

CIRCUSES	Circuses using regulated animals must meet all the applicable Animal Welfare Act regulations and standards.
Criteria	<p>Circuses may be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • covered under one exhibitor’s license, or • composed completely of individually licensed exhibitors who work for the circus. In this case, a separate inspection report must be completed for each licensee. • composed of a combination of a licensed circus and individually licensed exhibitors. In this case: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ one inspection report should be completed for the licensed circus itself and include all the regulated animals covered under the circus’s license, and ➤ separate inspection reports should be completed for each individually licensed exhibitor <p>NOTE: It is important to know which exhibitor’s license covers the particular animals that you are inspecting. It is common for exhibitors/animal acts to travel with more than one circus in a touring season.</p>
Unlicensed Exhibitors	<p>If you find an unlicensed circus or an unlicensed individual exhibitor who requires a license, you should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inform the exhibitor of the licensing requirements • follow the prelicense procedures delineated on page 8.12.17 - <i>Prelicense Inspection - On-the-Road Inspection</i> <p>Sometimes these exhibitors do not speak or understand English very well. Be patient dealing with these exhibitors and if necessary, ask the circus manager for help explaining the requirements.</p>
Inspection Frequency	You do not have to inspect every circus or traveling exhibitor that exhibits in your territory. Before conducting an inspection of a circus, you should check LARIS for the last inspection date and noncompliances identified or contact the appropriate Regional Office if you cannot find the information.

Observing the Circus

If a circus or an individual licensee has been inspected within 90 days and had a clean inspection, you should not conduct an inspection unless a complaint has been received or you see a “Direct” noncompliance. If you are uncertain about conducting an inspection, contact your SACS.

If the circus has elephants, see the “Protocol for Inspecting Traveling Exhibitors with Elephants” on page 17.1.7.

Prior to announcing your presence, you may want to watch an actual circus performance to observe the handling of the animals and the types of acts/tricks the animals are performing. You will be reimbursed for the entrance fee, if applicable.

Some areas to pay special attention to include, but are not limited to:

- health and well-being of the animals
- behavior of the animals
- methods used to make the animals perform
- procedure for moving animals in and out of the rings
- cages used to contain the dangerous animals
- methods of restraint used to control the animals
- Note: Drugs may not be used to control the animals.
- public barriers and security during the performance
- pre-performance activities involving the public

Conducting the Inspection

When inspecting circuses, make sure that the exhibitor meets all the applicable regulations [2.40, 2.50, 2.75, 2.78, 2.80, 2.125, 2.126, 2.130, 2.131], all the standards, including the transportation standards, for the animals being used, and Policies 2, 3, 4, 6, 18, 21, 22, 24, and 25.

Prior to conducting the actual inspection:

- identify yourself in a professional manner at the gate or ticket window. NOTE: At most facilities, you will not be required to pay admission. If you are required to pay

- admission, you should:
 - charge the admission fee on your Purchase Visa (preferable), or
 - pay cash (you will be reimbursed)
- state the purpose for the visit
- show your USDA badge and ID if requested
- if appropriate, provide a business card
- ask to speak to the person in charge
- determine if the circus is covered under one license or individual licenses
- if individually licensed exhibitors, ask the circus manager or another responsible person to accompany you to the individual exhibitors

Animal Inspection

Some areas to pay special attention to include, but are not limited to:

- health and well-being of the animals
- behavior of the animals
- space requirements for the animals, i.e., are animals housed in their transport cages. If so, do these cages meet the space requirements when not in actual transit?
- vertical space for animals that require it, such as bears, large cats and nonhuman primates
- frequency and length of exercise provided to the animals whose cages do not meet the space requirements
- food and water
- shade or other shelter for animals housed outdoors
- housing for animals that are in quarantine, isolation, holding, or in off-exhibit areas
- contingency plan to provide veterinary care if an animal becomes sick or is injured while on the road
- foot care, especially elephants

NOTE: Be very cautious when inspecting an elephant:

- an elephant's trunk can reach out about 8 feet
- NEVER walk up to an elephant unless accompanied by the owner or trainer
- NEVER get between the owner/trainer and the

- elephant
- NEVER get between elephants
- NEVER get between an elephant and a wall, the side

- of a truck, or any solid surface
- training and handling experience of the handlers and employees
- animal activities conducted between performances, such as rides or photo shoots

Facility Inspection

Some areas to pay special attention to include, but are not limited to:

- structural strength of the primary enclosures, exercise pens and transport cages
NOTE: Never enter a pen or enclosure unless absolutely necessary and the animal(s) are secured.
- security devices, such as locks, latches, or hinges, on the cages
- public barriers
- food preparation areas and storage facilities for the food
- diets being fed (quality, quantity, wholesomeness)
- security measures at night
- transport enclosures and vehicles, such as trucks and train cars, especially space and ventilation

Records Review

For records requirements, see Section 17.4 - *Records*.

The exhibitor must have the required records with him/her on the road. **NOTE:** If the records are at another site or location, it is acceptable for the records to be e-mailed or faxed to the site of the inspection **during** the inspection.

If the records are not available during the inspections, this noncompliance should be cited under 2.126(a)(2).

NOTE: If you have questions or are unsure about a situation, use

Inspection Report	<p>your professional judgment, call your SACS and/or see the appropriate Section of this Guide.</p> <p>On-the-Road Inspection When completing the inspection report in LARIS, be sure to enter the inspection in the “TRA” site if the circus is on-the-road, NOT in the home site.</p> <p>NOTE: Some circuses have more than one TRA site and more than one unit, make sure that the TRA site that you are entering the inspection into is for the TRA site and /or Unit that you are inspecting.</p> <p>If there is not a “TRA” site in LARIS, complete the inspection using the word-processing inspection report. Then follow the procedure on page 7.1.2.</p> <p>On the inspection report in the narrative section, put:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the location, i.e., city and State, of the inspection• the name of the Unit, if applicable• the name of the circus or group if the exhibitor is part of a larger circus or traveling group
Follow-Up	<p>If noncompliances are identified and a follow-up inspection is required, be sure to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• obtain an itinerary from the exhibitor• discuss with your SACS who will contact the next inspector
