

Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) Testing for Imported Horses at Approved Quarantine Facilities

1. Purpose and Background

This document outlines procedures for testing certain imported horses for CEM after they arrive at approved quarantine facilities in the United States (U.S.) as well as the approval criteria for CEM quarantine facilities.

This guidance document represents the Agency's position on this topic. It does not create or confer any rights for or on any person and does not bind the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) or the public. Veterinary Services (VS) may make this information available to the public. While this document provides guidance for users outside VS, VS employees may not deviate from the directions provided herein without appropriate justification and supervisory concurrence.

2. Document Status

- A. Review date: 11/09/2022.
- B. This document cancels and replaces VS Guidance Document 13406.1.

3. Reason for Reissuance

VS updated this document to reflect its reorganization and refinement of field practices.

4. Authority and References

- A. Authorities (*Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR)):

- [7 CFR 371.4](#)
 - [9 CFR 93.300](#)
 - [9 CFR 93.301](#)

- B. References:

- [Laboratories approved to conduct CEM tests](#)

- [VS Guidance 15202, Approval of and Requirements for Laboratories to Conduct Tests for Contagious Equine Metritis](#)

- C. Definitions:

- 1) Horses: Horses, asses, mules, and zebras.

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- 2) Contagious equine metritis (CEM): A venereal disease of horses caused by *Taylorella equigenitalis*, a Gram-negative coccobacillus.
- 3) State animal health official (SAHO): A State veterinarian or State animal health technician.
- 4) Test mare: A mare designated for testing stallions for CEM.
- 5) VS official: A full-time salaried employee who represents VS in the capacity of veterinary medical officer or animal health technician.
- 6) National CEM Coordinator: A VS veterinary medical officer who oversees activities and duties of State CEM Coordinators. The National Coordinator prepares necessary documentation and reviews data submitted monthly from State CEM Coordinators.
- 7) State CEM Coordinator: A SAHO or a VS official who oversees operations at State approved CEM quarantine facilities. The State Coordinator is responsible for inspecting CEM quarantine facilities and monthly record keeping/reporting.
- 8) Disinfectant: A solution prepared at such a concentration to be bactericidal, but which does not cause tissue inflammation or irritation, e.g. a sinus flush.
- 9) Detergent (mild): A water-soluble cleansing agent that combines with impurities and dirt to make them miscible and which is more effective at removing fine dirt particles than soap when dissolved in water.
- 10) Facility: A building or designated area specifically approved for CEM quarantine and testing.

5. Audience

VS employees, other Federal and State agencies, and members of the public.

6. Guidance

A. General

- 1) The regulations at 9 CFR 93.301(c) contains provisions for importing horses for permanent entry from regions VS considers affected with CEM. After completing Federal import quarantine, sexually intact horses over 731 days of age must be tested for CEM in an approved facility supervised by State or Federal authorities prior to release for entry to the United States.¹

¹ See Appendix I: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), State Contagious Equine Metritis Testing.

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- 2) *T. equigenitalis* is a fastidious organism and adherence to sampling protocols is necessary to reduce the risk of false negative results. Testing methodology is a series of bacterial cultures, using samples obtained from various anatomical sites depending on gender, and by serological testing of mares using a complement fixation test (CFT) for CEM antibodies. Place cultures in Amies transport media with charcoal and ship refrigerated (see section K of this document for details). The National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) or a VS-approved CEM laboratory must receive and plate samples within 48 hours of collection.
- 3) An accredited veterinarian, State veterinarian, or a VS veterinarian must perform sample collection and monitor test breeding and treatments.
 - a. A SAHO or VS official must observe at least one treatment during the five (5)-day treatment period to ensure the accredited veterinarian properly performs the treatments.
 - b. A VS official or SAHO must be present during all test breeding.
- 4) To avoid false negative culture results, the horses must not be treated with antibiotics while undergoing *T. equigenitalis* testing.
 - a. If a horse requires systemic antibiotic treatment, a minimum of seven (7)-days must elapse between the last systemic treatment and an initial CEM culture.
 - b. If a horse receives topical antibiotic treatment of the external genitalia, a minimum of 21 days must elapse between the last topical treatment and an initial CEM culture test.

B. Standards for Approving CEM Testing Facilities

A facility must meet the following minimum requirements to obtain State approval to quarantine and treat imported horses for CEM. Individual States may institute additional standards for approval and inspection of facilities.

