Controlled Import Permits

Last Modified:

A controlled import permit (CIP) may be issued to authorize the importation of an article whose importation is prohibited or restricted.

Check the Plants for Planting Manual to determine if a plant is restricted or prohibited.

Importing Plants or Plant Products for Experimental, Therapeutic, or Developmental Purposes

CIPs are intended for plants imported for:

- **Experimental purposes**: Scientific testing to collect data and perform analytical processes under controlled conditions;
- **Therapeutic purposes**: Specific scientific processes designed to eliminate, isolate, or remove potential plant pests or diseases;
- **Developmental purposes**: Evaluate, monitor, or verify plant material for plant health risks and/or the adaptability of plant material for certain uses or environments.

Not Authorized Pending Pest Risk Analysis

Taxa listed under Not Authorized Pending Pest Risk Analysis may only be imported with a CIP. The intended use of the imported plant material determines risk. CIPs are authorized for destructive analysis, limited propagation where the imported material is destroyed at the end of the trial, and propagation followed by release of the imported material from quarantine. A containment facility may be required for importation of the regulated material. The facility will be evaluated before the permit is issued. For further information on the regulations related to CIPs, see 7 CFR 319.6.

Applying for a CIP

Use APHIS eFile to apply for a CIP (this method is faster but requires eAuthentication). If you're unable to apply online, you may download PPQ Form 588 (162.01 KB) and fax a paper copy of the application to 301-734-5786.

Apply for a Permit

Additional Information

Guidance to CIP Applicants

Guidance for controlled import permits applicants on how to complete the PPQ Form 588 permit application.

Controlled Import Permit Containment Guidelines

Adequately containing imported plants is necessary to prevent the potential introduction and dissemination of pests and diseases into the U.S. environment.

Controlled Import Permits: Frequently Asked Questions

A list of frequently asked questions about the process to apply for a controlled import permit.

Contact Us

Controlled Import Permits

For help with controlled import permits (PPQ Form 588):

Controlled Import Permits Team

Email: controlled.import.permits@usda.gov

Phone: 301-851-2046

For help with postentry quarantine permits (PPQ Form 546):

Postentry Quarantine Permits Team

Email: plantsforplantingpermits@usda.gov

Phone: 301-851-2322

Controlled Import Permits Contacts
Print