

**USDA, APHIS, VETERINARY SERVICES
NATIONAL IMPORT EXPORT SERVICES
PROTOCOL FOR THE IMPORTATION OF HEDGEHOGS AND TENRECS
May 2016**

1. PURPOSE:

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) National Import Export Services (NIES) has regulations on the importation of hedgehogs and tenrecs into the United States to protect the health of domestic and wild animals in the United States.

2. USDA SPECIES DEFINITION:

Hedgehogs include all members of the family Erinaceidae

Tenrecs include all members of the family Tenrecidae

3. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

Advisory: Hedgehogs and tenrecs may only be imported into the United States (U.S.) from a region designated as a free of foot-and-mouth disease. A list of countries/regions free of foot-and-mouth disease can be found at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/import-live-animals/ct-foot-and-mouth-and-rinderpest>. No person may import a hedgehog into the U.S. from New Zealand.

3.1 Import Permit: The importer must obtain an import permit from:

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

The import permit application (VS Form 17-129) may be found on the APHIS website at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/permits/. A non-refundable application processing fee should be submitted at the same time. Current processing fees may be found on the APHIS website at: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/business-services/User_Fees/VS_Import_Export_Fees

Applications may be: mailed to the address above, faxed to 301-734-4704, emailed to: VS.Live.Animals.Import.Permits@aphis.usda.gov, or may be submitted electronically via our ePermits System. Instructions are at:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/permits/downloads/vs17-129-inst-online-epermits.pdf

Permits are generally processed and issued within 7-10 business days of receipt of the application. Permits for hedgehogs and tenrecs are valid for 30 days from the arrival date stated on the application. The port of entry listed on the import permit is where the animal must import to. Any deviations must be approved before arrival and must reflect on the import permit.

3.2 Customs Declaration Form: A Customs Declaration (VS Form 17-29) must also be provided to Customs and Border Protection CBP (CBP) officials at the time the animals arrive in the U.S. The VS Form 17-29 may be obtained at the time of arrival or can be downloaded from: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/library/forms/pdf/vs17_29.pdf

3.3 Official Health Certificate: An official health certificate is required. The official health certificate must be issued by a full time salaried veterinary officer of the national government of the exporting region. Alternatively the certificate may be issued by a veterinarian authorized or accredited by the national government of the exporting region and endorsed by a full time salaried veterinary officer of the national government of that region.

a) The Health Certificate must state:

- i. The name and address of the importer (and address of final destination, if different)
- ii. The number, breed, species and description of hedgehogs/tenrecs (age in months, sex, markings) to be exported, and purpose of the exportation.
- iii. The address or other means of identifying the premises of origin, and any other premises where the animals resided immediately prior to export.
- iv. Any identification numbers of official seals that have been applied to the enclosure, if applicable.
- v. That the hedgehog or tenrec originated in a region that has been recognized as free of foot-and-mouth disease.
- vii. That the hedgehog or tenrec has never been in a region where foot-and-mouth disease exists
- viii. That the hedgehog or tenrec has not been commingled with any other hedgehog or tenrec that originated in or has ever been in a region where foot-and-mouth disease exists
- ix. That the hedgehog was inspected by the individual issuing the health certificate and was found free of ectoparasites not more than 72 hours before being loaded on the conveyance which transported the animal to the U.S.
- x. That all body surfaces of the hedgehog were treated for ectoparasites under the supervision of the veterinarian issuing the health certificate at least 3 days, but not more than 14 days, before being loaded on the conveyance that transported the animal to the U.S.
- xi. That the pesticide and the concentration used would kill the types of ectoparasites that may infest the animal to be imported

- xii. That the hedgehog, after being treated for ectoparasites, had physical contact or shared a pen, or bedding materials, *only* with treated hedgehogs or tenrecs in the same shipment to the U.S.
- xiii. The name and concentration of the pesticide used to treat the hedgehogs is listed here _____.

Note: All animals must be treated for ectoparasites (in accordance with this section) prior to export, and again at the time of entry to the United States. Since some animals covered under this protocol may be especially sensitive to chemical treatments, NIES may be consulted as needed by importers or APHIS field staff regarding acceptable types of ectoparasite treatments for individual species.