- 1) The State must initially inspect and approve a proposed quarantine facility before horses can be placed in CEM quarantine.
 - a. After approving a proposed quarantine facility, State personnel must provide the facility inspection report (Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) Quarantine Facility Inspection Report Form) to the National CEM Coordinator for review, recording, and filing.²
 - b. The State can begin accepting horses into a State-approved quarantine facility after the National CEM coordinator receives the initial inspection report and notifies the State the facility is on the approved facility list.

² See Appendix 2: Sample Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) Quarantine Facility Inspection Report Form.

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- c. The State CEM coordinator must notify the National CEM Coordinator within 30 days when the State inspects a facility to be added to or needs to remove facilities from the Federal approved CEM facility list.
- d. State personnel must inspect and re-approve active facilities annually, at a minimum.
 1. The State should submit re-inspection reports within one (1) month of the anniversary date to ensure the facility remains on the approved facility list.
 2. Every six (6) months the National CEM Coordinator provides the State CEM Coordinator a list of facilities lacking a current inspection report on file with the National CEM Coordinator.
- 2) The facility must be an enclosed, sound, permanent building with surfaces (walls, floors, and ceilings) able to withstand frequent cleaning and disinfection without deteriorating. The owner may house test mares in a secure temporary stabling structure on the same premises as the facility, if the structure can be effectively cleaned and disinfected.
- 3) The facility must contain stalls where individual imported horses can be separated from each other, either by an empty stall, an empty area where horses cannot touch each other, or by a solid wall that is at least 8 feet (2.4 m) high.
 - a. The facility must provide isolation from other horses and common traffic.
 - b. Nose-to-nose contact may not occur.
 - c. This requirement does not include test mares housed on the premises (see section 6.B.2).
 1. Test mares housed in a secure temporary stabling structure may be commingled if the mares are not being used for test breeding and remain on the same premises as the CEM quarantine facility.
 2. Test mares must remain in the CEM quarantine facility while being used for test breeding until they meet all release requirements.
- 4) All entrances to the facility clearly identify it as a quarantine area.
- 5) The facility must be large enough to accommodate the maximum number of horses indicated in the quarantine inspection checklist.
- 6) The facility must be secure and prevent the escape or removal of horses without authorization and prevent other animals or unauthorized personnel from entering.
- 7) Drainage from the facility must not flow into parts of the premises containing other horses.

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- 8) During the quarantine period, all equipment used for feeding, watering, grooming, and cleaning must remain in the quarantine area and be limited only to the animals in quarantine. Personnel must clean and disinfect larger equipment (tractors, farm trucks) in the quarantine area prior to and after shared use on the same premises,
- 9) After each culture or treatment, personnel must place all gloves, sleeves, speculums, and other disposable material in plastic garbage bags to be disposed of through incineration or burial. These materials may alternatively be stored until the quarantine is released (providing that all culture results are negative), when they may be disposed of as domestic waste.
- 10) The facility must be available to accredited attending veterinarians and State or VS personnel at any time necessary to conduct required testing or quarantine observation procedures.
- 11) State or VS personnel must oversee horse owners and grooms in the quarantine area. All visitors must sign a visitor log on entry to the quarantine area. No pets may enter the quarantine area.
- 12) All horses under CEM quarantine must remain in the facility until released by a SAHO.

C. Quarantine and Biosecurity for Imported Horses

- 1) Quarantine horses must be segregated at all times.
 - a. Quarantine horses may be exercised in arenas or turned out into paddock areas separated from all other horses, maintaining the “no physical contact” requirement with quarantined and non-quarantined horses.
 - b. Do not share grooming, cleaning supplies, or tack between quarantine and non-quarantine horses.
- 2) Do not breed, collect samples from, or subject horses under quarantine to genital examination or cleaning beyond what is required for CEM testing as detailed in section 6.D.2.d.
- 3) Fomites, especially contaminated reproductive equipment and contaminated artificial insemination equipment, can transmit *T. equigenitalis*.
 - a. Use separate buckets, brushes, sponges, tack, etc., for each horse under quarantine.
 - b. Personnel must clean and disinfect all reusable equipment between quarantines.

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- 4) If an imported mare foals or aborts prior to completing CEM testing, personnel should consider placental tissue, fetal membranes, and amniotic fluid as potential sources of CEM transmission.
 - a. These materials, along with soiled bedding and any other potentially contaminated materials from foaling, should be properly disposed of by burial, incineration, or composting to minimize any risk of *T. equigenitalis* transmission.
 - b. Otherwise-soiled bedding and manure from the quarantine do not pose a risk for infection and can be disposed of normally.
- 5) Any horse found to be positive for *T. equigenitalis* on any of the testing performed (serology or culture) must remain in quarantine for additional treatment and testing until the horse tests negative for *T. equigenitalis*.

