

# Import and Export Services

## Frequently Asked Questions



The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) plays an important role in supporting state and federal regulatory requirements when exporting agriculture products out of the state or country. The NDA offers a variety of export services due to the complex global regulatory environment associated with agricultural products.

### What export services does the NDA offer?

The NDA offers the following services to help producers export live, raw, semi-processed or processed agricultural products and commodities, including:

- certificate of free sale,
- certificate of origin,
- federal phytosanitary certificate (raw, reexport and processed plant products) and
- state phytosanitary certificate.

### What is a certificate of free sale?

A certificate of free sale is issued by the NDA to verify to a foreign government or buyer that an agricultural product is freely marketed in the state of Nevada. In many cases, foreign governments seek official assurance that products exported to their countries can be sold in the United States because U.S. regulations are often stricter than importing countries.

### What is a certificate of origin?

Many states and foreign countries have quarantines to prevent damaging pests associated with agricultural commodities from entering their state. A certificate of origin verifies where a shipment originated. These certificates may apply to agricultural commodities or agricultural equipment. A certificate of origin may be required to move agricultural commodities or farm equipment into California through a border inspection station.



### How do I get a certificate of free sale or certificate of origin?

Please apply online. Forms for each certificate can be found online at [agri.nv.gov/export\\_certification](http://agri.nv.gov/export_certification).

### What is a phytosanitary certificate?

A phytosanitary certificate verifies agricultural products have been inspected to the standards of the destination state or country and that no harmful pests or diseases are being introduced to other states or foreign countries. The NDA has a memorandum of understanding with the USDA's Plant Protection and Quarantine program to issue phytosanitary certificates for domestic plants and products being exported to foreign countries.

Phytosanitary certificates are issued after a phytosanitary inspection is completed by the NDA (the NDA is both state and federally accredited), which ensures the commodity being exported (whether domestic or international) is free of pests or pathogens.

### What countries require a phytosanitary certificate?

The NDA can provide phytosanitary certificates and grade agricultural products which are required by some countries. If a phytosanitary certificate is not required by a country for a commodity you wish to ship, but your customer has requested you obtain one, the NDA can issue the certificate provided the commodity is eligible for certification.

### Does the NDA offer phytosanitary certifications for states as well?

The NDA can perform state phytosanitary certification for all 50 states. It is up to the exporter to know the requirements of the importing state and to provide the information to NDA staff.

### What import services does the NDA offer?

The NDA offers the following services to help producers import agricultural commodities and plants into Nevada.

- Import inspection
- Grading services
  - Federal marketplace inspection
- State conditional inspection
- Destination inspection

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### What grade inspection services does the NDA offer?

Grade inspections, such as a marketplace inspection or shipping point inspection, are services the NDA performs under a cooperative agreement with USDA Agricultural Marketing Service. United States Grade Standards are voluntary and provide the fruit, vegetable and specialty crop industry with uniform language for describing quality and condition of commodities in the marketplace.

A marketplace inspection of commodities is performed by a federally licensed inspector at the destination. A shipping point inspection is used to certify a commodity's quality before shipping by a federally certified inspector.

### How can I get an import inspection?

The NDA provides destination or import inspections, such as marketplace and conditional inspections. A marketplace inspection of commodities is done by a federally licensed inspector at the destination, and a conditional inspection determines grade/quality of a commodity at the destination. In conjunction with the USDA, the NDA offers federal, federal-state and state inspections for both producers and buyers. Please contact the department with questions or to schedule an appointment.

### What is an import permit?

An import permit is a document issued by the destination country's government authorizing the importation of plants or plant products into its territory. If a country's requirements list an import permit as mandatory, the NDA cannot issue a phytosanitary certificate without one. The producer must provide a copy of the original and an official English translation if necessary.

### Does my company have to be a certain size to export?

You can export at any size or quantity. The NDA inspects every type of product from one ounce to thousands of pounds, and per the Small Business Administration (SBA), small and medium sized companies account for 98 percent of U.S. exporters.

### What is the cost of a certificate or inspection?

Export certification costs start at \$25 and hourly inspection rates depend on the type of service requested.

### How long does it take for the NDA to complete the inspection process and issue a certificate?

Depending on the shipment, the NDA requires three to 10 business days to process the paperwork and perform the inspection (if applicable). Certificates of free sale and origin can be processed within 10 business days.



### Contact

#### ► Plant Industry division

☎ 775-353-3601

🌐 [agri.nv.gov/export\\_certification](http://agri.nv.gov/export_certification)

**Nevada Department of Agriculture**

405 S. 21st Street • Sparks, NV 89431