



Animal and Plant  
Health Inspection  
Service

Veterinary Services  
Strategy and Policy  
Live Animal Imports

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## Notice of need for contingency plans for transit shipments of avian species

APHIS has determined that the number of problems arising from emergencies at U.S. ports of entry with live animal shipments has increased. Such emergencies have strained port resources and caused delays. Importers are now required to create contingency plans for animal transit shipments. The following information for avian shipments is for use by importers, and APHIS port offices, which issue transit permits for avian transit shipments.

Transit is defined as travel from outside the U. S. through one or more ports before final U.S. destination, or destination outside the U.S.

At a minimum, contingency plans for avian shipments, which transit the U.S. *by land*, must contain the following measures:

1. Emergency contacts/ points of contacts (to include veterinarians)
2. Transport conveyances/containers, loading densities and space requirements
3. Holding facility arrangements/rest stop arrangements Environmental/weather protection

At a minimum, transit shipments entering the U.S. *by plane* and are on the ground for 4 plus hours must contain the following measures:

- Emergency contacts/ points of contacts (to include veterinarians)
- Pre-approved holding facility arrangements (includes address and date of approval).

If not using an approved holding facility, prior approval from local APHIS port office on:

- holding space arrangements
- Bird escape plan
- Cleaning and disinfection arrangements

For any additional questions, please feel free contact Dr. Bettina Helm at (301) 851-3362 or [Bettina.Helm@usda.gov](mailto:Bettina.Helm@usda.gov).

