

PART 92—IMPORTATION OF ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS: PROCEDURES FOR REQUESTING RECOGNITION OF REGIONS

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SOURCE: 62 FR 56012, Oct. 28, 1997, unless otherwise noted.

§ 92.1 Definitions.

Active surveillance. Sample collection using a systematic or statistically designed survey methodology to actively seek out and find cases of animals with a restricted disease agent, or to determine the prevalence of the restricted disease agent in the population.

Adjacent region. Any geographic land area, whether or not identifiable by geological, political or surveyed boundaries, that shares common boundaries with any region.

Administrator. The Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service or any other employee of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture, delegated to act in the Administrator's stead.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Animals. All species of the animal kingdom, except man, including: Cattle, sheep, goats, other ruminants, swine, horses, asses, mules, zebras, dogs, poultry, and birds that are susceptible to communicable diseases of livestock and poultry or capable of being carriers of those diseases or their arthropod vectors.

Communicable disease. Any contagious or infectious disease of animals. It can be transmitted either directly or indirectly to a susceptible animal from an infected animal, vector, inanimate source, or other sources.

Contagious disease. Any communicable disease transmitted from one

animal to another by direct contact or by feed, water, aerosol, or contaminated objects.

Disease agent. A virus, bacterium, or other organism that causes disease in animals.

European Union. The organization of Member States consisting of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Ireland, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales, the Isle of Man, and Northern Ireland).

Import (imported, importation) into the United States. To bring into the territorial limits of the United States.

Passive surveillance. A surveillance system that does not depend on active participation by the responsible agency to seek out and monitor a restricted disease agent. The system relies on mandatory reporting, a pool of trained investigators, diagnostic submission procedures and laboratory support, and periodic public information and continuing education programs on diseases.

Prevalence. The number of cases of a disease in existence at a given time in a designated area.

Region. Any defined geographic land region identifiable by geological, political or surveyed boundaries. A region may consist of any of the following:

- (1) A national entity (country);
- (2) Part of a national entity (zone, county, department, municipality, parish, Province, State, etc.);
- (3) Parts of several national entities combined into an area; or
- (4) A group of national entities (countries) combined into a single area.

Restricted disease agent. Any communicable disease agent or its vector not known to exist in the United States or that is subject to a Federal or cooperative Federal/State control or eradication program within the United States.

Surveillance. Systems to find, monitor, and confirm the existence or absence of a restricted disease agent or agents in livestock, poultry and other animals. Surveillance may be passive or active.

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United States. All of the States of the United States, the District of Columbia, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the United States, and all other territories and possessions of the United States.

Vector-borne disease. A disease transmitted to an animal through an intermediate arthropod vector, including ticks or insects.

[62 FR 56012, Oct. 28, 1997, as amended at 68 FR 16938, Apr. 7, 2003]

§ 92.2 Application for recognition of the animal health status of a region.

(a) The representative of the national government(s) of any country or countries who has the authority to request such a change may request at any time that all or part of the country or countries be recognized as a region, be included within an adjacent previously recognized region, or be made part of a region larger than an individual country. Requests for recognition of a region must be sent to the Administrator, in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section.

(b) Each request for approval to export a particular type of animal or animal product to the United States from a foreign region must be made to the Administrator, in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section, and must include, in English, the following information about the region:

(1) The authority, organization, and infrastructure of the veterinary services organization in the region.

(2) Disease status—*i.e.*, is the restricted disease agent known to exist in the region? If “yes,” at what prevalence? If “no,” when was the most recent diagnosis?

(3) The status of adjacent regions with respect to the agent.

(4) The extent of an active disease control program, if any, if the agent is known to exist in the region.

(5) The vaccination status of the region. When was the last vaccination? What is the extent of vaccination if it is currently used, and what vaccine is being used?

(6) The degree to which the region is separated from adjacent regions of higher risk through physical or other barriers.

(7) The extent to which movement of animals and animal products is controlled from regions of higher risk, and the level of biosecurity regarding such movements.

(8) Livestock demographics and marketing practices in the region.

(9) The type and extent of disease surveillance in the region—*e.g.*, is it passive and/or active; what is the quantity and quality of sampling and testing?

(10) Diagnostic laboratory capabilities.

(11) Policies and infrastructure for animal disease control in the region—*i.e.*, emergency response capacity.

(c) Requests for recognition of a region or for approval to export animals or animal products to the United States from a region, including the information required by this section, must be sent to the Administrator, c/o National Center for Import and Export, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 38, Riverdale, MD 20737–1231. (Where possible, include a copy of the request and accompanying information on a 3.5-inch floppy disk in ASCII or a word processing format.)

(d) The information submitted in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section will be made available to the public prior to initiation by APHIS of any rulemaking action on the request.

(e) If, after review of the information submitted, APHIS believes the requested importation can be safely allowed, APHIS will publish a proposed rule in the FEDERAL REGISTER to allow the importation, and the conditions under which the importation would be allowed, along with a discussion of the basis for the proposal.

(f) APHIS will provide a period of time during which the public may comment on the proposal. During the comment period, the public will have access to the information upon which APHIS based its analysis of the risk of such importation, as well as to its methodology in conducting the analysis. Once APHIS has reviewed all comments received, it will make a final decision on what conditions will be necessary to allow the importation in question, and will publish the conditions for import in the FEDERAL REGISTER.