

USDA APHIS VETERINARY SERVICES STRATEGY & POLICY PROTOCOL FOR THE IMPORTATION OF ELEPHANTS, HIPPOPOTAMI, RHINOCEROSES, AND TAPIRS

March 2021, Update March 2024

This protocol describes the conditions required to import elephants, hippos, rhinos, and tapirs, according to regulations found in 9 CFR Part 93.

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS (these apply unless an animal is exempt; see Section 5 for details):

1.1 The importer must obtain an import permit from:

USDA APHIS Veterinary Services
Strategy & Policy,
Unit 39, 4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD 20737-1231
Telephone: **(301) 851-3300**

The import permit application (VS Form 17-129) and instructions for submission can be found on our [website](#). The import of these species is complex and may take several months to finalize the details before a permit is issued.

1.2 Permits for the importation of elephants, hippos, rhinos, and tapirs are valid for 14 days from the proposed date of presentation for entry to the United States, and only at the port specified in the permit.

1.3 A Customs Declaration (VS Form 17-29) must also be provided to Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials at the time the animals arrive in the United States. The VS Form 17-29 may be obtained from CBP at the time of arrival, or can be downloaded from: [USDA APHIS | VS Forms](#).

1.4 An official health certificate is required (**see Addendum III** for a model health certificate). The official health certificate must be issued by a veterinarian designated by the national veterinary service of the exporting country, and must be endorsed by an official veterinarian employed by national veterinary services of the exporting country, attesting to the certifications and any required in this protocol.

1.5 The official health certificate must include:

1.5.1 Name and address of the importer.

1.5.2 The name and address of the consignor and consignee.

1.5.3 Species, breed, purpose of the importation, and number of animals to be imported.

1.5.4 Individual identification, which includes the eartag number, transponder/microchip number, and any other identification present on the animal, including registration number and brands:

1.5.5 Description of the animals, including age in months, sex, breed, and markings.

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- 1.5.6 Address or other means of identifying country, the premises of origin and any other premises where the animal resided immediately prior to export.
- 1.5.7 Name and address of the exporter.
- 1.5.8 Port of embarkation in the exporting country, and port of entry in the United States.
- 1.5.9 Official seals applied to the transport vehicle(s) and/ or shipping crates.

2. CERTIFICATION STATEMENTS: The following statements must be included on the health certificate.

- 2.1 The animals were inspected by the individual issuing the health certificate and found free of any ectoparasites not more than 72 hours before being loaded on the means of conveyance which transported the animals to the United States.
- 2.2 The animals were healthy, were not known to have been exposed to any infectious diseases during the preceding 60 days and were found fit to travel.
- 2.3 The animals were treated for ectoparasites at least 3 days, but not more than 14 days, before being loaded on the conveyance transporting the animals to the United States. The animals have been treated under the direct supervision of the veterinarian signing the health certificate, by being thoroughly wetted with a pesticide applied with either a sprayer with a hand-held nozzle, a spray-dip machine, or a dip vat.
- 2.4 After being treated for ectoparasites according to section 2.2, the animals did not have physical contact with or share a pen or bedding materials with any elephant, hippopotamus, rhinoceros, or tapir not in the same shipment to the United States.
- 2.5 The name and concentration of the pesticide used to treat the animal (such pesticide and the concentration used must be adequate to kill the types of ectoparasites likely to infest the animal to be imported). A list of recommended pesticides and concentrations may be obtained from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, Strategy & Policy, 4700 River Road Unit 38, Riverdale, Maryland 20737–1231.

3. PORT OF ENTRY INSPECTION: Elephants, hippos, rhinos, or tapirs for U.S. entry must be presented to the port of entry by appointment and accompanied by a health certificate and import permit. The port veterinarian shall conduct a visual health examination of the animals and assess the accuracy of the health certificate.

- 3.1 Elephants, hippopotami, rhinoceroses, or tapirs may only be imported into the United States:
 - 3.1.1 Through the major ports of entry at Los Angeles, California; Miami, Florida;

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Newburgh, New York.

