National Veterinary Services Laboratories	
Document Title: Obtaining, Submitting and Shipping Horse Protection Samples	
Author/Position: Amber Peterson /	Document Number: CASSOPH001.01
Microbiologist	
Effective Date: August 9, 2006	Supersedes: New

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Approved: /s/ Frank Ross

Date: 8 Aug 2006

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#### 1. Purpose/Scope

The purpose of this standard operating procedure (SOP) is to describe the processes used when obtaining, submitting and shipping Horse Protection Samples. Horse Protection Samples are obtained by U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS), Animal Care Horse Protection personnel and submitted to USDA APHIS, National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL), Chemistry and Analytical Services (CAS) Section personnel.

The scope of this SOP is USDA APHIS NVSL CAS personnel and USDA APHIS Animal Care Horse Protection personnel.

#### 2. Definitions

**Horse Protection Sample -** any sample taken by USDA APHIS personnel for the purpose of enforcement of the Horse Protection Act (15 U.S.C. §§ 1821 1831).

**Horse Protection Kit** – a kit prepared by CAS personnel with all the materials necessary for obtaining, submitting and shipping Horse Protection Samples.

### 3. Safety Precautions

Any person shipping horse protection kits must be trained and certified in the shipment of Ethyl Alcohol.

### 4. Equipment and Materials Required

• Horse Protection Kit – specific contents listed in procedure.

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#### 5. Procedure

### 5.1 Obtaining, Submitting and Shipping Horse Protection Samples

## **Horse Protection Kits**

How to submit kits to ensure sample stability and chain of custody



Amber Peterson Office #: (515) 663-7543

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### Each kit contains...



- 1 wash bottle
- 1 sealed bottle of Ethyl Alcohol
- 2 ice packs
- 1 ziptie/twist tie
- 2 sample boxes containing:
  - 20 empty sample tubes
  - 20 empty
    BLANK tubes

- Paperwork consisting of:
  - 1 Set of Instructions
  - 1 NVSL Submission Form (VS 10-4)
  - 1 Chain of Custody
  - 25 Labels
  - 50 tamper evident seals
  - 4 pieces of security tape
  - 1 prepaid FedEx airbill
  - 1 Pre-filled-out Shipper's Declaration of Dangerous Goods Form
  - 1 pre-printed "From" Label and 1 preprinted "To" Label

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### Each kit contains...



### Extra Items for "just in case"...

- 1 UN1170 Label
- 1 (ETHYL ALCOHOL) Label
- 1 LIMITED QUANTITY Label
- 1 FLAMMABLE LIQUID Label
- 1 blank manual FedEx airbill
- 1 blank Shipper's Declaration of Dangerous Goods Form
- 1 extra plastic bag
- 1 piece of packing tape

# To begin...



 Fill the wash bottle with Ethyl Alcohol from the sealed shipping bottle.



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### Getting prepared to take a sample...

- Fill out the sample label completely and affix to sample tube.
- Each sample tube will have a corresponding BLANK tube which is already labeled. (BLANK tube #1 will go with sample tube #1, and so on).
- These tubes are also numbered on the top and must stay together because you will use both when taking a sample.



# Taking a sample Part 1

- Open the sample tube, swab the anterior and posterior pastern on both front forelimbs of the horse.
- Add Ethyl Alcohol to tube to fill line (approximately 2.5ml).
- Screw on cap tightly and seal with one tamper evident seal, wrapping clockwise to help ensure the cap stays tightly screwed on throughout the shipping process.





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# Taking a sample Part 2



- Open the corresponding BLANK tube in the vicinity (2-3 feet) of the horse being sampled, wave swab in air.
- Add Ethyl Alcohol to BLANK tube to fill line (approximately 2.5 ml).
- Screw on cap tightly and seal with one tamper evident seal, wrapping clockwise to help ensure the cap stays tightly screwed on throughout the shipping process.