D. Procedures for Imported Mares

NOTE: To exempt an imported mare in foal from the final cervical or endometrial culture, the owner or person transporting the mare must have an original letter signed by the examining veterinarian in the country of origin or a U.S. accredited veterinarian confirming that the mare is in foal and the approximate breeding date.

- 1) Arrival: Collect a blood sample and submit to an approved laboratory for CFT.
- 2) Culture sample collection
 - a. Culture the mare 3 separate times during a 12-day period with at least 72 hours between culture sets from the clitoral sinuses (one swab for 3 sinuses) and clitoral fossa (1 swab), plus the distal cervix or endometrium using a guarded uterine swab on the last culture date if the mare is not pregnant.
 1. Do not scrub or use soap, disinfectant, or mild detergent before taking clitoral sinus or fossa swabs.
 2. Use dry cleanup or minimal water if necessary to remove excess organic debris.
 3. After collecting the third set of swabs from the clitoral sinuses and fossa, the external genitalia may be scrubbed using soap, disinfectant, or mild detergent before swabbing the distal cervix or endometrium.
 4. Samples must arrive at the laboratory and be plated within 48 hours from the time of culture collection (see section 6.1.7 of this document).
 - b. If the mare requires medical treatment with antibiotics at any time during this 12-day culturing period, the mare must first complete the medical treatment and then restart the 12-day culturing period adhering to guidance in section 6D.2.a. of this document.

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- c. For non-pregnant mares, include a swab of the distal cervix or endometrium with the third culture set.
 1. Use one swab for the three sinuses and separate swabs for the clitoral fossa and the cervix or endometrium.
 2. Pregnant mares do not need to have the distal cervix or endometrium cultured.
- 3) First day of CEM treatment (prophylactic and clinical) procedures:
 - a. *We strongly recommend that treatment (Section 6.D.3. through 6.D. 4 of this document) does not occur until you obtain negative culture results from the laboratory.* Plating and culture incubation of *T. equigenitalis* takes a minimum of 7 days. If a laboratory reports it is unable to use a culture (e.g., overgrowth on the plate³ or delayed arrival of samples to the lab), then the mare will need to be re-cultured. If treatment has already begun, then 21 days must elapse from the end of treatment until the mare can be re-cultured.
 - b. Start treating the mare for five (5) consecutive days with the disclaimer that a delay will occur if it is necessary to repeat culturing or if there is overgrowth that requires treatment.
 - c. Infuse the clitoral sinuses with a small volume of a ceruminolytic agent, such as hydrogen peroxide or sodium bicarbonate, using either a curved tip 12-cc syringe or a syringe attached to a disposable 1-1/3" plastic teat infusion cannula.
 - d. Alternatively, bathe the clitoral area with the ceruminolytic agent and infuse the sinuses using digital manipulation. The difficulty you encounter in softening the smegma ("bean") or other debris sufficiently for removal as described below will determine the amount of ceruminolytic agent required.
 - e. Express the smegma from the central sinus of the clitoris by grasping the clitoris between the thumb and forefinger and gently squeezing, while simultaneously pulling down and out. This method should displace the frenulum sufficiently to allow access to the central sinus.
 - f. Flush the sinuses with a small volume (e.g., 5.0-10.0 ml) of at least two (2) percent chlorhexidine scrub solution to remove all residual smegma and ceruminolytic agent.

³ Approved State laboratories or NVSL report bacterial overgrowth occurrences resulting from *Pseudomonas*, *Proteus*, etc. to both the State and Federal coordinator, who address the occurrences case by case.

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- g. Following flushing, clean and scrub the clitoral sinuses and clitoral fossa area using two (2) percent or greater chlorhexidine scrub solution. Rinse the scrubbed areas.
 - h. After cleaning and rinsing, infuse the sinuses with an antibiotic ointment effective against *T. equigenitalis*, such as silver sulfadiazine or 0.2 percent nitrofurazone. Personnel can accomplish infusion by working the ointment into the sinuses by hand.
 - i. After infusing the sinuses, coat the entire clitoral area, sinuses, and fossa with the antibiotic ointment.
- 4) Days two (2) to five (5) of treatment:
- a. Clean and scrub the clitoral sinuses and clitoral fossa area using at least two (2) percent chlorhexidine scrub solution. Rinse the scrubbed areas.
 - b. After cleaning and rinsing, infuse the sinuses with an antibiotic ointment effective against *T. equigenitalis*, such as silver sulfadiazine or 0.2 percent nitrofurazone. Personnel can accomplish infusion by working the ointment into the sinuses by hand.
 - c. After infusing the sinuses, coat the entire clitoral area, sinuses, and fossa with the antibiotic ointment.
 - d. Systemic and/or intrauterine antibiotics are not required, but the attending veterinarian, in consultation with regulatory officials, may authorize their use with topical treatment.
- 5) Release

The SAHO may release the mare from quarantine if all cultures and CFT results are negative, five (5) days of wash and pack are completed, and if no further treatment is required. If the CFT or any culture results are positive, the mare must be treated and re-cultured according to sections 6.D.2 through 4 of this document before release.

