

**Instructions for Shipping Domestic APHIS-Regulated Soil Samples
to the
MU Soil Health Assessment Center
3600 New Haven Road
Columbia, MO 65201**

**Compliance Agreement MO-Soil-26-047
7 CFR 301
Version 2.0 02-17-2026**

Authorization

These instructions are for shipping U.S. DOMESTIC soil samples to the University of Missouri Soil Health Assessment Center (SHAC). Soils from Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Territories require a separate PPQ Soil Permit (P525), currently APHIS Permit Number 525-23-304-25146, and the instructions for shipping international APHIS-Regulated samples must be followed.

The Compliance Agreement authorizes the SHAC to receive untreated regulated Domestic soil samples moved interstate from area in the continental United States under federal domestic quarantine for Imported Fire Ant, Golden Nematode, *Phytophthora ramorum*, and/or Witchweed for non-biological purposes. Neither the Compliance Agreement nor the 525a Permit to Receive Soil authorizes receipt of regulated soil from areas under domestic quarantine for Fruit Flies, or Pale Cyst Nematode. Movement of soil from these quarantine areas requires a PPQ Certificate or limited permit. Contact a PPQ office in the originating state for information on obtaining a certificate or limited permit.

A summary map of domestic quarantines is available here: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/organism-soil-imports/soil/domestic-soil/domestic-soil-quarantine-map>. Soils from **pink** and **blue** areas on the map may be moved to a USDA approved facility with a compliance agreement. Movement of soil from locations within the **yellow** areas may require a Limited Permit (PPQ 530) or Certificate (PPQ 540). Contact State Plant Health Directors for more information: [USDA APHIS | State Plant Health Directors](#).

Laboratory Sample Intake

Complete a sample submission form: <https://soilhealth.missouri.edu/sample-analysis-selection-and-submission-form/> that is a part of our website, <https://soilhealth.missouri.edu/>. Please also send a spreadsheet with the following information for each sample. Label all samples with corresponding sample identifiers:

- country of origin (if other than U.S.)
- state of origin,
- county of origin, (FIPS code if possible)
- study title
- principle investigator or primary contact
- study site,
- sample identifier (what you would need to identify which sample it is), and
- sampling date.

APHIS-regulated samples

Make sure the shipment is free from foreign matter or debris, plant pests, noxious weeds and/or biological control organisms.

All packages must consist of at least two inner packages and an outer container securely sealed to prevent loss of regulated soil. The innermost packages must withstand pressure, temperature, and other climatic conditions incidental to transference. The outer container must be rigid and durable enough to remain sealed and structurally intact to endure transfer conditions. New or disinfected packing materials will be used within containers for cushioning and stabilizing purposes.

All shipments of regulated domestic soil must occur by means of a generally recognized commercial carrier. Review. A copy of the SHAC compliance agreement [MO-Soil-26-047], or reference to the agreement number, must accompany all shipments.

The regulated soil and shipping container(s) are subject to in-transit inspection by federal, state, and/or county agriculture officials. These officials may require the shipment to be treated, returned, or destroyed (in part or whole) if appropriate safeguarding or documentation measures are not met. The agreement holder is responsible for expenses associated with such action.

Shipping Samples for Phospholipid Fatty Acid Analysis (PLFA)

Keep PLFA samples cool by using refrigeration or frozen gel packs. If the samples need to be stored more than a few days, freeze the samples, ideally at -80° C. Ship samples overnight with enough frozen gel packs to keep samples cool until they reach the Soil Health Assessment Center (SHAC). Dry ice is best for frozen samples. (To estimate number of gel packs or the amount of dry ice to use when shipping see: <https://dryiceinfo.com/shipping.htm>.) Use a shippable cooler or a similarly insulated box to ship samples. Use new or disinfected packing material to fill in empty space within the shipping container to prevent sample bags from damage. Avoid shipping over week ends. Please contact the SHAC before shipping to let them know that the samples are coming.

Enclose the following information in each shipment:

- Permittee Name: Donna Kay Brandt
- Compliance agreement: MO-Soil-26-047
- Please ship to:
 - Donna Kay Brandt
 - Soil Health Assessment Center
 - 3600 E. New Haven Road
 - Columbia, MO 65201
 - 573-882-0941 (office)
- 573-882-3704 (laboratory)
- brandtdk@missouri.edu