
Cotton

The importation of cotton is regulated by quarantine under Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 319.8 - **Foreign Cotton and Covers**. Cotton from Mexico may also be subject to certain provisions of 7 CFR 301.52 (as referenced from 7 CFR 319.8-11).

Permits are required for:

- ▶ Cotton lint, linters, and gin waste¹
- ▶ Bleached or dyed lint
- ▶ Cottonseed, seed cotton, and cottonseed hulls
- ▶ Cotton covers (used covers only)
- ▶ Bags and bagging material (used as containers for grain or root crops)
- ▶ Cottonseed cake and cottonseed meal

Permits are *not* required for:

- ▶ Yarn, thread, cloth, or other mill waste
- ▶ Cottonseed oil
- ▶ Commercially made mattresses, quilts, and pillows
- ▶ Any cotton products sufficiently processed to have removed all cottonseed or destroyed all insect life.

Prohibited materials²:

- ▶ Gin trash and field waste
- ▶ Raw cotton (field cotton) - unginned or so poorly ginned as to have large quantities of easily detected trash and seed

¹*Field waste* and *gin trash* are prohibited; *mill waste* is unregulated; *gin waste* is enterable with treatment. *Gin trash* may be distinguished from *gin waste* by its appreciable admixture of seeds and debris.

²Note: Prohibited materials *may* be authorized under a Departmental Permit if imported in small quantities for research or scientific purposes. The importer must be able to demonstrate the ability to comply with strict safeguards. Applications are submitted on PPQ Form 588.

Cotton Packing Materials:

Small amounts of lint, linters, or waste used for packing may be disregarded if seed-free or seeds present are so few as to be readily removed by hand. This applies only to occasional packages as in mail or baggage, not to commercial lots in quantity.

Cottonseed Cake and Cottonseed Meal:

These products are enterable at all ports, subject to inspection. Each shipment must be found to be sufficiently processed and free of whole seed, insects, or prohibited contaminants. Any shipment or portion of a shipment may be refused or require treatment based on inspection.

Seed Cotton:

Seed cotton is prohibited except that field cotton (also called raw cotton) may be authorized without treatment if grown in Tamaulipas, Mexico and moving through Mexican border ports to PPQ approved gins in South Texas.

Cottonseed:

Fuzzy seed requires fumigation at the port of arrival and is limited to entry through Northern ports with fumigation capability. Northern ports are those that are located outside cotton growing states or areas (see Fig. 1, Page 6). Contact PPQ for information concerning the current fumigation capabilities of specific ports.

Acid delinted seed is enterable through any port subject only to verification (through visual inspection) that seed is free of lint.

Samples:

Samples of lint, linters, waste, cottonseed cake, and cottonseed meal may be authorized for entry through any port subject only to inspection and such treatment as may be deemed necessary based upon inspection. Any single shipment in excess of 50 lbs. will not be considered eligible for entry as a sample. Importers will be limited to no more than 2 shipments of samples per week.

Utilization at Approved Mills:

Lint, linters, and gin waste that have been compressed to *high density* may be allowed entry without fumigation treatment if consigned to PPQ approved mills or facilities for utilization. The ports of entry and the approved mill must both be outside cotton growing States or areas (see Fig. 1). Transportation must be by bonded carrier and must not be through cotton growing States or areas. Contact PPQ for information concerning currently approved mills or the procedures for approving mills.

Lint, linters, and gin waste that are *uncompressed or compressed only to standard density* may be authorized for movement without fumigation if:

- ▶ Consigned to a PPQ approved mill for utilization
- ▶ Entering a Northern port (see Fig. 1)
- ▶ Derived from cotton ginned in countries that do not produce cotton

Non-cotton growing countries (countries in which cotton is not produced, for quarantine purposes) are; Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain (UK), Iceland, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, and Switzerland.