- 3.1.2 **OR** on a case-by-case basis, at another port of entry (See **Addendum I** for details):
 - 3.1.2.1 The animals will be inspected and treated at a facility provided by the importer.
 - 3.1.2.2 USDA APHIS has determined that the importer's facility is adequate for inspection, treatment, and incineration required under this section.
 - 3.1.2.3 APHIS has determined that an inspector is available to perform at the importer's facility the services that are required under this section.
 - 3.1.2.4 APHIS has determined that an inspector is available to perform at the port of entry the services that are required under this section if the animals will be inspected and treated at a facility provided by the importer.
- 3.2 If the animal is to be moved from the port of entry to a facility provided by the importer:
 - 3.2.1 The animals shall be subject to as much inspection by an inspector at the port of entry as is feasible.
 - 3.2.1.1 As much hay, straw, feed, bedding, and other materials as can feasibly be removed from the shipping crate or vehicle containing the animal shall be removed, sealed in plastic bags, and incinerated by the importer under the supervision of an inspector; it must be sealed by an inspector with an official seal of the United States Department of Agriculture:
 - 3.2.1.2 If the animal is moved from the port of entry in a shipping crate, plastic wrap must be fastened around the shipping crate up to a level of at least 2 feet so that all animal waste, hay, straw, feed, bedding, and other material accompanying the animal are retained inside the crate, but not so as to interfere with ventilation, feeding, and watering of the animal;
 - 3.2.1.3 The crates, or openings of the crates should be covered by light mesh or fine webbing to contain debris within the crates, but not interfere with overall air circulation for the animals.
 - 3.2.2 A written contingency plan is required and must be approved before a permit will be issued.
 - 3.2.3 After the arrival of the animal at the facility provided by the importer, the seal shall be broken by a USDA APHIS veterinary medical officer.
- 3.3 If any animal is dead, or if there are any signs of communicable disease or other illness, or injury, the Import-Export Coordinators (IECs) for the relevant region should be notified immediately. The IECs will consult with Strategy & Policy, Live Animal Imports regarding additional movement options.

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- 3.4 The animals will be inspected by an inspector within 24 hours of being unloaded at the port of entry or at a facility provided by the importer and shall be treated under the supervision of an inspector.
 - 3.4.1 This timeline will be modified as needed based on the post-entry condition of the animals and assessment by the destination facility veterinary and animal care specialists.
 - 3.4.2 The animals must be completely removed from the shipping crates, placed on a concrete or other nonporous surface, and physically inspected for ectoparasites by an inspector.
 - 3.4.2.1 A shift or transfer crate can be used for inspection purposes if it has been sufficiently modified to allow all quarters, head, rump and ventrum of the animals to be clearly viewed and subsequently treated for tick mitigation.
 - 3.4.2.2 Otherwise a chute, or similar arrangement may be used for this process.
 - 3.4.3 If inspection and treatment are not performed when the animals are unloaded, they must be isolated in a facility with a nonporous floor, where any ectoparasites that may drop off the animal can be contained and destroyed, until the animals have been inspected and treated;
 - 3.4.4 Any animals not treated with the import group must be isolated from all other animals, until inspections and treatments are completed.
 - 3.4.5 Sedation may be required for the inspection. The importer should provide an attending veterinarian specialist to assist with any sedation procedures. All surfaces of the animal should be examined. ears, nose, lips, skin folds (axillary, inguinal, etc.) and other areas such as under the tail should be included in the inspection as much as possible.
 - 3.4.6 If the APHIS VMO finds no ectoparasites, the animals will be sprayed or dipped one time following the labelled instructions with a permitted dip listed in 9 CFR 72.13(b).
 - 3.4.7 If the inspector finds ectoparasites, the animals will be sprayed or dipped in accordance with labelled instructions if the permitted dip listed in 9 CFR 72.13(b) for as many times as necessary until the inspector finds no ectoparasites; the animals will be sprayed or dipped one additional time after they are found free of ticks.
 - 3.4.8 Any ectoparasites that are detected should be collected and preserved in ethyl alcohol or formaldehyde for identification. Samples should be submitted to the National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, IA using a VS Form 10-4. The APHIS VMO should also inform the Regional Import-Export Coordinators of any ectoparasite detections, who will convey the information to Strategy &

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Policy, Live Animal Imports.

- 3.5 All hay, straw, feed, bedding, and other material that has been placed with the animal at any time prior to the final treatment and any plastic sheet used to wrap any shipping crate, shall be sealed in plastic bags and incinerated under the supervision of an APHIS inspector;
- 3.6 Any shipping crate shall be, under the supervision of an inspector, either cleaned and disinfected or incinerated; and if the shipping crate is cleaned and disinfected, it shall then be treated under the supervision of an inspector with a permitted dip.
- 3.7 Any means of conveyance used to transport an animal not in a shipping crate shall be, under the supervision of an inspector, cleaned and disinfected.

4. ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES

Please check the animal health regulations of the importing state of destination for possible additional regulations and requirements for the proposed import ([State Regulations and Import Requirements](#)).

