Charleston Joins The USDA’s Cold Treatment Pilot Project

Speed your perishable supply chain by pairing USDA’s Cold Treatment Pilot Project and the Port of Charleston.

Now you can have imported fruit treated against agricultural pests in-transit from select South American countries. Previously, these commodities had to flow through specialized treatment facilities in the Northeast U.S. and be distributed from there, adding significant cost and time to the supply chain. The pilot includes the following commodities:

- Blueberries, grapes and select citrus fruits from Peru.
- Blueberries and grapes from Uruguay.
- Blueberries, apples and pears from Argentina.

Charleston’s high-efficiency, low-congestion facilities, 100,000 lb. weight limit (GVW) for trucks, and industry-leading cold chain suppliers make it an ideal gateway for these imports. Charleston also offers multiple carrier service options from key South American fruit hubs and relay ports such as Buenos Aires, Callao, Montevideo, Cartagena, and Freeport; and direct service from other countries not subject to the program, such as Chile and Panama.

The Cold Treatment Pilot program is a cooperative effort between APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and Clemson University. Containers must be kept at specified conditions and timeframes to qualify.

Benefits include:

- Shorter total transit times from origin to final U.S. destination for time-sensitive commodities.
- Significant inland cost savings by importing via a port closer to your U.S. destination.
- A greener supply chain by limiting unnecessary inland truck miles.
- More choices of ocean carriers and other key service providers.

Step 1:
Determine if you have import commodities that qualify for this program [Click Here].

Step 2:
Look at your destinations in the Southeast to see how Charleston’s location and efficiency can benefit you.

Step 3:
Contact Kevin Brady at SC Ports: KBrady@scspa.com / 843-724-4050.

Other Contacts:
Permits@aphis.usda.gov
877-770-5990
APHIS Website: [Click Here]
The Port of Charleston is rapidly emerging as the go-to port in the Southeast for cold chain business. Freezer capacity in the Charleston market has grown more than 10-fold recently to more than 660,000 sf. Whether you are making a port selection decision for the routing of freight or choosing a location to make a port-dependent cold chain investment, the Port of Charleston is an ideal choice.

**Refrigerated Container Handling**

**Efficient & Flexible Terminal Operations**
The Port of Charleston employs a highly efficient reefer handling operation that requires no racking fees and expedites pick-up and delivery.

- **Reefer Storage:** Wheeled/Grounded
- **Racking or Facilitation Fee:** None
- **Holiday/Weekend Gates:** Available
- **Power:** Shore Power/Genset
- **Double Moves:** Yes
- **On-Site Repair & Prep:** Yes
- **Portwide Reefer Slots:** 1,585
- **Wando Welch Terminal:** 1,205 Slots
- **North Charleston Terminal:** 380 Slots
- **Specialized Truckers:** Yes
- **Specialized Warehousing:** Yes

**Heavy Loads Welcomed:**
South Carolina regulations allow for trucks up to 100,000 lbs. GVW with a required permit.

**Fastest, Flexible Service:**
Charleston has gates dedicated to reefer business and segregated pick-up/drop-off areas. Combined with our industry-leading productivity, this significantly decreases total truck turn time in Charleston vs. competing ports and increases truck turns per day.

**Lower inland Costs:**
The Port of Charleston is the closest seaport to key concentrations of reefer freight volume in the Southeast, especially export pork, poultry, and pharmaceuticals; and import commodities such as fruit, vegetables, beef, lamb, and beverages.

**Cold Storage Facilities / Charleston Metro Area**
Investment in cold storage facilities near the Port of Charleston has skyrocketed with more than 660,000 sf of new cold chain capacity added recently. These investments are being driven by a combination of proximity to fast-growing export pork and poultry production areas, access to deepwater where ocean carriers can load ships heavy with frozen exports, and growing demand for imported food.

- **Lineage Logistics**
  New 342,000 sf, rail-served blast freezer with inspection facilities on-site.
  Norfolk Southern is the rail provider.
  Address: 7748 Palmetto Commerce Parkway, N. Charleston, SC 29418.
  Sales Contact: Mark Malone / mmalone@lineagelogistics.com

- **New Orleans Cold Storage**
  NOCS has recently expanded from 55,000 sf to 160,000 sf. with blast freezing and an import meat inspection room. Rail-served by both Norfolk Southern and CSX.
  Address: 1091 Remount Road, Charleston, SC 29406
  Sales Contact: Clark Morris / morris.clark@nocs.com

- **Agro Merchants Group**
  Operating a 121,000sf blast freezer with 14,000 frozen pallet positions.
  Import meat inspection facility on-site.
  Address: 1125 Newton Way, Summerville, SC 29483
  Sales Contact: Greg Heard / greg.heard@agromerchants.com

- **Tides Enterprises**
  Operating 100,000+ sf of refrigerated space.
  Address: 578 Meeting St., Charleston, SC 29403
  Sales Contact: Greg Zaccaro / gzaccaro@tidetrading.com

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**Contact Information**

- **Charleston** (843)577-8101
- **Atlanta** (404)391-5537
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- **Chicago** (630)815-9390
- **Mumbai**
- **Shanghai**
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- **Seoul**