E. Procedure for Imported Mares Positive for *T. equigenitalis*

- 1) A mare is positive for *T. equigenitalis* when the CFT **or** culture results are positive.
- 2) Treat the mare as described in sections 6.D.3 and 6.D.4 of this document.
- 3) No sooner than 21 days after the last topical or intrauterine treatment, repeat three sets of cultures on the mare as described in section 6.D.2.

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- 4) If all culture sets are negative, perform treatment as described in sections 6.D.3 through 6.D.4 of this document, then release the mare following re-treatment. Repeat of CFT testing is not required for release.
- 5) A positive mare must remain in quarantine until the mare is treated and retested negative for *T. equigenitalis*.

F. Procedures for Imported Stallions

1) Arrival

Collect one set of culture specimens from the stallion, ensuring samples arrive at the laboratory within 48 hours from the time of culture collection.

- a. Collect samples from the shaft of penis and prepuce, urethral sinus, fossa glandis, and distal urethra using a separate swab for each of these four sites.
- b. If necessary, clean swab sites with cotton and plain water to remove excess organic debris.
- c. Do not scrub or use soap, disinfectant, or mild detergent cleaners prior to swabbing.

2) CEM culture results test breeding, and treatment

- a. Plating and culture incubation of *T. equigenitalis* takes a minimum of seven (7) days.
- b. If the culture results are negative, proceed to breed two qualified test mares (see section 6.H of this document).
- c. If a stallion is determined to be positive at any time during the process, suspend further testing and initiate treatment without test breeding mares (see section 6.G of this document).
- d. Test breeding
 1. Do not begin test breeding until the imported stallion culture results are negative. After obtaining negative culture results, then test breed stallion to two qualified test mares (section 6.H).
 2. Do not clean the external genitalia prior to or during testing, since cleaning may lead to false negative culture results.
 3. Do not scrub or use soap, disinfectant, or detergent cleaners on the test mare or the stallion prior to breeding.
 4. Test breeding consists of live cover of two qualified mares (see section 6.H of this document). The goal is to maximize contact time between the external genitalia of the stallion and the mare. At a minimum, each test mare

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must experience at least two complete penetrations from the stallion, one of which must result in ejaculation. Complete penetration means full insertion of the shaft of the penis into the vaginal vault of the mare.

e. Treatment

1. After completing both test breedings, the stallion's prepuce, penis, fossa glandis, and urethral sinus must be thoroughly scrubbed with a cleansing agent such as two (2) percent chlorohexidine while the stallion is in full erection (or using sedation to allow for exteriorization of the penis) once a day for five (5) consecutive days.
2. After each cleaning, coat the penis, prepuce, and sheath with an antibiotic ointment effective against *T. equigenitalis*, such as silver sulfadiazine or 0.2 percent nitrofurazone, once a day for five (5) consecutive days.
3. Use systemic antibiotics with topical treatment at the discretion of the attending accredited or regulatory veterinarian.

3) Post-breeding of test mares

- a. Begin culture testing of test mares on the third day post breeding.
- b. Culture the test mares three (3) separate times during a 12-day period with at least 72 hours between culture sets from clitoral sinuses, clitoral fossa, plus the distal cervix or endometrium.
- c. Refer to section 6.D.2 of this document for complete culture sample collection procedures

4) Submit CEM CFT from test mares to NVSL or a laboratory approved by APHIS to conduct CEM CF testing (see section 6.I.1 of this document). Collect and submit a serum sample to the lab between days 21 and 28 post breeding.

5) The SAHO may release the stallion from quarantine once it meets all of the following requirements:

- a. The stallion is negative on the pre-breeding culture set;
- b. Post-breeding diagnostic tests are negative on the two qualified test mares (CFT and all post-breeding cultures); and
- c. The stallion has completed treatment.

6) Quarantine release of test mares:

- a. Test mares must remain in quarantine until negative results return for all tests for both test mares.

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- b. If a test mare is confirmed positive on CFT or culture as a result of post-breeding testing, treat both test mares associated with the test breeding in accordance with section 6.E and re-culture in accordance with section 6.D.