5. ANIMALS REFUSED ENTRY:

Any elephant, hippopotamus, rhinoceros, or tapir refused entry into the United States for noncompliance with the requirements of this part shall be removed from the United States within a time period specified by the USDA APHIS or shall be considered abandoned by the importer, and pending removal or abandonment, the animal shall be subject to such safeguards as the inspector determines necessary to prevent the possible introduction of ectoparasites into the United States. If such animal is not removed from the United States within such time period or is abandoned, it may be seized, destroyed, or otherwise disposed of as the USDA APHIS determines necessary to prevent the possible introduction of ectoparasites into the United States.

6. OTHER IMPORTATIONS:

- 6.1 Elephants, hippopotami, rhinoceroses, or tapir are exempt from the regulations in this part under the following circumstances* (regulatory requirements for an import permit, declaration, full port of entry inspection (documents will be reviewed) or ectoparasite treatments):
 - 6.1.1 They are imported from Canada and are accompanied by a document signed by a salaried veterinarian of the Canadian Government those states:
 - 6.1.1.1 They were not imported into Canada during the year preceding their importation into the United States; and

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6.1.1.2 They did not, during the year preceding their importation into the United States, have physical contact with or share a pen or bedding materials with any elephant, hippopotamus, rhinoceros, or tapir imported into Canada during that year; or

6.1.2 They were exported into Canada from the United States and then imported back into the United States accompanied by a United States health certificate.

***See Table 1: Exempt Movement from Canada**

6.2 USDA APHIS may allow the importation and entry of elephants, hippopotami, rhinoceroses, or tapirs into the United States in specific cases that deviate from the requirements outlined in this document. In those instances, APHIS will dictate conditions essential to prevent the introduction of ectoparasites into the United States.

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Table 1: Exempt Movement from Canada

<i>Category</i>	<i>Residen cy</i>	<i>Route</i>	<i>Permit, Entry Inspection</i>	<i>Health certificate</i>	<i>Other information</i>	<i>CITES permit</i>
U.S.-origin returning	< 60 days	Land	NO (documents checked)	Original U.S. health certificate, otherwise exempt	Contact APHIS port of entry at least two weeks in advance	YES
		Air, Sea	NO (documents checked)	Original U.S. health certificate, otherwise exempt	Contact APHIS port of entry at least two weeks in advance	YES
U.S. origin	> 60 days	Land	NO (documents checked)	Canadian health certificate, otherwise exempt	Contact APHIS port of entry at least two weeks in advance	YES
		Air, Sea	NO	Canadian health certificate, otherwise exempt	Contact APHIS port of entry at least two weeks in advance	YES
Canadian origin	Entire life	Land	NO (documents checked)	Canadian health certificate, otherwise exempt	Must have CFIA document*, port of entry at least two weeks prior	YES
		Air, Sea	NO (documents checked)	Canadian health certificate, otherwise exempt	Must have CFIA document*, contact port of entry at least two weeks prior	YES
Other country origin	> 1 year	Land	NO (documents checked)	Canadian health certificate, otherwise exempt	Must have CFIA document*, port of entry at least two weeks prior	YES
Other country origin	> 1 year	Air, Sea	NO (documents checked)	Canadian health certificate, otherwise exempt	Must have CFIA document*, port of entry at least two weeks prior	YES
Other country origin	< 1 year	Land, Air, Sea	YES	<u>Not Exempt</u>	Must follow protocol	YES
Non-specific history/ no documentation of origin and/ or residency	< 1 year	Land, Air, Sea	YES	<u>Not Exempt</u>	Must follow protocol	YES

**The animals are imported from Canada and are accompanied by a document signed by a veterinarian of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency stating: The animals were imported into Canada from a country other than the United States and have resided continuously for more than one year in Canada since that time, preceding their exportation to the United States; AND the animal(s) did not, during the year preceding their exportation into the United States, have physical contact with or share a pen or bedding materials with any non-US-origin elephant, hippo, rhino, or tapir imported into Canada during that year.*

**Veterinary Health Certificate for Export of
Elephants, Hippopotami, Rhinoceroses and Tapirs to the United States of America**

Veterinary Authority	Date of Issue	Certificate Number

CERTIFICATION:

The animals described below have been inspected and/ or tested for the diseases specified, and conform the current veterinary requirements of the United States.

