

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service****[9 CFR Ch. I]****Ventilation of Animal Shipping Containers; Request for Information**

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of request for information relative to minimum ventilation standards for animal shipping containers.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this document is to give interested persons an opportunity to provide views, data, and other information regarding the minimum amount of ventilation area required of shipping containers used to transport warmblooded animals in commerce.

DATE: Written comments must be filed on or before August 13, 1979.

ADDRESSES: Written comments to the Deputy Administrator, USDA, APHIS, VS, Room 703, Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, MD 20782

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Dale F. Schwindaman (301) 436-8271.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As a result of requests and comments from the National Committee on Animal Transport, and from other interested persons for reconsideration of the Department's present standards regarding the minimum ventilation requirements for shipping containers used to transport dogs and cats in commerce, the Department is soliciting the submission of data, views, and opinions relative to such ventilation requirements for shipping containers used to transport warmblooded animals in commerce. Although the requests regarding this subject were primarily concerned with dogs and cats, the Department will consider comments relative to other animals as well since the transportation standards contained in the regulations pertain to all warmblooded animals subject to the Animal Welfare Act. The Department's present standards regarding ventilation state that, "Primary enclosures, . . . used to transport live (various animals subject to the Act) shall be constructed in such a manner that . . . ; (1) . . . , there are ventilation openings located on two opposite walls of the primary enclosure and the ventilation openings on each such wall shall be at least 16 percent of the total surface area of each such wall, or there are ventilation

openings located on all four walls of the primary enclosure and the ventilation openings on each such wall shall be at least 8 percent of the total surface area of each such wall; *Provided, however,* That at least one-third of the total area providing ventilation for the primary enclosure shall be located on the lower one-half of the primary enclosure and at least one-third of the total area providing the ventilation for the primary enclosure shall be located on the upper one-half of the primary enclosure; * * *." The National Committee on Animal Transport and other persons requested that the Department "increase the minimum ventilation requirement in shipping containers to 25 percent for the six months from April 1 through October 1."

The purpose of this notice is to give all interested persons an opportunity to express opinions and comments and to submit pertinent facts, data, or arguments, in writing, regarding the amount of ventilation available to animals in shipping containers. Such opinions and comments should contain information regarding any factual data which might be available concerning the adequacy or inadequacy of the present ventilation requirements, as well as, any suggested changes. Opinions and comments, which the Department has already received with regard to this issue, will be given consideration and persons who have provided them need not submit these again unless they wish to supply new or additional information to the Department.

All written submissions made pursuant to this notice will be made available for public inspection at the Federal Building, Room 703, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Maryland, during regular hours of business (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, except holidays) in a manner convenient to the public business (7 CFR 1.27(b)).

Dated: June 7, 1979.

Norvan L. Meyer,

Acting Deputy Administrator, Veterinary Services.

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