G. Procedures for Stallions Positive for *T. equigenitalis*.

- 1) A stallion is positive for *T. equigenitalis* if any of the testing performed returns positive: Culturing of stallion, post breeding cultures of test mares, or post breeding CFT of test mares. An infected stallion must remain in quarantine until the stallion is treated and retested negative for *T. equigenitalis*.
- 2) If a stallion is determined to be positive for *T. equigenitalis*, the stallion's prepuce, penis, fossa glandis, and urethral sinus must be thoroughly scrubbed with a cleansing agent such as 2 percent chlorohexidine while the stallion is in full erection (or using sedation to allow for exteriorization of the penis) once a day for five (5) consecutive days.
 - a. After cleaning, coat the entire penis and prepuce with an antibiotic ointment effective against *T. equigenitalis*, such as silver sulfadiazine or 0.2 percent nitrofurazone.
 - b. Repeat this procedure once a day for five (5) consecutive days.
- 3) The attending accredited veterinarian, stallion owner or owners, and SAHO may also elect to treat the infected stallion with systemic antibiotics, but it is not required.
- 4) Following treatment, the stallion will then be retested by culture (using a separate swab for each site) of the prepuce, urethral sinus, fossa glandis and the distal urethra, beginning no fewer than 21 days after the last day of topical antibiotic treatment, and no fewer than seven (7) days after systemic antibiotic treatment. If cultures are negative, the stallion should then be test bred to two qualified test mares.
- 5) For any positive stallions, repeat the culture, test mare breeding, and treatment process until the stallion tests negative on all pre-breeding and test mare breeding cultures.

H. Qualifying Test Mares

- 1) Test mares must test negative by CFT (see section K.1 for CFT laboratory information) and be culture negative on all specimens for CEM prior to use.
 - a. Culture the clitoral sinuses and clitoral fossa three (3) separate times during a 12-day period, with at least 72 hours between sets of cultures.
 - b. The last set of cultures must include a distal cervix or endometrial swab.

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- c. Use one swab for the three sinuses and separate swabs for the clitoral fossa and distal cervix or endometrium.
 - d. Use dry cleanup or minimal water if necessary to remove excess organic debris.
 - e. Do not scrub or use soap, disinfectant, or detergent before taking clitoral sinus or fossa swabs.
 - f. When taking the distal cervix or endometrial swab with the final (third) set of swabs, it is acceptable after culturing the clitoral sinuses and clitoral fossa to clean the external genitalia before swabbing the distal cervix or endometrium.
- 2) After completing the three sets of cultures and determining the test mares are negative for *T. equigenitalis* by both culture and CFT, permanently identify the mares with hot branding, freeze branding, or lip tattooing with a capital letter "T", overseen by VS personnel, State authorities, or accredited veterinarians.
 - a. Apply brands on the left shoulder or left neck area, at least two (2) inches high.
 - b. Apply lip tattoos to the inside surface of the upper lip. They must be at least one (1) inch high and 0.75 inches wide.
 - 3) Negative post breeding cultures and CFTs within 45 days of blood draw on a test mare can serve as the qualifying tests making the mare eligible for use as a test mare again, if the mare remains on the same premises as the CEM quarantine facility.
 - 4) If a candidate test mare is positive on the qualifying CFT or cultures do not use that animal as a test mare.
- I. Sample Collection and Submission
- 1) Send all culture samples to a National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) [laboratory approved to conduct CEM testing](#) or to NVSL. Send serum samples for CFT to NVSL, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York; or the University of Kentucky at Lexington. NVSL must confirm all suspect samples.
 - 2) Place swabs (refer to [VS Guidance 15202.2](#)) in Amies transport medium with charcoal (each swab in a single tube) and refrigerated.
 - 3) Approved CEM laboratories send a swab of suspect *T. equigenitalis* colonies to NVSL in Amies media with charcoal. If suspect colonies are noted on multiple anatomical locations from the same set of swabs, send a suspect colony from each location in individual Amies media. Do not send the original swabs to NVSL.
 - 4) The swabs that come in the Amies sample collection tubes are adequate to collect stallion samples and clitoral fossa samples from mares but are too large for clitoral

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sinuses of mares. Cut off and discard the large swab from the tube cap and swab the sinuses with a small diameter swab ([VS Guidance 15202.2](#)), put the swab in the Amies, and replace the cap.