1. Consignor:	2. Consignee and Address of Destination Facility (if different):
3. Country of Origin:	4. US Port of Entry:
5. Country of Destination:	6.State of Destination:
7. Place of Origin:	8. Port of Embarkation / Border Crossing:
9. Date of Shipment:	10. Means of Transport:
11. Description of Commodity:	12. Date of Veterinary Inspection:
13. Total Quantity:	14. Total Number of Packages/Containers:
15. Container/ Transport Crate Numbers	*****
16. Commodities Intended Use:	17. Seal Numbers

17. Identification of Commodities:

Species/Breed	Age (Months)	Sex	Identification (transponder, tag number, etc.)

**Veterinary Health Certificate for Export of
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Veterinary Authority

Date of Issue

Certificate Number

Certification Statements:

II. Health Information

I, the undersigned, certify that the animal(s) described above meet the following requirements:

1. On _____ (date), being not more than 72 hours prior to loading for export, I examined said animal(s) and found them to be free from clinical signs or symptoms of infectious or contagious disease, including infestation with ectoparasites and in my opinion fit for the intended journey.
2. On _____ (date), being at least 72 hours, but not more than 14 days prior to loading, the said animal(s) were treated under my supervision for the removal of external parasites, by thoroughly wetting all external parts of the animal(s) by means of a sprayer, spray-dip or dip-vat, using the following licensed product:

Name of Product: _____

Active Ingredient(s): _____

Concentration Used: _____

3. The animal(s) for export, after being treated as in statement II.2 above, did not come into physical contact or share a pen or bedding with any other animals apart from those similarly treated for the same consignment to the USA.
4. I have received a written declaration from the owner/exporter that the crates and vehicles for transport will be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected with an approved disinfectant prior to loading.

III. This certificate is valid for 72 hours from the date of signature.

Accredited or Approved Veterinarian (this section is not needed if the certificate is issued by an Official Government Veterinarian):

Signed _____

Print name (in block letters) _____

Date: _____

This health certificate is valid for 30 days.

Name and Title of Official Veterinarian (Print)

Signature of Official Veterinarian

Date

ADDENDUM I

PACHYDERM/ TAPIR IMPORT STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES March 2021

PURPOSE: This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) document outlines standard operating procedures to be followed by USDA/APHIS Riverdale permitting staff, to include the Subject Matter Expert (SME) Staff Officer and Collateral Ports Director or Animal Import Center (AIC) Veterinarian in Charge (VIC) for the preliminary permitting process of importing elephants, hippos, rhinos and tapirs, hereafter referred to as pachyderms/ tapirs. The SOP also includes the involvement of appropriate field personnel, including Field Operations (FiOps) VICs and/or Service Center VICs.

OUTLINE:

- 1.1 Summary of SOP**
- 1.2 Initial Permit Application Review, including Written Contingency Plan for Movement from Port of Entry/ Arrival to Destination Facility**
- 1.3 Communication with AIC VIC or Collateral Ports Director Prior to Permit Issuance**
- 1.4 Completion/Review of Operational Plan**
- 1.5 Inspection of Destination Facility Quarantine Location**
- 1.6 Distribution of Permit**
- 1.7 Activation of Field Activities**
- 1.8 Assessment of User Fees**

REFERENCES:

9CFR Part 93, [Title 9 Part 93 Subpart H - Code of Federal Regulations \(ecfr.io\)](https://www.ecfr.io)

PROCEDURES:

1.1 Summary of Protocol

USDA APHIS VS regulated pachyderms/ tapirs imported into the United States require an import permit issued by Live Animal Import (LAI) staff and are required to undergo inspection, quarantine and tick mitigation treatment at an Animal Import Center (AIC) in Los Angeles, CA; Miami, FL; or Newburgh, NY; or on a case-by-case basis at non approved Port of Entry (POE) only with written approval by APHIS Strategy & Policy (S&P).

USDA APHIS Animal Import Centers do not have the equipment or uniquely trained personnel to manage these animals on site. Unloading, physical inspection and tick mitigation in an APHIS VS approved isolation area is arranged at the destination facility.

All inquiries for import of elephants, hippos, rhinos, and tapirs, (pachyderms/ tapirs) are to be directed to Live Animal Import (LAI) staff in Riverdale. LAI staff will inform the importer of the steps to obtain an import permit. When the importer requests to bring pachyderms/ tapirs into a port of entry (POE) other than New York, Los Angeles, or Miami, the LAI staff will provide the importer with the Alternate Port Operational Plan Questionnaire (**Appendix A**). The importer will then

submit this for review, along with a detailed written Operational Plan for moving the animals from the port to the destination facility under APHIS oversight.