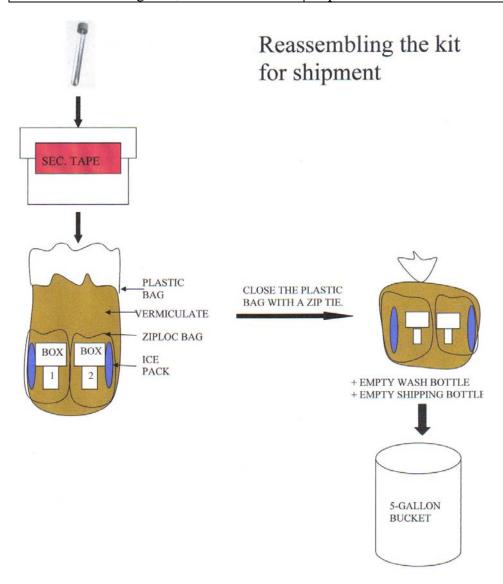


# Filling out the paperwork



- Fill out all highlighted areas of NVSL Submission Form (VS 10-4). Use the back for additional samples. When filling in the "Animal ID" use the Class # and Exhibitor # for identification.
- Fill out ALL areas of the USDA Horse Protection Chain of Custody. Don't forget to sign it!!

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PUT THE LID ON THE BUCKET - PUT THE COMPLETED CHAIN OF CUSTODY AND NVSL SUBMISSION FORM (VS 10-4) ON TOP - PUT THE BUCKET INTO THE SHIPPING BOX – PUT THE FEDEX AIRBILL ON THE BOX – PUT THE SHIPPER'S DECLARATION OF DANGEROUS GOODS FORM IN THE CLEAR ENVELOPE ON THE SIDE – ENSURE THAT ALL REQUIRED LABELS ARE ON OUTSIDE OF BOX – AFFIX "FROM/TO" LABELS TO OUTSIDE OF BOX - SEAL BOX SHUT.

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# Reassembling the kit for shipment to NVSL



- Seal sample boxes with security tape, 2 pieces of tape per box. Be sure to cover the seams.
- Put each sample box in a ziploc bag with an ice pack.
- If not shipping immediately, keep samples refrigerated or on ice.
- NOTE: Samples <u>must</u> be shipped within 7 days of the date on the Shipper's Declaration of Dangerous Goods form.







# Reassembling the kit for shipment to NVSL



- Put the samples boxes (now in a ziploc bag) in the original bag filled with vermiculate. Remove enough of the vermiculate from the original bag to allow bag to be tied closed and placed in bucket, but make sure that sample boxes are completely surrounded.
- Seal the original bag with a zip tie.
- Put the vermiculate/sample bag in the bucket.
- Discard remaining Ethyl Alcohol in bottle.
- Put the empty Ethyl Alcohol bottle and empty wash bottle on top of the bag.
- Put on the lid of the bucket and screw tightly closed.

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# Reassembling the kit for shipment to NVSL



- Put the NVSL Submission Form (VS 10-4), the USDA Horse Protection Chain of Custody and any unused paperwork or labels in the plastic bag and place on top of the bucket.
- Make sure that the appropriate labels are on the outside of the box. See next slide for details.
- Affix the pre-printed "From" and "To" labels to the outside of the box.
- Close the box. Seal with packing tape.
- Attach the FedEx airbill to the top of the box.
- Sign the Shipper's Declaration of Dangerous Goods Form and put in a clear envelope on the side of the box.

NOTE: Make sure you take the kit to a Full-Service FedEx shipper that accepts Shipper's Declaration of Dangerous Goods.

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# Reassembling the kit for shipment to NVSL





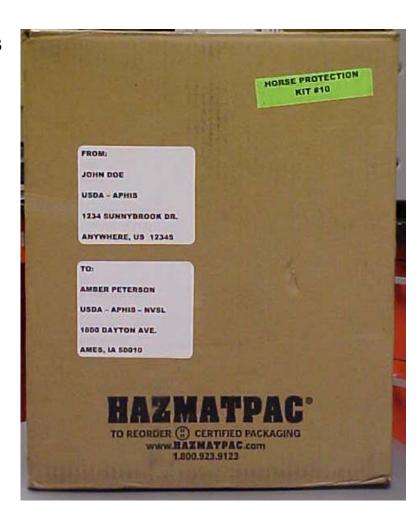


Side 2



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### Side 3





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### Just in case scenarios...