- 5) Specimens must include equine identification, collection date and time and anatomical sites of sample collected (refer to [VS Guidance 15202.2](#)).
- 6) Submit completed specimen submission forms with the name, address, and phone/fax number of the submitting veterinarian, name of the owner or person responsible for the horse, location of horse, complete animal identification, anatomical location sampled, and date and time of collection (refer to [VS Guidance 15202.2](#)).
- 7) Swabs must be shipped with ice packs, to keep the specimens cold (4°C) on arrival, by a commercial overnight service provider (Federal Express, United Parcel Service, etc.) or by an approved third-party courier (as identified by the State CEM Coordinator) to the VS-approved CEM diagnostic laboratory.
- 8) All samples must reach the lab and be plated within 48 hours after collection. If the samples arrive more than 48 hours after collection, the lab must notify the facility to repeat the cultures.
- 9) Specimens shipped to NVSL should be addressed to:

National Veterinary Services Laboratories,
Diagnostic Bacteriology Laboratory (DBL)
1920 Dayton Ave.
Ames, IA 50010

J. Communications

- 1) Each State participating in CEM testing of imported horses at approved quarantine facilities must identify a State CEM coordinator. VS designates a National CEM Coordinator who relays updates and other communications concerning CEM import testing to State CEM coordinators.
- 2) The State CEM coordinators must retain identification and horse treatment and release records of CEM quarantine facilities.
 - a. Send copies of release records to the VS Animal Import Center or Port Services Office at the port of entry electronically (email addresses listed below) so office staff is aware of horses departing CEM State quarantine facilities.
 - b. The State CEM coordinator retains records for at least seven (7) years.
- 3) If a horse tests positive for CEM while in quarantine, the State CEM coordinator notifies the National CEM Coordinator by email within 24 hours.

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K. Recordkeeping and CEM Database

- 1) Use a CEM Quarantine Tracking Spreadsheet provided by the National CEM Coordinator to capture testing and other information pertinent to imported stallions and mares in CEM quarantine facilities.
- 2) The State CEM coordinator emails the spreadsheet monthly to VS.CEM.Data@aphis.usda.gov for entry into a national CEM database.
- 3) The National CEM Coordinator reviews the tracking spreadsheet data monthly to ensure compliance with testing and treatment protocols. When the National CEM coordinator detects a discrepancy, he or she notifies the State CEM coordinator.
- 4) When the National CEM coordinator has received and reviewed all State CEM data, he or she provides a quarterly summary report of CEM import data to State CEM coordinators to review for accuracy.

7. Inquiries

- A. Ask the National CEM Coordinator for information about the national CEM database by calling 301-851-3300, option 2 or by emailing VS.CEM.Data@aphis.usda.gov.
- B. Contact the office for the relative port of entry.

Port of Entry	Email Address
New York	VSPSNIC@usda.gov
Miami	notifymaic@usda.gov
Chicago	VSDesPlaines@usda.gov
Los Angeles	VSPSLAX@usda.gov
Puerto Rico	VSPSFL@usda.gov

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All other ports	Collateral.Port.Offices@usda.gov
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Appendix I: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), State Contagious Equine Metritis Testing

APHIS NO. _____

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)
BETWEEN
THE STATE OF _____ (COOPERATOR)
AND
THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE (APHIS)
VETERINARY SERVICES**

ARTICLE 1 - PURPOSE

This MOU establishes the responsibilities of the Cooperating State in carrying out testing and treatment of horses imported into the United States from countries or regions affected with contagious equine metritis (CEM). CEM is a venereal disease of equines and is foreign to the United States. Horses subject to CEM regulations must remain under State quarantine until completing all required testing and treatment.

ARTICLE 2 - BACKGROUND

To be permanently imported into the United States, stallions and mares over 731 days of age from CEM-affected countries must test negative for CEM and be treated, in accordance with 9 CFR 93.301. Any State wishing to participate in CEM testing must enter into a written agreement with the APHIS Administrator that the State will conduct testing and treatment as specified in 9 CFR 93.301.

ARTICLE 3 - AUTHORITIES

Under the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, PL 107-171, Subtitle E, Animal Health Protection, Section 10401-10418, the Secretary of Agriculture, to protect the agriculture, environment, economy, and health and welfare of the people of the United States by preventing, detecting, controlling, and eradicating diseases and pests of animals, is authorized to cooperate with foreign countries, States, and other jurisdictions, or other persons, to prevent and eliminate burdens on interstate commerce and foreign commerce, and to regulate effectively interstate commerce and foreign commerce.

ARTICLE 4 - MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Cooperator and APHIS mutually agree to designate, in writing, an authorized representative for each party who shall be responsible for collaboratively administering the activities conducted under this MOU.