Once the Operational Plan is approved, a field VMO will inspect the proposed quarantine facility using the Inspection Checklist for Pachyderm/ Tapir Quarantine Facilities (**Appendix B**). The field VMO completes the checklist and submits it to the LAI Staff with comments and any recommendations.

LAI Staff either coordinates import with appropriate AIC, or in the case of an alternate POE, receives an approved Operational Plan by the Collateral Ports VIC. The completed checklist and facility approval, with the reviewed and accepted contingency plan are required before the LAI staff SME will issue the import permit.

1.2 Initial Permit Application Review

- 1.2.1 Riverdale receives permit application from importer
- 1.2.2 Gatekeeper triages and prioritizes import permits as they are received, then forwards the permit application to a Veterinary Program Examiner (VPE).
- 1.2.3 VPE assesses the application:
 - 1.2.3.1 Reviews completeness of application.
 - 1.2.3.2 Confirms proposed shipping and arrival dates.
 - 1.2.3.3 Identifies Port of Entry (POE)
 - 1.2.3.3.1 If POE is New York, Los Angeles, or Miami, the VPE annotates “Port Coverage Confirmed.”
 - 1.2.3.3.2 If POE is not one of these ports, the VPE contacts the Collateral Ports VIC for Port Services availability.

1.3 Communication with AIC VI or Collateral Ports VIC Prior to Permit Issuance

- 1.3.1 Riverdale LAI staff contacts AIC Director when importer plans to import the animal(s) through New York, Los Angeles, or Miami: go to section 1.6.
- 1.3.2 LAI staff contacts Collateral Ports VIC (or Acting) when importer requests to import pachyderms/ tapirs through an alternate port of entry and provides the following information:
 - 1.3.2.1 Proposed Port of Entry
 - 1.3.2.2 Proposed date, time, and flight number
 - 1.3.2.3 Importer’s name and contact information
 - 1.3.2.4 Relevant communications with importer
 - 1.3.2.5 VPE or Staff Officer contacts Collateral Ports VIC if import is re-routed, canceled, or terminated for any reason.

1.4 Completion and Review of Operational Plan

- 1.4.1 LAI staff provides the Operational Plan Questionnaire (Appendix A) to importer.
- 1.4.2 The importer submits the Operational Plan for an alternate port of entry to LAI staff.
- 1.4.3 LAI staff forwards the Operational Plan to Collateral Ports VIC (or Acting).
- 1.4.4 Collateral Ports VIC reviews and informs LAI staff of approval, approval with conditions or rejection within 14 days, or provides an alternative completion date.

1.5 Inspection of Quarantine Location

- 1.5.1 When the Operational plan is approved, Collateral Ports VIC contacts appropriate FiOps VICs.
 - 1.5.1.1 A Veterinary Medical Officer (VMO) is assigned as the Port VMO to cover airport activities and a field VMO is assigned to inspect the proposed quarantine facility. Depending on vicinity of the destination facility to airport these may be the same or different VMO.
 - 1.5.1.2 The VMO inspector is given the Inspection Checklist for Pachyderm/ Tapir Quarantine Facilities (Appendix B).
 - 1.5.1.3 VMO liaisons will contact importer/destination facility and schedules the quarantine location inspection.
 - 1.5.1.4 After the inspection, VMO submits the signed checklist and any recommendations to the LAI Staff Officer for approval.
- 1.5.2 LAI and port staff will review and approve the written contingency plans.
- 1.5.3 Once the destination facility quarantine area and the contingency plans are approved, the Collateral Ports VIC (or Acting) confirms availability of staff and communicates with Riverdale to allow issuance of permit.
 - 1.5.3.1 The Collateral Ports VIC (or Acting) identifies VMO or contacts Field Manager (FiOps or Service Center VIC) to assign a VMO to perform the live animal import/documentation inspection at POE.
 - 1.5.3.2 Collateral Ports VIC (or Acting) notifies all parties if pachyderm/ tapir animal import is cancelled or terminated for any reason.
- 1.5.4 Staff VMO (SME) finalizes and issues permit
 - 1.5.4.1 Verifies Port Services coverage via information from VPE.
 - 1.5.4.2 Communicates with importer as needed to clarify information/plan.
 - 1.5.4.3 Provides feedback and instruction as necessary for completion and accuracy of paperwork, asks for corrections if needed.
 - 1.5.4.4 Permit and contingency plan are issued and distributed.

