PRIMARY ENCLOSURE-CONSTRUCTION

An animal transported in commerce must be contained in an adequately ventilated, properly constructed primary enclosure. [3.14, 3.36, 3.61, 3.87, 3.113, 3.137]

Criteria

A primary enclosure, such as a compartment, transport cage, carton, or crate, used to transport an animal in commerce must be properly constructed.

The transport primary enclosure must:,

- be strong enough to contain the animal securely and comfortably
- be able to withstand the normal rigors of transportation
- have an interior without any sharp points, edges, or protrusions that could injure the animal
- be designed so that the animal can be quickly and easily removed in an emergency
- have adequate devices, such as handles or handholds, on the exterior to:
 - enable the enclosure to be lifted without tilting
 - ensure that anyone handling the enclosure can avoid contact with the animal unless necessary
- be constructed to prevent leakage of fluids during transit
- be constructed of a material that is:
 - b cleanable and sanitizable, or
 - disposable

Non-disposable primary enclosures must be cleaned and sanitized prior to reuse.

Species Specific

Dogs & Cats

The primary enclosure must be designed and constructed to: [3.14(a)(9)]

- prevent seepage of waste products by having a:
 - solid, leakproof bottom containing unused litter, or
 - removable leakproof collection tray under a slatted or wire mesh floor

 prevent any part of the animal from protruding outside the enclosure in a way that could result in injury to the animal or to any nearby person or animal

A slatted or wire mesh floor must be designed and constructed: [3.14(a)(9)]

- to protect the animal's feet and legs from injury
- to not allow the animal's feet to pass through the openings

Any material, treatment, paint, preservative or other chemical used in or on the primary enclosure must be safe and non-toxic to the animal. [3.14(a)(7)]

Nonhuman Primates

The primary enclosure must be designed and constructed to: [3.87(a)(10)]

- prevent seepage of waste products by having a:
 - solid, leakproof bottom containing unused litter, or
 - removable leakproof collection tray under a slatted or wire mesh floor
- prevent any part of the animal from protruding outside the enclosure in a way that could result in injury to the animal or to any nearby person or animal

A slatted or wire mesh floor must be designed and constructed: [3.87(a)(10)]

- to protect the animal's feet and legs from injury
- to not allow the animal's feet to pass through the openings

Doors or other means of access into the enclosure must be secured with animal-proof devices that prevent accidental opening of the enclosure. [3.87(a)(5)]

Any material, treatment, paint, preservative or other chemical used in or on the primary enclosure must be safe and non-toxic to the animal. [3.87(a)(7)]

Two or more primary enclosures may be connected or attached to each other. [3.87(a)]

Marine Mammals

Primary enclosures used to transport all marine mammals must: [3.113(e)]

- have solid bottoms to prevent leakage in shipment
- maintain the animal on floors that are:
 - sturdy
 - rigid
 - solid
 - provided with adequate drainage
- be cleaned and sanitized between uses

Polar Bears, Pinnipeds, Sea Otters

The primary enclosure must:

- be constructed from material that: [3.113(a)(2)]
 - is durable
 - is nontoxic
 - cannot be chewed
 - cannot be swallowed
- not allow the animal to put any body part(s) outside the enclosure that would result in injury to: [3.113(a)(5)]
 - the animal itself
 - nearby persons
 - persons handling the enclosure
- have openings that:
 - provide access into the enclosure [3.113(a)(6)]
 - are secured with locking devices of a type that cannot be accidentally opened [3.113(a)(6)]
 - are located to provide easy access to the marine mammal at all times for: [3.113(a)(7)]
 - emergency removal
 - potential treatment
- have air inlets that: [3.113(a)(8)]
 - are at heights which provide cross ventilation at all levels (particularly when the marine mammal is in a prone position)
 - are located on all four sides of the enclosure
 - cover not less than 20 percent of the total surface area of each side of the enclosure

- have projecting rims or other devices: [3.113(a)(9)]
 - on any ends or sides of the enclosure that have ventilation openings
 - that provide a minimum air circulation space of
 3.0 inches (7.6cm) between the enclosure and any adjacent cargo/conveyance wall
- be constructed to provide sufficient air circulation to maintain the temperatures required by the transportation standards [3.113(a)(10)]

Cetaceans & Sirenians

Straps, slings, harnesses, or other devices used for body support or restraint must: [3.113(b)]

- be designed so as not to cause injury to the animal
- be designed to allow access to the animal by attendants to administer care during transit
- be equipped with special padding to prevent injury or trauma at critical weight pressure points
- prevent the animal from thrashing about and injuring itself or the attendants