

Proper procedure for securing line release from the U.S. Customs Service for Section 8e Commodities

- Prior to cargo screening by the U.S. Customs Service, the importer or agent must fax a completed Entry Summary, Customs Form (CF) 3461 to the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AgMS) Inspection office. This procedure notifies AgMS of the goods' entry and the importers intention to make arrangements for an inspection.

(Please note that you must fax the documents to the inspection office where you intend to obtain the quality inspection.)

- Upon receipt of the CF3461, the AgMS inspection office will review the document for Section 8e applicability and stamp the CF 3461 confirming entry notification and fax it back to the importer or their agent.
 - A rectangular stamp indicates that the product is subject to 8e regulations and AgMS inspection is required
 - A round stamp indicates that the product is not subject to 8e regulations and AgMS inspection is not required
- The importer presents the stamped form to the Custom officials at the port of entry, which allows Customs to conditionally release the shipment for movement to destination and subsequent AgMS inspection if required.
- If an inspection is required, the Importer can then make final arrangements for inspection with the AgMS office that stamped the entry document.

(This office is notified if an importer fails to present the shipment for inspection at the office that stamped the entry documents.)

Subsequently, at the time of inspection:

- A copy of the CF3461 must be presented to the inspector.
- The inspector will record the Customs entry number on the AgMS inspection certificate thus linking the Customs Entry information with a valid AgMS inspection certificate.

(If this procedure is not completed properly or the entry number is recorded incorrectly, the entry will be identified as a possible non-compliant entry.)

USDA, AMS, FV, MOAD, Compliance and Enforcement Branch
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Stop Code 0237, Room 1406-S
Washington, D.C. 20250
202-690-0464 or 202-720-0545

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/FVMarketingOrderLandingPage>
ComplianceInfo@ams.usda.gov