1.6 Distribution of Permit

- 1.6.1 Staff distributes permit and contingency plan to appropriate AIC Director or Collateral Ports VIC (or Acting).
- 1.6.2 For an approved alternate POE, the Collateral Ports VIC (or Acting) verifies that VMO import inspector has received the permit.
- 1.6.3 If POE is an AIC, permit will automatically route to shared AIC inbox.

1.7 Activation of Field Activities

- 1.7.1 Refer to Protocol for Importation of Elephants, Hippos, Rhinos and Tapirs. A separate Appendix C could be created for the field SOP activity/inspection of the animal etc.

1.8 Assessment of User Fees

- 1.8.1 Staff collects user fee for the permit application.
- 1.8.2 Permit examiner informs importer user fee charges to be collected for completion of destination facility inspection (hourly rate) and time at POE. Additionally, Staff informs

importer of potential overtime charges if import occurs outside of normal business hours.

**Appendix A: Operational Plan Questionnaire
for Use of Alternate Port of Entry (POE) for Pachyderm/ Tapir Imports**

1. Written justification as to why an approved port of entry is not being used.
 - 1.1 (e.g. The animals to be imported would suffer undue hardship if required to be imported through a currently approved port of entry; longer flight time to approved POEs; long travel distance from approved POEs to destination facility, etc.).
 - 1.2 Alternate port of entry has equivalent facilities for APHIS staffing, unloading, and moving the animals.
2. Port of Entry (POE) Information:
 - 2.1 Contact information for port.
 - 2.2 Written statement of approval from port authority to allow import.
 - 2.3 Concurrence from CBP to allow our VS personnel to receive badging credentials or escorts to be provided, plan for access of VS personnel.
3. Location of destination facility where unloading, isolation and tick mitigation treatment will occur & contact information:
 - 3.1 Details for area, include dimensions, schematics, etc. – **Appendix B.**
 - 3.2 The facilities must be equipped for unloading, inspection, tick mitigation treatment, with an impervious floor and use for short-term isolation as needed until inspection/ tick mitigation is completed.
 - 3.3 The facilities for these animals must meet all Animal Welfare guidelines for these species.
4. Date/time of each proposed shipment.
5. Estimated travel time & distance from port of entry to destination facility unloading and isolation/ treatment area with detailed written contingency plans for potential emergencies submitted and approved in advance.
6. Description of how animals will be moved from port of entry to the destination facility (transfer box, temperature-controlled refrigeration truck, etc.):
 - 6.1 Schematics of port facilities and proposed methods of parking vehicles, biosecurity measures to be put in place at port and contract vendors for C/D.
 - 6.2 State Animal Health Officials notification and approval.
7. Signalment of animals to be imported (species, breed, number of animals, weight range, animal identification, age).
8. Name of Accredited destination facility/ Zoo Veterinarian and contact information.

**Appendix B: Destination Facility Inspection Checklist for
for Pachyderm/ Tapir Imports**

Date _____

Name of Facility _____

Street Address _____

Mailing Address (if different) _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

Facility Owner/Operator _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Inspecting USDA APHIS VS Veterinarian _____

Office _____

Inspection Type:

Initial _____

Re-inspection _____

VS Staff Availability

- The Director has sufficient VS personnel, including one or more VS veterinarians and other professional, technical, and support personnel, to provide inspection or review services to ensure the biological and physical security of the facility for any import of exotic animals (elephants, rhinos, hippos and tapirs).

Physical Plant Requirements for Importation of Exotic Animals (elephants, rhinos, hippos, tapirs): Facilities for unloading, inspection, tick treatment and possible temporary isolation.

Location (attach photographs and supporting documents as appropriate):

- The owner or operator has provided the specific route for movement from the port of entry to the site.
- Written contingency plans have been developed and submitted to S&P for emergencies, security arrangements.
- Notes: _____

Construction (attach photographs and supporting documents as appropriate):

- The facility is designed to prevent the escape of the isolated animals and is maintained in good repair.
- The facility has separate loading docks for receiving and loading animals and for general use, or the docks are cleaned and disinfected after each use and a log of this activity is maintained.
- The facility has adequate storage for supplies and equipment needed for isolation sanitation, waste disposal and tick mitigation of the imported exotic animals.
- The facility has adequate examination space for safe restraint, treatment, and sample collection.
- Feed and bedding are stored in a separate area to prevent contamination.
- Secure, separate storage is provided for pesticides and for medical or biological supplies.
- The facility contains work areas for repairing equipment and for cleaning and disinfecting equipment used in the facility, including cleaning, disinfection, and treatment of the transport crate, if it is not incinerated.
- Adequate provision is made for shelter from the elements and environmental extremes (e.g., to prevent hypothermia, hyperthermia, or excessive dehydration) of the isolated exotic animals (consistent with Animal Welfare guidelines for these species).
- Adequate equipment is maintained for feeding and watering in the isolation area.
- The isolation area is in a secure and self-contained building.