Density (Compression) Criteria:	
Low density	uncompressed or compressed less than 20 lbs. per square foot
Standard density	baled or packaged to a density greater than 20 lbs. and less than 28 lbs. per square foot
High density	compressed to 28 lbs. per square foot or greater

The degree of compression may be determined by dividing the weight of the bale by its cubic content. Cubic content is determined by multiplying the length of the bale and the other two dimensions measured by the edges where the straps bend, disregarding the bulges between the straps.

High Density Lint, Linters, and Gin Waste:

- ▶ May enter any port with fumigation capability³
- ▶ Requires fumigation in accordance with PPQ Treatment Schedule T-301 unless entering a port outside the cotton growing area and moving to an approved mill for processing
- ▶ May be authorized for overland transit movement from the port of arrival to another location for treatment if within non-cotton growing States or areas
- ▶ May be authorized for all-water transit movement to another location for treatment if entering cotton growing States or areas

Uncompressed or Standard Compression Lint, Linters, and Gin Waste:

- ▶ Entry only authorized through Northern ports
- ▶ Requires fumigation in accordance with PPQ Treatment Schedule T-301
- ▶ May be authorized for overland transit movement from the port of arrival to another Northern location for treatment
- ▶ May be authorized for all-water transit movement to another Northern location for treatment

Cotton from Mexico:

Mexico is now considered generally infested with the Pink Bollworm (PBW), a major quarantine concern and much of the basis for 7 CFR 319.8. Since many cotton growing areas of the U.S. are also infested with PBW, cotton from Mexico is regulated as though it is moving from regulated areas of the U.S. (7 CFR 301.52 by reference from 7 CFR 319.8-11).

Survey and suppression programs for PBW are active in certain areas of the U.S., including the Southwest. Therefore, cotton and cotton products from Mexico that have the potential to introduce and distribute additional pests are strictly regulated into or through such areas.

Cotton from Mexico: (continued)

The following require mandatory fumigation as a condition of entry if moving from Mexico through

³Only ports with fumigation capabilities will be authorized as the port of arrival unless shipments are moving to approved mills for utilization or moving in transit to another port for treatment. Contact PPQ for information concerning fumigation services available at specific ports.

or into California, Arizona, or New Mexico: (see also 7 CFR 301.52)

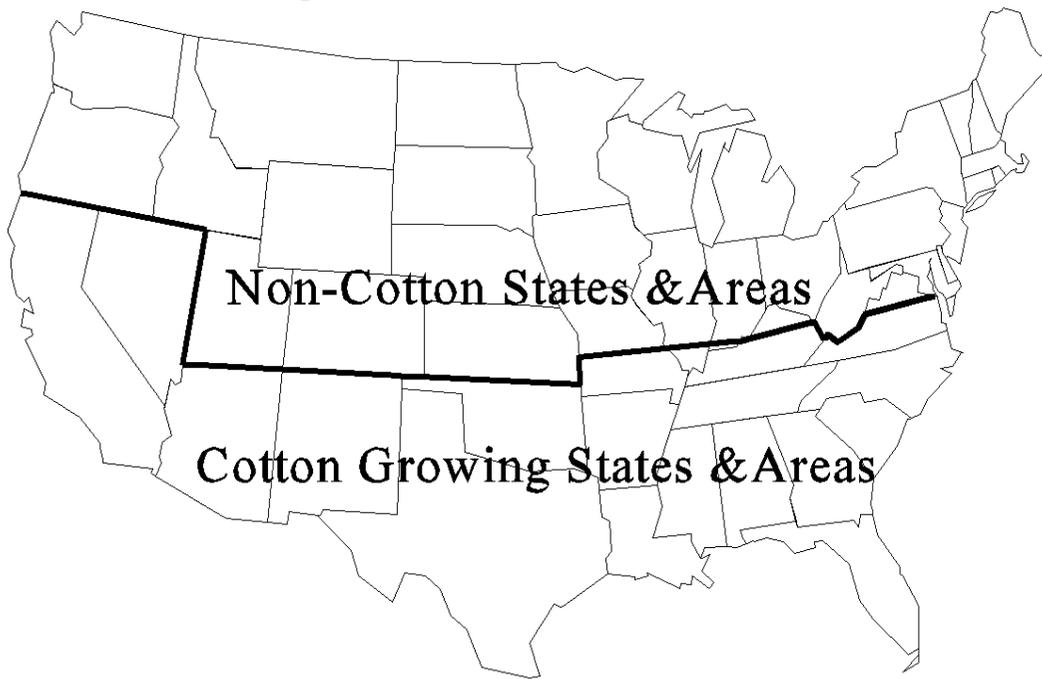
1. Cotton and wild cotton, including all parts of these plants
2. Seed cotton
3. Cottonseed (except acid delinted seed)
4. American-Egyptian cotton lint, linters, and lint cleaner waste, except-
 - ▶ American-Egyptian cotton lint, linters, and lint cleaner waste that is compressed to a density of at least 22 lbs. per cubic foot
 - ▶ Trade samples of American-Egyptian cotton lint and linters
5. Cotton waste produced at cotton gins and cottonseed oil mills
6. Cotton gin trash
7. Used bagging and other used wrappers for cotton
8. Used cotton harvesting equipment and used cotton ginning and oil mill equipment
9. Any product, article, or means of conveyance when a PPQ inspector determines that it presents a risk of spread for PBW.

