

USDA, APHIS, VS
NATIONAL CENTER FOR IMPORT AND EXPORT
PROTOCOL TO IMPORT BREEDING SWINE FROM _____
(A Member State of the European Union
Recognized as Low-Risk for Classical Swine Fever)

December 2009

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

This protocol is only applicable to live swine for breeding purposes exported from Member States of the EU recognized by the USDA as low-risk for CSF, listed in Title 9, Code of Federal Regulations (9 CFR), Parts 93 and 94, as an “APHIS-defined EU CSF region.”

1.1 The importer must obtain an **Import Permit** from the:

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
Veterinary Services (VS)
National Center for Import and Export, (NCIE) Unit 39
4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD 20737-1231

Telephone: (301) 734-8364
Facsimile: (301) 734-6402

The application, **VS Form 17-129, “Application for Import or in Transit Permit”** can be obtained by writing or telephoning NCIE, or by downloading it from the APHIS web site:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/forms.shtml

1.2 The importer must reserve quarantine space at one of the following USDA animal import centers (AIC):

Information on the Import Centers can be found at the following web site:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/animal_import/animal_imports_portlist.shtml

1.2.1 New York AIC: Rock Tavern, New York, (845) 564-2950
Fax (845) 564-1075

1.2.2 Miami AIC: Miami, Florida, (305) 526-2926
Fax (305) 526-2929

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- 1.3 An official **health certificate** is required on entry into the United States.
The official health certificate must be issued by a veterinarian recognized by the competent veterinary authority of the _____ (EU Member State) and must be endorsed by the competent veterinary authority certifying the attestations and tests required in this protocol. Results and dates of all required official tests must be included in the certification.

2. CERTIFICATIONS

Certification Statements are performed by Accredited Veterinarian and Official Government Veterinarian as per negotiated and approved official health certificate (HC). Please refer to parts 11 and 13 of the official HC.

- 2.1 _____ (EU Member State) is free of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), rinderpest, African swine fever, and swine vesicular disease.
- 2.2 The breeding swine have not been imported into _____ (EU Member State) from countries/regions affected with FMD, rinderpest, African swine fever, or swine vesicular disease.
- 2.3 The breeding swine have not been in a country/region where classical swine fever is known to exist (except for an APHIS-defined EU CSF region), as indicated in 9 CFR Part 94; nor have they commingled with other swine that at any time were in any of these regions or zones; nor have they transited such countries/regions unless the swine were moved directly through the region or zone in a sealed means of conveyance with the seal determined to be intact upon arrival at the point of destination.
- 2.4 The breeding swine have not been in a restricted zone in an APHIS-defined EU CSF region established because of the detection of classical swine fever in domestic swine, from the time of detection until the designation of the zone as a restricted zone is removed by the competent veterinary authority of the EU Member State or until 6 months following depopulation of the swine on affected premises in the restricted zone and the cleaning and disinfection of the last affected premises in the zone, whichever period of time is later.

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- 2.5 The breeding swine have not been in a restricted zone in an APHIS-defined EU CSF region established because of the detection of classical swine fever in wild boar, from the time of detection until the designation of the zone as a restricted zone is removed by the competent authority of the EU Member State.
- 2.6 The breeding swine have not commingled with swine that have at any time been in any of the regions or zones described in sections 2.4 and 2.5, unless the swine are exported after the periods described in these sections.
- 2.7 The breeding swine have not transited any region or zone described in sections 2.4 and 2.5, unless the swine were moved directly through the region or zone in a sealed means of conveyance with the seal determined to be intact upon arrival at the point of destination, or unless the swine are exported after the periods described in these sections.
- 2.8 Since birth or within the 12 months prior to export to the United States, there was no clinical or pathological evidence of tuberculosis (TB), brucellosis, or Aujeszky's disease found in the swine or any other animals in contact with them.
- 2.9 For 60 days prior to export, no swine erysipelas or swine plague (acute pasteurellosis) existed on the originating or any subsequent premises.
- 2.10 During the 60 days prior to export, the swine were isolated from all other livestock in an embarkation quarantine facility approved by and under the supervision of the competent veterinary authority of _____ (EU Member State).
- 2.11 During the 60 days prior to export, the swine were not held with animals of lesser health status or with animals under any restrictions which would make them ineligible for export to the United States.
- 2.12 A salaried veterinary officer of the competent veterinary authority of _____ (EU Member State) inspected the animals at the embarkation quarantine facility within 24 hours prior to export and found the swine to be free of clinical evidence of contagious or communicable disease and, as far as can be determined, exposure thereto, during the preceding 60 days in isolation.