ARTICLE 5 - COOPERATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. The State has entered into this written agreement with the Deputy Administrator, Veterinary Services, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), United States Department of Agriculture or his or her designee, whereby the State agrees to enforce its laws and regulations to control CEM and to abide by the conditions of approval established by the regulations in Title 9, *Code of Federal Regulations* (9 CFR) Section 93.301.
- b. The State agrees that stallions and mares shall be quarantined under State or Federal supervision until testing and treatment requirements have been met in accordance to 9 CFR 93.301(e)(2).
- c. The State agrees to quarantine all stallions and mares over 731 days of age imported under 9 CFR 93.301 until the stallions have been treated in accordance with 9 CFR 93.301(e)(3) and the mares have been treated in accordance with 9 CFR 93.301 (e)(5).
- d. The State agrees to quarantine all mares used to test stallions for CEM until the mares have been released from quarantine in accordance with 9 CFR 93.301 (e)(4).
- e. The State has laws or regulations requiring that stallions over 731 days of age imported under 9 CFR 93.301(e) be treated in the manner specified in 9 CFR 93.301(e)(3), and that mares over 731 days of age imported under paragraph 9 CFR 93.301(e) be treated in the manner specified in 9 CFR 93.301(e)(5).
- f. The Administrator may suspend a State's approval to receive stallions or mares imported from regions affected with CEM if he or she determines that the State is not meeting the requirements of 9 CFR 93.301. After the Administrator takes such action, APHIS will inform the State's animal health authorities of the reasons for the action and afford them an opportunity to present their views before APHIS finalizes the suspension; however, such suspension of approval shall continue in effect unless the Administrator orders otherwise. In those instances where there is a disagreement as to the facts, a hearing shall be held to resolve such disagreements.
- g. The proposed CEM quarantine facility will be inspected and approved by a State or Federal official based on provisions established by the State Veterinarian and APHIS. Facility inspection and approvals will be renewed annually as the State Veterinarian or APHIS deems necessary.
- h. The collection of blood samples, culture specimens, and CEM treatment will be performed by a veterinarian who is accredited in the State of the CEM quarantine facility and approved

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by the State CEM coordinator. Specimen collections, test breeding, and/or treatments will be monitored by a State or Federal official.

- i. All blood samples and culture specimens will be collected at the appropriate sampling frequency and delivered to the appropriate APHIS-approved testing laboratory to conduct CEM testing following the procedures specified in 9 CFR 93.301.
- j. If the State wishes to withdraw its approval to conduct CEM quarantine and testing of horses imported from countries affected with CEM, the State Veterinarian may submit this request in writing to APHIS.

ARTICLE 6 - STATEMENT OF NO FINANCIAL OBLIGATION

Signature of this MOU does not constitute a financial obligation on the part of APHIS. Each signatory party is to use and manage its own funds in carrying out the purpose of this MOU. Transfers of funds or items of value are not authorized under this MOU.

ARTICLE 7 - LIMITATIONS OF COMMITMENT

This MOU and any continuation thereof shall be contingent upon the availability of funds appropriated by the Congress of the United States. It is understood and agreed that any monies allocated for purposes covered by this MOU shall be expended in accordance with its terms and the manner prescribed by the fiscal regulations and/or administrative policies of the party making the funds available. If fiscal resources are to transfer, a separate agreement must be developed by the parties.

ARTICLE 8 - CONGRESSIONAL RESTRICTION

Under 41 USC 22, no member of, or delegate to, Congress shall be admitted to any share or part of the MOU or to any benefit to arise therefrom.

ARTICLE 9 – NONDISCRIMINATION CLAUSE

The United States Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.

ARTICLE 10 - LIABILITIES

APHIS assumes no liability for any actions or activities conducted under this agreement except to the extent the recourse or remedies are provided by Congress under the Federal Tort Claims Act (28 U.S.C. 1346(b), 2401(b), 2671-2680).

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ARTICLE 11 - AMENDMENTS

This MOU may be amended at any time by mutual agreement of the parties in writing.

ARTICLE 12 - TERMINATION

This MOU may be terminated at any time by mutual agreement of the parties in writing, or by either party upon 60 days' written notice to the other party.

ARTICLE 13 - EFFECTIVE DATE AND DURATION

This MOU will be in effect upon date of final signature and shall remain in effect for 5 years.