3.4 Designated ports of entry: A hedgehog or tenrec may be imported into the United States through the following ports:

- a) Air and ocean ports: Anchorage and Fairbanks, AK; San Diego and Los Angeles, CA; Denver, CO; Jacksonville, Miami, St. Petersburg-Clearwater, and Tampa, FL; Atlanta, GA; Chicago, IL; New Orleans, LA; Portland, ME; Baltimore, MD; Boston, MA; Minneapolis, MN; Great Falls, MT; Newburgh, NY; Portland, OR; San Juan, PR; Galveston and Houston, TX; and Seattle, Spokane, and Tacoma, WA.
- b) Canadian border ports: Eastport, ID; Houlton and Jackman, ME; Detroit, Port Huron, and Sault Ste. Marie, MI; Opheim, Raymond, and Sweetgrass, MT; Alexandria Bay, Buffalo, and Champlain, NY; Dunseith, Pembina, and Portal, ND; Derby Line and Highgate Springs, VT; Oroville and Sumas, WA.
- c) Mexican border ports: Douglas, Naco, Nogales, Sasabe, and San Luis, AZ; Calexico and San Ysidro, CA; Antelope Wells, and Columbus, NM; and Brownsville, Hidalgo, Laredo, Eagle Pass, Del Rio, Presidio, and El Paso, TX

3.5 Fees: User Fees apply for all aspects of entry inspections performed by APHIS personnel. Estimates of fees may be provided to importers through the relevant APHIS Service Center or by the VS port veterinarian. Importers should contact VS port personnel at least 3 business days prior to arrival to confirm time and date of arrival. Contact information for the ports can be found here: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/downloads/nies_contacts/ps.pdf

4. PORT OF ENTRY INSPECTION

4.1 A hedgehog or tenrec from any part of the world must be inspected by an APHIS inspector at the port of first arrival. A shipment of hedgehogs or tenrecs may enter the United States only if each hedgehog or tenrec in the shipment is found free of ectoparasites and any clinical signs of communicable diseases.

4.2 If any hedgehog or tenrec in a shipment is found to be infested with ectoparasites or demonstrates any clinical signs of communicable diseases, then the entire shipment will be refused entry.

5. ANIMALS REFUSED ENTRY

5.1 Any hedgehog or tenrec refused entry into the United States for noncompliance with requirements of this protocol will be removed from the U.S. within a time period specified by the Administrator or shall be considered abandoned by the importer. Pending removal or abandonment, the animal will be subject to safeguards as the inspector determines necessary to prevent the possible introduction of ectoparasites into the U.S.

5.2 The importer will be given the following options:

5.2.1 Remove the shipment from the United States; or

5.2.2 Release the shipment to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Administrator will destroy or otherwise dispose of the shipment as necessary

5.3 If an animal that has been refused entry is not removed from the United States within the prescribed time period or is abandoned, it may be seized, destroyed, or otherwise disposed of as the Administrator determines necessary to prevent the possible introduction of ectoparasites into the United States.

6. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE PERMIT INFORMATION

In the U.S., the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regulates the importation of wildlife and species protected by the Convention on International trade in Endangered Species (CITES). These regulations are part of an international conservation effort to protect exotic wildlife subject to trade. For listed species, all required CITES permits must accompany the animal while in transit.

Please visit the FWS website, <http://www.fws.gov/permits/applicationforms/ApplicationJK.html>, to obtain more information on which species require FWS permits and the permit application. If you have questions, please contact the FWS at (800) 358-2104. Overseas calls should be placed to (703) 358-2104.

7. STATE REGULATIONS

States may have specific regulations concerning importation and/or possession of hedgehogs and tenrecs. Please contact the state veterinary authority in your state of import for more information on local laws. A list of the state veterinary offices can be found here: <http://www.usaha.org/Portals/6/StateAnimalHealthOfficials.pdf>

----SAMPLE HEALTH CERTIFICATE ON NEXT PAGE----

**Veterinary Health Certificate for Export of
Hedgehogs and Tenrecs to the United States of America**

Veterinary Authority	Date Of Issue	Certificate Number
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Certification Statements :

1. The hedgehog or tenrec originated in a region that has been recognized as free of foot-and-mouth disease by the USDA.
2. The hedgehog or tenrec has never been in a region where foot-and-mouth disease exists.
3. The hedgehog or tenrec has not been commingled with any other hedgehog or tenrec that originated in , or has ever been in, a region where foot-and-mouth disease exists.
4. On.....(date), being not more than 72 hours prior to loading for export, I examined the said animals 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.
5. On.....(date), being at least 72 hours, but not more than 14 days prior to loading, the said animals were treated under my supervision for the removal of external parasites. The concentration used killed the types of ectoparasites that may have infested the animal to be imported. The following licensed product was used:
 Name of product:
 Active ingredient:
6. The animals for export, after being treated as in Statement 5 above, did not come into physical contact or share a pen or bedding with any other animals apart from those hedgehogs or tenrecs similarly treated for the same consignment to the USA.
7. I have received a written declaration from the owner/exporter that the crates and vehicles for transport will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected with an approved disinfectant prior to loading.

Name of Official Veterinarian (Printed)

Signature of Official Veterinarian

Date