- Drainage adequate, sufficient to keep area dry and free of standing water.
 - Surfaces in the isolation area are impervious can be readily cleaned and disinfected.
 - The flooring is nonporous, where any ectoparasites dropping off the animal(s) can be contained and destroyed, until inspection and tick treatment of the animals is finalized.
 - Lighting is adequate throughout the facility to visually inspect the animals.
 - Notes: _____
-

Sanitation (attach photographs and supporting documents as appropriate):

- The facility has adequate equipment and supplies to be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition and to control pests.
 - The facility has a stock of disinfectant (authorized in [9 CFR 71.10a](#)) (S)) sufficient to disinfect the entire facility. *These must be **tuberculocidal products effective for C&D.***
 - The facility has a stock of the permitted dip (as listed in 9 CFR 72. (or as approved by S&P in advance of the arrival of this import) for tick mitigation or has contacted suppliers for the order of this product to be on site for the treatment of the arriving animals. *Please note the only approved product at this time is **Coumaphos.***
 - The facility has an adequate supply of potable water for watering and cleaning.
 - The facility has a 24-hour emergency supply of water for the exotic animals (elephants, rhinos, hippos, tapirs) in isolation adequate to meet the biological needs of the animals, factoring in climatic conditions.
 - The facility can adequately dispose of waste including manure, urine, and bedding by incineration during isolation; or has the capacity to adequately maintain such wastes until the isolation is completed and animals are released for entry (after which wastes may be disposed of as domestic waste).
 - If incineration is not completed on the premises, a written plan for appropriate waste disposal is needed, including the waste management company contracted for this procedure.
 - The waste materials are managed to minimize spoilage and attraction of pests.
 - The facility can control surface drainage and effluent into, within, and from the facility to prevent the spread of disease.
 - Notes: _____
-

Security (attach photographs and supporting documents as appropriate):

- The facilities and premises can be kept locked and secure when exotic animals (elephants, rhinos, hippos, tapirs) are in isolation.
- The facility displays easily visible signs at all entrances designating it as a restricted isolation area prohibiting entry of visitors or other unauthorized personnel.
- The facility operator has given VS a telephone number that may be used at any time.
- The facility operator understands VS is authorized to place seals on entrances or exits to ensure security.
- Notes: _____

Personnel (attach photographs and supporting documents as appropriate)

- The operator can provide adequate personnel to maintain the facility and properly care for and feed the animals (elephants, rhinos, hippos, tapirs) in isolation. Holding facilities must meet all requirements of the Animal Welfare Act for each species.
- The operator maintains documentation of training provided to personnel, including animal husbandry, animal welfare, and biosecurity.
- Notes: _____

Authorized Access:

- The facility operator understands isolation facility access can be granted only to VS representatives and other persons VS authorizes to work at the facility.

Sanitary Practices (attach photographs as appropriate):

- Procedures are in place to ensure all equipment is dedicated to the isolation area and is cleaned and disinfected before and after use in the isolation area.
- Procedures are in place to ensure all vehicles are cleaned and disinfected before entering or leaving the isolation area.
- Notes: _____

Procedures Are in Place to Ensure That All Persons Granted Access to the Isolation Area (attach photographs and supporting documents as appropriate):

- Wear clean, protective work clothing and footwear on entering the isolation area.
- Wear disposable gloves when handling sick animals.
- Change protective clothing, footwear, and gloves when the items become soiled or contaminated.
- The manual maintained at the facility for standard operating procedures includes biosecurity precautions applicable to any private veterinarians providing emergency care.
- Notes: _____

Handling of animals (elephants, rhinos, hippos, tapirs) in Isolation Facilities (attach photographs and supporting documents as appropriate):

- Written plan provided for the restraint procedure(s) of the imported exotic animals for VS inspection and subsequent tick mitigation. This must include sedation of the animals if needed.
- The animals must be unloaded from the shipping crate for inspection and treatment to an acceptable restraint device, chute, modified shift crate with removable sections for viewing the animal and effective tick mitigation treatment or similar pre-approved method for effecting these procedures.
- The operator understands any death or suspected illness of the imported exotic animals (elephants, rhinos, hippos, and tapirs) must be reported immediately to VS S&P.
- Adequate written procedures are in place regarding the facility's ability to dispose of animals that may die while in isolation.
- The operator understands that isolated exotic animals (elephants, rhinos, hippos, tapirs) requiring specialized medical attention or necropsy may not be moved to another isolation site unless VS authorizes the move.
- Notes: _____

Additional documentation

- Written contingency plans.
- Site evaluation by Animal Care reviewing spacing, management and staff training in place for

addition to animal population.