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3. TESTING

Within the 3-month period prior to export, the breeding swine were subjected to the following tests at least once with negative results:

- 3.1 Tuberculosis: An intradermal tuberculin test with animals injected with .01 mL of *Mycobacterium bovis* tuberculin. The sites of injection must be the lips of the vulva (boars may be injected at the junction of the skin and mucous membrane of the anus) and the soft skin just posterior to the ear. The injection sites must be visually observed and palpated 48 hours (plus or minus 6 hours) following injection. A negative test result is the lack of any response that can be seen or palpated. Swine with tissue reactions that can be observed or palpated are classified as reactors to *M.bovis*. If reactors are observed, all the reactors must be necropsied and tissues submitted to the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) for culture. If no gross lesions are observed and all cultures are negative, the remaining non-reactors in the shipment may be released.
- 3.2 Brucellosis - a buffered Brucella antigen test (card test, rose bengal test, or the buffered plate agglutination test) or an ELISA (indirect or competitive) test. Samples that react positively must be retested with negative results using a suitable confirmatory test such as the complement fixation test.
- 3.3 Aujeszky's disease: a serum neutralization at a dilution of 1:4 or an ELISA test using all the Aujeszky's disease viral antigens in the case of non-vaccinated swine, or an ELISA test for Aujeszky's disease g1 (gE) antigens in the case of swine vaccinated with a g1 (gE) deleted vaccine;

Note: Test records must accompany the shipment. All diagnostic tests must be conducted at a laboratory approved by the competent veterinary authority of _____ (EU Member State).

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4. TRANSPORTATION TO PORT OF EMBARKATION AND TO THE UNITED STATES

- 4.1 The animals must be transported to the port of embarkation in a vehicle that has been cleaned and disinfected prior to use.
- 4.2 The swine must be transported from the embarkation quarantine facility to the port of embarkation in a vehicle sealed with an official seal issued by the competent veterinary authority. The seal must be broken at the port of embarkation by a veterinarian officially recognized by the competent veterinary authority.
- 4.3 No livestock, other than those intended for export to the United States, are permitted aboard the vehicle that transports the swine to the port of embarkation.
- 4.4 All hay, straw, forage, feed, and bedding aboard the transporting aircraft or vessel must originate from a Member State designated by the USDA to be free of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), rinderpest, African swine fever, and swine vesicular disease, as indicated in 9 CFR Part 94 and other official publications. No equipment or materials used in exporting the swine to the United States may have previously been used for transporting swine that do not meet the requirements of this protocol, unless the equipment and materials have first been cleaned and disinfected.
- 4.5 The transporting aircraft or vessel must be cleaned and disinfected under the supervision of the competent veterinary authority prior to loading.
- 4.6 No livestock, other than those intended for export to the United States, are permitted aboard the transporting aircraft or vessel.
- 4.7 No stops or ports of call are permitted except for those specified in the U.S. import permit.
- 4.8 The captain of the transport carrier must be advised of the transportation requirements.

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- 4.9 The import permit and the required certifications relating to the health of the swine, tests conducted and results, cleaning and disinfecting, and feed and bedding must accompany the swine to the U.S. port of entry.

5. U.S. PORT OF ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 5.1 The port inspection, required testing, and quarantine must be completed at the USDA-approved animal import center at the first port of entry, as specified on the import permit.
- 5.2 Upon arrival, the swine will be quarantined at a USDA Animal Import Center facility for a minimum of 30 days, with the Aujesky's, tuberculosis and brucellosis tests repeated once during the quarantine period.
- 5.3 If all test results are negative and no other infectious and communicable disease conditions become evident, and the animals are considered fit for travel, the swine will be released to the importer.