtained from the <a href="#">CDC, Etiologic Agent Import Permit Program</a> or telephone 404-718-2077 for further information.
Biological materials	Import of non-sterilized human and animal specimens (such as blood, body discharges, fluids, excretions, tissues or similar material) containing or suspected of containing an infectious or etiologic agent (i.e., a human pathogen) require a permit. These permits may be obtained from the <a href="#">CDC, Etiologic Agent Import Permit Program</a> or telephone 404-718-2077 for further information.
Hosts, Vectors, Animals	Import of any animal known or suspected of being infected with an organism capable of causing disease in humans may require a permit issued by CDC. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Turtles. Importation of live turtles less than 4 inches in shell length or live nonhuman primates is regulated by the <a href="#">CDC, Division of Global Migration and Quarantine</a>. Telephone (404) 498-1600 for further information.</li><li>• Bats. All live bats require an import permit from the CDC and the U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Services. The <a href="#">application</a> for a CDC import permit for live exotic bats is on this website.</li><li>• Arthropods. Any living insect or other arthropod that is known or suspected of containing an etiologic agent requires an import permit from the CDC.</li><li>• Snails. Any snail species capable of transmitting a human pathogen requires an import permit from the CDC.</li></ul>
Materials pathogenic to livestock/ poultry	An <a href="#">APHIS Veterinary permit</a> is required to import certain animals and animal products and also for the importation and interstate movement of bacteria, viruses, or prions that are disease agents of animals and poultry. Telephone (301) 734-5960 for further information.
Plant Pathogens/ Plant Pests	<a href="#">APHIS permits</a> are required to import certain plants, plant products, plant pests, plant pathogens, biological control organisms and soil into the U.S. Additionally, an APHIS permit is required to move plant pests, plant pathogens and biological control organisms between states. Plant pathogens and pests include insects, mites, slugs, protozoa, nematodes, or other invertebrate animals, bacteria, fungi or organisms similar to or associated with any of the foregoing, or any infectious substances that can directly or indirectly injure or cause disease or damage in any plants, plant parts, or other plant products. Telephone (301) 734-5960 for further information. APHIS offers <a href="#">Export Certificates</a> for exporters of plant commodities. Certificates are not required for export but are provided by APHIS as a certification service for U.S. Exporters.
Select Agents/Toxins	Certain biological agents and toxins that have the potential to cause a severe threat to public health and safety are actively regulated by the CDC. The CDC Select Agent Program oversees the use, possession, and transfer of select agents or toxins within the U.S. and registers all laboratories and other entities in the U.S. that possess, use, or transfer select agents or toxins. Contact EHS at 292-1284 for further information on research activities involving select agents and toxins.
Export of information, technical data, technology, software, and other controlled items	The U.S. government actively controls the transfer of certain items, technologies, and software out of the U.S. In addition to the actual shipments of items out of the country, export regulations also control the release or disclosure of information about controlled items to foreign persons in the U.S. or abroad. Release of information or technical data to a foreign national is “deemed” to be an export to that person’s home country. A government issued Export License or valid License Exception may be required prior to the transfer or release of controlled items or information. For further information visit the <a href="#">Export Control website</a> or contact the Export Control Committee at <a href="mailto:exportcontrol@osu.edu">exportcontrol@osu.edu</a> or (614) 247-8831