— Appropriate licensing and registration (with Animal Care) for broker(s), animal transport.

— USFWS CITES permit.

— Notes: _____

Approval / Disapproval of Facility

I recommend the facility be: () approved () not approved

Signature _____

Date _____

USDA APHIS VS S&P Port Director

.

Signature _____

Date _____

USDA APHIS VS S&P Veterinary Medical Officer Inspector

.

.

Print the name of the USDA APHIS Office Location

Acknowledgement of Receipt of Inspection Report

I hereby acknowledge receipt of this inspection report on the below listed date.

Signature of responsible official Operator at facility

Date _____

Title

ADDENDUM II

Contingency Plan Development for Exotic Animal (Elephant, Rhino, Hippo, Tapirs) Imports to the United States, Minimum Standards

1. All flight details/ route of travel to the U.S., route from airport to the zoo.
2. All Point of Contact persons (POCs), with phone numbers, should be listed.
3. Potential emergencies causing re-routing or last-minute rescheduling of flight (weather, equipment failure, etc.):
 - 3.1 Emergency contacts (APHIS, other veterinarians, transport specialists).
 - 3.2 Potential emergency unloading of the animals due to re-routing, illness, injury or death.
 - 3.3 Crate issues.
 - 3.4 Timing of arrival, unexpected changes:
 - 3.4.1 Emergency contacts (added personnel, supply sources).
 - 3.4.2 Rescheduling personnel and transport vehicles.
 - 3.4.3 Clearing customs (any animal food or hay brought with the shipment also requires import permits).
4. Description of unloading process from plane; unloading of the animals/ movement to transport vehicles
 - 4.1 Delay of unloading equipment, transport vehicles.
 - 4.2 Equipment failure (unloading/ loading vehicles).
 - 4.3 Delay of scheduled personnel arriving.
 - 4.4 Emergency temporary holding at the airport.
 - 4.5 Animal illness, injury or death at the port of entry.
 - 4.6 Crate issues (make sure extra tarps, heavy-duty plastic wrap and tape is available).

NOTE: Please review the import protocol; crates must be wrapped according to this protocol. All waste must be collected and incinerated if the wrap must be removed and replaced during unloading from the airplane (including the previously used wrap). The transport crate should be covered in light mesh or fine netting to prevent debris from being blown out and not contained as required.
5. Description of loading process onto the trucks, including how crates and transport enclosures will be secured.
6. Confirmation of who will be accompanying the transport.
7. Movement of animals to destination zoo:
 - 7.1 Planned route of travel: re-fueling stops, alternate route(s) if detours are needed, plans for delays.
 - 7.2 Delay of transport vehicles.
 - 7.3 Equipment failure/ need to unload and re-load the animals.

- 7.4 Minimizing transport stress for the animals, including excessive environmental temperatures, and need for feed-water-rest breaks.
 - 7.5 Delay of scheduled personnel arriving/ need to rotate personnel.
 - 7.6 Emergency temporary holding for the animals along the route.
 - 7.7 Animal illness, injury or death: contact with trained veterinary/ zoo personnel along the planned route of travel, if needed (Department, POC, phone numbers).
 - 7.8 Crate issues (make sure extra tarps, heavy-duty plastic wrap and tape is available).
- 8. Description of the unloading process at the zoo, including contingencies of equipment issues, personnel changes, animal emergencies.
- 9. Written animal escape plan.
- 10. Security
 - 10.1 Protection for the animals along the route
 - 10.2 Plan for potential issues with animal rights activists, including contacting authorities along the planned route of travel (Department, POC, phone numbers)
- 11. Written plan provided for the restraint procedure(s) of the imported exotic animals for VS inspection and subsequent tick mitigation (treatment within the transport crate is insufficient for this procedure).
- 12. Other potential emergency situations should be considered, and plans developed.
- 13. Management of international waste: this must be incinerated at the destination facility or arrangements made with a licensed operator to provide these services.
- 14. Cleaning and disinfection for all equipment, vehicles, transport crate, any restraining equipment and the holding facilities.