

United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

WS Directive

2.601 10/07/05

SAFETY

1. PURPOSE

To establish general Wildlife Services (WS) safety guidelines and responsibilities.

2. REPLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

This directive revises WS Directive 2.601 dated 4/15/98.

3. POLICY

WS supervisors will promote a safe working attitude among employees. Supervisors will identify hazards, including wildlife-borne diseases, in advance of work assignments. Supervisors will also provide employees with adequate information, training, and personal protective equipment to optimize employee safety.

WS employees will adhere to safety requirements and use appropriate personal protective equipment provided for assigned work. Employees are required to immediately report unsafe working conditions to their supervisor and work cooperatively to minimize hazardous working conditions.

WS personnel may be required to participate in the APHIS Occupational Medical Monitoring Program (OMMP) as a result of their assigned position and/or occupational exposures. OMMP is designed to protect employees who may be exposed to hazardous chemicals, biologicals, radioactive materials, and noise hazards. Access to the OMMP is accomplished by completing APHIS Form 29, OMMP Occupational Exposures, for indicating potential or actual exposure to occupational hazards. Form 29 must be signed by the employee and verified and signed by the employee's supervisor. The completed form is then submitted to Federal Occupational Health (FOH) who administers the OMMP for APHIS. Employees may decline to participate, in writing, in the OMMP; however, refusal may be justification for reassignment or other action. Necessary inoculations may be made a condition of employment.

All accidents will be reported by WS employees to their supervisor in a timely manner. Accidents involving aircraft or a human fatality will be reported immediately to the appropriate Director.

WS personnel are advised to alert their physician that they may be exposed to wildlife-borne diseases. Serious diseases including rabies, hantavirus, plague, Lyme disease, psittacosis, Chlamydia psittaci, or histoplasmosis may be misdiagnosed unless the physician is aware of the possibility for exposure.

For additional information contact:

a. The National Wildlife Health Center, 6006 Schroeder Rd.,
Madison, WI 53711, telephone number 608/270-2400;

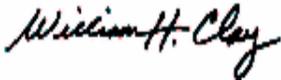
b. The National Veterinary Services Laboratories, 1800 Dayton
Ave., P.O. Box 844, Ames, IA 50010, telephone number 515/663-
7200;

c. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton
Rd., Atlanta, GA 30333, telephone number 404/639-3311.

The APHIS Safety and Health Manual provides additional safety and
health regulations and procedures to assist managers and
supervisors in accomplishing their program responsibilities.

4. REFERENCES

APHIS Form 29, OMMP Occupational Exposures
(<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/library/forms/pdf/aphis29.pdf>).
APHIS Safety and Health Manual - APHIS 4790
(<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/library/manuals/>).



Deputy Administrator