

 **NEWS RELEASE**

United States Department of Agriculture • Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service • Legislative and Public Affairs
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USDA ADJUSTS EXPORT CERTIFICATION USER FEES FOR PLANTS AND PLANT PRODUCTS

WASHINGTON, July 8, 2009--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is adjusting the user fees charged for export certification of plants and plant products for the first time in 12 years. These user fees will be increased for fiscal years (FY) 2010 through 2012 to reflect the anticipated costs associated with providing export certification services each year.

Specifically, APHIS is adjusting the fees for the following services:

- Certification for export or reexport of a commercial shipment will increase from \$50 to \$77 in FY 2010, \$104 in FY 2011 and \$106 in FY 2012 and subsequent years.
- Certification for export or reexport of a low-value commercial shipment will increase from \$23 to \$42 in FY 2010, \$60 in FY 2011 and \$61 in FY 2012 and subsequent years.
- Certification for export or reexport of a noncommercial shipment will increase from \$23 to \$42 in FY 2010, \$60 in FY 2011 and \$61 in FY 2012 and subsequent years.
- Replacement of any certificate for export or reexport will increase from \$7 to \$11 in FY 2010 and \$15 in FY 2011 and subsequent years.

In addition, APHIS is also adding a new user fee for exporters who obtain federal export certificates for plants and plant products from state or county cooperators in order to recover administrative costs associated with that service. Beginning in FY 2010, this fee will be \$3 when the certificate is issued by APHIS' Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance and Tracking (PCIT) system and \$6 for a traditional paper certificate. In 2011 and subsequent years the fees will be \$6 for PCIT issued certificates and \$12 for traditional paper certificates. PCIT is an interactive Web-based system that enables U.S. exporters to apply for phytosanitary certificates online, schedule commodity inspections and print out copies of their certificates. This capability also provides APHIS better security, reporting functions and monitoring capabilities for exported commodities. These changes will enable APHIS to properly recover the costs of providing export certification services for plants and plant products.

This final rule is published in the July 8 *Federal Register* and becomes effective Oct. 1.

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Note to Reporters: USDA news releases, program announcements and media advisories are available on the Internet. Go to the APHIS news release page at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom>. Also, anyone with an e-mail address can sign up to receive APHIS press releases automatically. Send an e-mail message to lyris@mdrdlyriss10.aphis.usda.gov and leave the subject blank. In the message, type `subscribe press_releases`.

Step One: Logging into PCIT

1. Access the PCIT website at <https://pcit.aphis.usda.gov/pcit/>.
2. Click the **Log In** button. The *eAuthentication Warning* page displays.
3. Click the **I Agree** button. The *eAuthentication Login* page displays.
4. Choose one of the following paths:
 - a. If you do not have a USDA eAuthentication Account, proceed to Step Two: Creating a USDA eAuthentication Account.
 - b. If you are logging into PCIT for the first time and already have an eAuthentication account, proceed to Step Three: Linking Your New eAuthentication Account to PCIT.

For questions or further assistance, contact the PCIT Help Desk
1-866-HLP-PCIT (457-7248)
pcithelpdesk@aphis.usda.gov

Step Two: Creating a USDA eAuthentication Account

1. Click the **Create an account** link under the Quick Links box in the upper left hand corner.
2. Click the **Level 1 Access** link at the bottom of the page.
3. Follow the instructions provided on the USDA eAuthentication website and a confirmation e-mail will be sent to you. Follow the instructions in the email to complete and activate your eAuthentication account. Then return to Step One to log in to PCIT again.

Step Three: Linking Your New eAuthentication Account to PCIT

1. On the eAuthentication Login screen, enter your eAuthentication User ID and password and click the **Login** button.
2. The *Initial PCIT Registration* page appears. (This page will display only during the linking process and is only done once.) Choose **either** item 3 or 4 below.
3. **If** your organization already has an account within PCIT:
 - a. Your organization's PCIT account administrator should provide you with a **temporary** PCIT User ID and password to connect to the organization's account. Enter this information and click the **Sign In** button.
 - b. Your eAuthentication account is now synchronized with your PCIT account and you are now logged into PCIT.
4. **If** your organization does not have an account within PCIT:
 - a. Click the **Register External Organization** button on the left to create a PCIT account for your organization.
 - b. The *Registration Wizard – User Information* page appears. Enter your name and phone number and click the **Next** button.
 - c. Select the **Create a New Organization Account within PCIT** option and click **Next**.
 - d. On the *Registration Wizard – Create New* page, enter your company's information and click **Submit**.
 - e. The *Registration Wizard – Create Successful* page appears. Click the **Continue** button to start using PCIT.
 - f. Your eAuthentication account is now synchronized with your organization's new PCIT account and you are now logged into PCIT.
5. The next time you access the PCIT website, simply enter your eAuthentication User ID and password and click the **Login** button. This will log you all the way into PCIT.