Only those items described as exceptions in #4 above would be eligible for importation through a port without fumigation capabilities. Overland transit authorizations may also be provided for those items described as exceptions in #4 above. In addition, transit authorizations may be provided for cotton lint that is compressed to high density and is shipped in completely enclosed containers. Transloading or storage that requires high density cotton shipments to be removed from sealed conveyances for more than 48 hrs. will not be authorized if transloading is to occur in California, Arizona, or New Mexico unless the shipment is fumigated.

Cotton lint, linters, gin waste, seed cotton, and cottonseed may be authorized subject only to inspection if moving from Mexico to any area of the U.S. where PBW survey and suppression are not being pursued. Equipment (such as cotton pickers) must be free of seed cotton, soil, and other prohibited contaminants. It is the importer's responsibility to demonstrate that the route for movement and the ultimate destination are not in or near PBW suppression areas. PPQ can require treatment for any product, article, or means of conveyance when a PPQ inspector determines that it presents a risk of spread for PBW.

See **Seed Cotton** (page 2) for additional information concerning authorizations for cotton from Mexico.

Figure 1 - Cotton/Non-Cotton Areas



Treatments:

T-301: Cotton and Cotton Products (for Pink bollworm)

Methyl bromide gas (MBr) at 6 lbs./1,000 ft³ for 12 hrs. for bulk shipments above 60°F

or
MBr at 4 lbs./1,000 ft³ for 24 hrs. for bulk shipments 59°F or below
or
MBr at 3 lbs./1,000 ft³ for 24 hrs. for other than bulk shipments 60°F or above
or
MBr at 8 lbs./1,000 ft³ for 3 hrs. with 26" vacuum at 60°F or above
or
MBr gas at 9 lbs./1,000 ft³ for 3 hrs. with 26" vacuum at 40-59°F

T-203(5)a: Cottonseed (fuzzy seed) for planting (bagged, packaged, or bulk)

Chamber treatment

MBr at 6 lbs./1,000 ft³ for 12 hrs. above 60°F
or
MBr at 3 lbs./1,000 ft³ for 24 hrs. above 60°F
or
MBr at 7 lbs./1,000 ft³ for 12 hrs. at 40-59°F
or
MBr at 4 lbs./1,000 ft³ for 24 hrs. 40-59°F

Tarpaulin treatment

MBr at 7 lbs./1,000 ft³ for 12 hrs. above 60°F
or
MBr at 5 lbs./1,000 ft³ for 24 hrs. above 60°F
or
MBr at 8 lbs./1,000 ft³ for 12 hrs. at 40-59°F
or
MBr gas at 6 lbs./1,000 ft³ for 24 hrs. 40-59°F

For More Information:

Contact the PPQ Permit Unit at Area Code (301) 734-8645 [Fax (301) 734-5786]