

Does APHIS-Core Message Set Apply To Your Client's Product?

A Practical Approach

As customs brokers get ready for the APHIS-Core Message Set, many are challenged by the task of determining if the Message Set applies for products flagged with AQ-1, where the Message Set may or may not apply. The following steps provide one approach that may be helpful.

Step One: Is your product flagged with an AQ1 or AQ2? [If AQ2, you MUST file an APHIS-Core Message Set. If AQ1, the product MAY be subject to the Message Set filing requirement.]

Step Two: Look up the HTS in the APHIS Code Master Correlation Table Go to the 4th bullet under Resources at this link:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/importexport/ace/audience/broker-filers>

This will tell you the APHIS Operational Program that regulates the product.

Step Three: Review the Manual for that Operational Program (e.g., Animal Products, Miscellaneous Processed Products, etc.). The manuals outline the criteria for determining whether the product is regulated by APHIS.

Step Four: Collect any necessary information from the importer on features of the product to determine if the product is subject to the APHIS-Core Message Set.

Step Five: If you have questions or want to confirm your analysis of the applicability of APHIS requirements, see <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/banner/contactuse> for contact information for the specific commodity category. When reaching out to APHIS customer service, let them know your question is about product admissibility and not the APHIS Message Set. Provide as much information about the product as possible such as a description of the product, country of origin, treatments, and any processing that has been done to the product. After utilizing these resources, if the product does not require a license, permit, or certificate then the filer may disclaim the APHIS Core message set.