STATE OF _____ Date _____

State Veterinary Official Date _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
VETERINARY SERVICES

National CEM coordinator Date _____

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Appendix 2: CONTAGIOUS EQUINE METRITIS (CEM) QUARANTINE FACILITY INSPECTION REPORT FORM

NAME OF OWNER/OPERATOR OF PREMISES	STATE ANIMAL HEALTH OFFICIAL (SAHO) SERVING AS STATE CEM COORDINATOR
STREET ADDRESS	STREET ADDRESS
CITY STATE ZIP	CITY STATE ZIP
TELEPHONE NUMBER	TELEPHONE NUMBER
MOBILE TELEPHONE NUMBER	MOBILE TELEPHONE NUMBER
EMAIL	EMAIL

Describe facility being inspected (attach map of facility or floor plan of barn if available): _____

Facility can accommodate (maximum number) _____ horses.

Facility is approved to house: Mares / Stallions / Both

	YES	NO
1. The facility owner, operator (if different), and attending personnel have read and agree to carry out the provisions in Title 9, <i>Code of Federal Regulations</i> (9 CFR) 93.308(c)(3) and the recommendations in VS Guidance 13406.2 that pertain to the quarantine of horses from CEM-affected regions or countries.		
2. The facility includes a separate enclosed building or separate area of the building of sound permanent construction, capable of being effectively cleaned and disinfected.		
3. The quarantine area is clearly identified by posted signs.		
4. The facility is large enough to accommodate all animals involved in the quarantine.		

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5. The facility contains stalls where individual horses can be kept separate from each other by either an empty stall, an empty area where horses cannot touch each other, or by a solid wall that is at least 8 feet (2.4 m) high. The facility provides isolation from other horses and common traffic. Nose-to-nose contact does not occur.		
6. The facility is secure so that horses may not escape or be removed from the facility without authorization and to prevent other animals or unauthorized personnel from entering.		
7. The facility has an adequate drainage setup so that discharge shall not flow into areas where other horses are being maintained.		
8. The facility can dispose of manure, bedding, waste, and any related shipping materials in a manner that will prevent the dissemination of disease and that is approved by a SAHO.		
9. During the quarantine period, the facility will keep all equipment used for feeding, watering, grooming, and cleaning in the quarantine area. Use of the equipment will be limited only to the animals in quarantine.		
10. After each culture or treatment, the facility can place all gloves, sleeves, speculums, and other disposable material in plastic garbage bags and dispose of them as regulated garbage through incineration or burial. Alternatively, the facility can store these materials until the quarantine is released, when (if all cultures are negative), they may be disposed of as non-regulated garbage.		
11. The facility will not permit pets in the quarantine area. Horse owners and visitors must be authorized by State or APHIS personnel to enter the quarantine area. Authorized visitors are to sign a log book upon entering and exiting the quarantine area.		
12. The facility agrees that all horses under CEM quarantine must remain in the facility until released by a SAHO. Horses under CEM quarantine may be moved under permit for emergency medical care.		
13. The facility can keep horses separated at all times; see #5 for details. Grooming and cleaning supplies and tack are not shared.		
14. The facility agrees that horses under quarantine will not be bred, collected, or subjected to genital examination or cleaning beyond what is required for CEM testing as detailed in the VS Guidance 13406.2.		
15. The facility uses separate buckets, brushes, sponges, tack, etc., for each horse under quarantine unless the equipment is cleaned and disinfected between each horse as approved by the SAHO. All reusable equipment is cleaned and disinfected between quarantines.		
16. The facility has adequate food, water, and shelter for all horses being tested/treated in the CEM quarantine facility.		
17. The facility has sufficient protective clothing (disposable gloves, at a minimum) available for all facility personnel at the entrance of the CEM quarantine facility.		
18. The facility has footbath containers at the entrance and exit of the facility or rubber boots or disposable plastic shoe covers to be worn within the facility.		

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19. The facility has a supply of disinfectant approved by the SAHO to apply to all fixed and movable surfaces and equipment exposed to the quarantined animal prior to use.		
21. The facility personnel know the appropriate restricted physical contact between horses in the quarantine facility. Personnel will not share daily care equipment between horses.		
22. The facility agrees to oversee the cleaning and disinfection by horse transport personnel of all trailers with an approved disinfectant before leaving the premises when any transportation of CEM quarantined horses occurs as required by VS Form 1-27 (if item 16 is marked "Yes" by the form preparer).		
23. Additional State facility checklist items (attached).		

Entrance to this facility shall be granted to personnel authorized by the SAHO or USDA/APHIS official at any time necessary to inspect the premises or to observe required testing.

 Print - Owner/Operator of Facility

 Print - State or Federal Personnel
 Conducting Inspection

 Signature – Owner/Operator of Facility

 Signature – State or Federal Personnel
 Conducting Inspection

 Date

 Date