



# Does My Shipment Need an Import Permit?

Many materials collected by our field researchers require a permit for importation, interstate or intrastate transport.

- Please don't rely on a collaborator's import permit if you plan to bring the samples to Princeton University.
- If you are sending samples to a collaborator, verify that the samples are covered by the import permit.
- Some permits take 4-8 weeks to process!
- Permits contain important information on how the material is to be transported and treated prior to disposal.

Here are some general categories of materials that may require an import permit.

## Human Pathogens

An Import Permit, issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is required if you plan to import agents infectious to humans or biological materials that are suspected to contain a human pathogen.

You may need a CDC Import Permit to bring the following items in to the United States:

- etiologic agents
- arthropods, bats and snails or other animal hosts or vectors of human disease
- non-human primate material
- some African rodent materials
- human or animal blood, body fluids, tissues, feces

CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/cpr/ipp/index.htm>.

## Animal Pathogens and Biological Materials of Animal Origin

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) requires permits for the importation of animal pathogens and biological materials that contain animal material.

A USDA/ APHIS Permit may be required for all imports/ exports, and inter-state transport of:

- animal or plant pathogens

- specimens reasonably believed to contain animal or plant pathogens
- any pest or vector of animal or plant disease
- potentially hazardous animal or plant products
- cell culture-grown pathogens containing growth simulants of bovine or other livestock agents

## Soils

If you plan to import soil from a country outside of the U.S., or from certain areas within the U.S., you must be authorized by APHIS through their permitting system.



The soil permits will stipulate storage conditions and disposal requirements, which are designed to prevent the introduction of pathogens that may be present in the samples. The USDA/APHIS website provides an explanation of materials that do and do not require import permits.

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/resources/permits>.

## Wildlife and Animals

Consult the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website to determine if you need a permit to import or export certain wildlife, including species covered by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

USFWS permits: <https://www.fws.gov/permits/?ref=topbar>

If you have questions or would like assistance, contact [ehs@princeton.edu](mailto:ehs@princeton.edu) or call 609-258-5294.

