

Accessing Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) Internet Applications: Level 2 eAuthentication for Foreign Governments

To use FSIS internet-based applications that are important to facilitating trade with the United States, foreign Central Competent Authority (CCA) officials must obtain a Level 2 eAuthentication account. A Level 2 eAuthentication account gives users the opportunity to register for specific roles (enrollment) in multiple FSIS applications, including the Foreign Country Log-in (FCL) for the Public Health Information System (PHIS) export component, and the Self-Reporting Tool (SRT) for the PHIS import (equivalence) component. To access the SRT or FCL applications, CCA officials must obtain a Level 2 eAuthentication account and enroll for those applications in PHIS (details can be found below).

Starting June 29, 2018, the FCL will allow CCA officials of countries included in the PHIS export component who have obtained Level 2 eAuthentication and enrolled in PHIS to view copies of signed export certificates issued by FSIS in PHIS, as a digital image. FSIS has listed the first group of countries included in the PHIS export component on FSIS' PHIS export component web page at <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs/exporting-products/phis-export-component>. CCA officials can use the FCL to ensure that digital certificate copies align with the original certification documents arriving at the country's port of entry.

CCA officials who have obtained Level 2 eAuthentication and enrolled in PHIS can also manage information in the country's SRT, which is critical to obtaining and maintaining equivalence for exporting eligible meat, poultry, or egg products to the United States. For more information on how to access and complete the SRT in PHIS, please visit the Equivalence Resources webpage on FSIS' website at <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs/Equivalence/equivalence-resources>.

To create a Level 2 eAuthentication account, CCA officials should complete the following steps:

- 1) Register for a Level 2 account on USDA's website at <https://identitymanager.eems.usda.gov/registration/selfRegistrationForm.aspx?level=2>; Complete required fields (User and Contact Information, User ID and Password);
- 2) Receive a Level 2 email from USDA, and follow the instructions in the email to activate the Level 2 account;
- 3) Identify and schedule an in-person meeting with a Local Registration Authority (LRA). LRAs will confirm your identity in person by checking your approved government-issued photo ID (i.e. passport), and complete your Level 2 eAuthentication account access. FAS Foreign Service Officers (FSO) are, or may become, LRAs. FSIS personnel may also serve as LRAs when in country for official travel, such as an audit; or CCA officials may complete the in-person credentialing process with an LRA when visiting the United States. To identify an LRA, contact the nearest U.S. embassy at which FAS FSOs are present (see FAS Overseas Directory at <https://www.fas.usda.gov/fas-overseas-office-contact-directory>), or contact FSIS at InternationalCoordination@fsis.usda.gov.

PHIS Enrollment: After obtaining a Level 2 eAuthentication account, CCA officials are to register for specific roles in PHIS (enrollment). To enroll for the SRT, please follow the Steps to Obtain Level 2 eAuthentication Credentials and PHIS Access guidance on FSIS' website at <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/wcm/connect/d3a351a1-cb41-47d0-bf32-7da4260661ed/eAuth-Credentials-PHIS-Access.pdf?MOD=AJPERES>. For the FCL, FSIS will provide further PHIS enrollment instructions closer to June 29, 2018. In the meantime, FSIS encourages CCAs to pursue Level 2 eAuthentication. CCA officials with questions about this process should contact FSIS at InternationalCoordination@fsis.usda.gov.