

Dear Foreign Supplier Verification Programs (FSVP) Importer:

We are sending you this communication because the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (Customs or CBP) entry filer used the code "UNK" (to represent "unknown") as the FSVP unique facility identifier (UFI) in the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) message set transmitted via Customs's Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) for one or more foods subject to the [Foreign Supplier Verification Programs for Food Importers](#) regulation. FDA intended your use of "UNK" to be temporary to allow time for you to obtain a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number. In the future, FDA will rescind its policy that allows importers to use "UNK." At that time, your Customs entry filer will need to transmit your DUNS number, or CBP will reject the entry. Thus, we recommend that you obtain a DUNS number as soon as possible.

The FSVP regulation requires the FSVP importer of a food to ensure that their name, electronic email address, and UFI recognized as acceptable by FDA electronically is provided electronically when filing entry with Customs (21 CFR [1.509](#)). FDA recognizes the DUNS number as the acceptable UFI for the purpose of compliance with the FSVP regulation.

You may obtain a DUNS number from Dun & Bradstreet (D&B), a commercial company. D&B may provide a DUNS number free of charge within 30 business days or longer. D&B also provides for expedited delivery of a DUNS number for a one-time charge. To obtain a DUNS number, please contact D&B directly by phone at 866-705-5711 or at <https://www.dnb.com/duns-number/get-a-duns.html>.

If you have questions about the FSVP requirement to provide a DUNS number you may contact FDA's Division of Import Operations via email at [FDAImportsInquiry@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:FDAImportsInquiry@fda.hhs.gov).

For more information on acceptable UFIs, see FDA's guidance "[Recognition of Acceptable Unique Facility Identifier \(UFI\) for the Foreign Supplier Verification Programs Regulation](#)" and "[Guidance for Industry: Compliance with Providing an Acceptable Unique Facility Identifier for the Foreign Supplier Verification Programs Regulation](#)."

The DUNS number, which is location specific, must correspond to your U.S. location. If you have multiple U.S. locations and, thus, multiple DUNS numbers, you may choose to provide the DUNS number that applies to the location at which you maintain your FSVP records. FDA investigators may conduct an inspection to review your FSVP records at the location associated with the DUNS number submitted at entry. For example, if you maintain your FSVP records at your corporate headquarters, you may choose to provide the DUNS number of your headquarters when you identify yourself at entry as the FSVP importer. However, because the FSVP regulation permits importers to store records offsite if they can be retrieved and provided to us within 24 hours of request (see 21 CFR 1.510(b)(2)), you may instead provide the DUNS number for another of your locations.

If you already have a DUNS number, you do not need to obtain a new DUNS number for purposes of providing your FSVP UFI. If you have a DUNS number and you believe your Customs entry filer used the "UNK" code in error, please contact your Customs entry filer to ensure they provide your DUNS number for future entries of food subject to the FSVP regulation.

For details on the data requirements for entry filing relating to the FSVP regulation, please review CBP's Cargo Systems Messaging Service message CSMS #17-000314 on CBP's website at <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCBP/bulletins/19e839a> and the [FDA Supplemental Guide for the Automated Commercial Environment](#).

If you have questions about the FSVP regulation, please send them to [FSMA Technical Assistance Network](#).