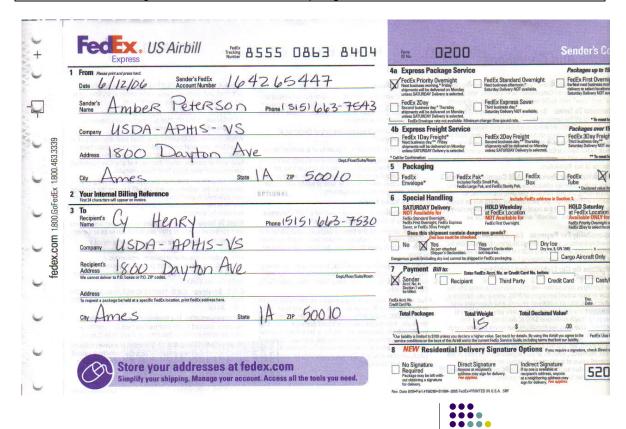
- If something happens to the shipping labels on the outside of the box.
  - Use the extra labels included with the kit to fix the problem. See the pictures in the "Reassembling the kit for shipment to NVSL" section for a reference on what the box should look like.

# Just in case scenarios...



- If something happens to the Prepaid FedEx airbill.
  - Fill out the manual airbill included with the kit.
    See an example of how to fill out a manual airbill on the back of this sheet.

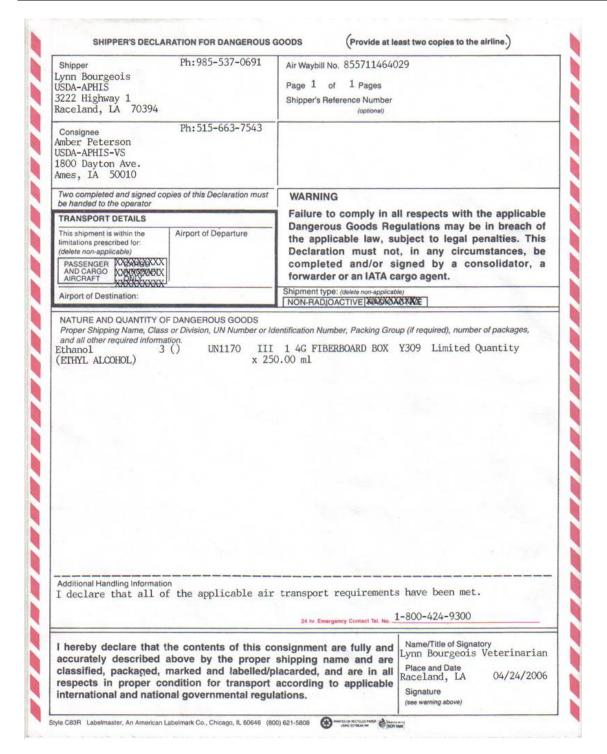
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### Just in case scenarios...

- If something happens to the Pre-filled-out Shipper's Declaration of Dangerous Goods Form
  - Call Amber and have a new one overnighted.
  - Find a typewriter and fill out the blank one included with the kit. See example of a completed Shipper's Declaration of Dangerous Goods Form on the back of this sheet.

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### 5.2 Checklist

- ✓ Sample label filled out and affixed to sample tube
- ✓ Sample swabbed from both horse's front forelimbs
- ✓ Blank tube exposed to environment around sample horse
- ✓ Both tubes filled to fill line with Ethyl Alcohol
- ✓ Both tubes sealed with tamper evident label
- ✓ NVSL Submission Form (VS 10-4) filled out
- ✓ USDA APHIS Chain of Custody filled out and signed
- ✓ Samples packaged correctly
- ✓ Shipper's Declaration for Dangerous Goods Form <u>signed</u> and put in exterior envelope
- ✓ Shipping labels on outside of package checked
- ✓ FedEx airbill affixed to package

### 6. References/Associated Quality Documents

- Horse Protection Act: United States Code (15 U.S.C. §§ 18211831)
- CASFMAH001.01 Horse Protection Kit Instructions
- **7. Revision History** New Document
- 8. Appendices N/A