

AskFSIS Q&A Regarding Form 9080-3 Approval Timeframe May 2023

Title: askFSIS Public Q&A: The time necessary for an establishment to gain approval to ship product to a foreign country that requires pre-approval

Question: If an establishment wants to be eligible to ship product to a country that requires pre-approval or registration of eligible U.S. establishments, how long does it take for the establishment to become eligible and included on the country's list of eligible establishments?

Answer: Generally, it takes approximately 12 to 24 weeks from the time the establishment submits FSIS Form 9080-3 through PHIS for the establishment to be included on the country's list. This timeframe includes the time required for FSIS' Office of Field Operations (OFO) to review and approve the 9080-3 form, time for FSIS to send an official request to the importing country to accept the list of eligible establishment(s), and time for the foreign country's central competent authority to accept and add the eligible establishment(s) to its public list. Note that most countries only accept these requests monthly, and that once FSIS sends an official request to the foreign country's competent authority, it is up to the receiving country to accept and include an establishment on their list of approved U.S. exporters which can cause further delay in the approval process, or possible denial. Exporters should not produce or ship product to the foreign country until that country has accepted *and* included the U.S. recommended establishment on to its eligible list.