

**USDA APHIS VETERINARY SERVICES
NATIONAL IMPORT AND EXPORT SERVICES
*PROTOCOL FOR IMPORTATION OF ZOO AVIANS IMPORTED TO AN APHIS
OPERATED FACILITY OR AN APHIS-APPROVED ZOO**

May 2016

1. PURPOSE:

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) National Import and Export Services (NIES) has regulations on the importation of avian species imported into the United States to zoological facilities. These regulations exist to protect the health of domestic and wild animals in the United States, and to minimize risk of disease spread to domestic agricultural livestock.

2. DEFINITIONS:

2.1 USDA defines zoological birds as birds intended to be imported to a zoological facility for breeding, public display, recreational or educational purposes. This protocol also applies to USDA defined- poultry species that are imported for these same purposes to a zoological park.

2.2 USDA defines a zoological park as a professionally operated zoo, park, garden or other facility maintained under the constant surveillance of a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, maintained for the exhibition of live animals, pigeons, or birds, for the purposes of public recreation or education.

2.3 An APHIS- approved zoo quarantine facility is one that meets minimum standards for maintenance and operation, as stated in 9 CFR, 93.106. (c), and as determined by APHIS.

3. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS (For importation from all countries **except** Canada)

Note: An import permit will not be issued until quarantine arrangements have been finalized.

3.1 Import Permit: The importer must obtain an import permit. Additional restrictions may be specified on the permit for any zoo avians originating from countries affected with avian influenza (AI) and/or Newcastle disease (ND). A country's disease status for AI and ND can be found on the USDA website, https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/ct_animal_disease_status

The import permit application (VS Form 17-129) may be found on the APHIS website at: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/ct_vs_services_forms . 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

Permits are generally processed and issued within 7-10 business days of receipt of the application. Permits for zoo avians 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.

- a. Importers wishing to use an APHIS-approved zoo facility for the required 30-day entry quarantine should submit their import permit applications to the Riverdale, MD office. Applications may be mailed, faxed, or emailed using the contact information listed below. They may also 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

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
Veterinary Services (VS)
National Import and Export Services Unit 39
4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD 20737-1231
VS.Live.Animals.Import.Permits@aphis.usda.gov
Telephone: (301) 851-3300 option 2
Fax: (301) 734-4704

- b. Importers wishing to use an APHIS-operated facility for the required 30-day entry quarantine should submit import applications to their facility of choice. Information on airport inspection procedures should be provided to applicants by the facility issuing the permit. A summary of the instructions can be found at:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/importexport?1dmy&urile=wcm%3apath%3a%2Faphis_content_library%2Fsa_our_focu s%2Fsa_animal_health%2Fsa_import_into_us%2Fsa_entry_requirement s%2Fsa_avian%2Fct_commercial_birds

The import permit will be issued by one of the two APHIS- operated facilities below. Such shipments should arrive directly at the associated airport, unless otherwise agreed to by APHIS and as indicated on the import permit.

New York Animal Import Center

USDA, APHIS, VS
474 International Boulevard
Rock Tavern, NY 12575
(845) 838-5500 (phone)
(845) 838-5516 (fax)

Miami Animal Import Center

USDA-APHIS-VS
6300 NW 36 Street
Miami, FL 33122
(305) 876-2200 (phone)
(305) 876-2201 (fax)

- c. Importers with shipments of zoo avians originating from or transiting through an HPAI-affected country should submit all import requests to the Riverdale, MD office (see a).
- d. Applicants must include the applicable processing fee by check, money order, charge card or by providing a USDA user fee account. Current fees can be found at the following web link:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/importexport?1dmy&urile=wcm%3apath%3a%2Faphis_content_library%2Fsa_our_focu s%2Fsa_business_services%2Fsa_mrpbs_divisions%2Fsa_fmd%2Fsa_use r_fees%2Fct_vs_import_export_fees

Submissions may be made by mail or fax to the number above. Please allow 7-10 business days for processing. Any changes made to a permit after it has been issued require an additional amendment fee (See above web link for fees).

3.2 Official Health Certificate: A current veterinary health certificate, issued within 30 days of importation and endorsed by a full-time salaried veterinarian of the national government of the exporting country, must accompany each shipment. The health certificate must be translated into English. Health Certificates must contain statements attesting to the health status of the zoological avians in the shipment. Those statements are summarized here:

- a. All avians covered by the certificate have been inspected by the veterinarian issuing the certificate.
- b. There has been no evidence in the animals for export (or any group with which they have been held) of Newcastle disease, avian influenza, chlamydiosis, or

other communicable disease of avians during the 90 days immediately preceding their exportation.

- c. The avians for export EITHER: have been vaccinated against Newcastle disease (avian paramyxovirus) at least 21 days prior to export, using vaccines that do not contain any velogenic strains of Newcastle disease virus; OR:
- d. The avians for export have not been vaccinated against Newcastle disease. (The health certificate must specify).
- e. Newcastle disease or avian influenza has not occurred anywhere on the premises from which the avians for export are to be exported or on adjacent premises during the 90 days preceding the exportation.
- f. The avians for export EITHER: have been vaccinated against H5 or H7 subtypes of avian influenza; OR: the avians for export have not been vaccinated against any H5 or H7 subtype of avian influenza (The health certificate must specify).
- g. The avians for export are identified by permanent identification- leg bands, tattoos, or microchips.
- h. The avians for export were shipped in new or appropriately sanitized packaging materials.

3.3 Other VS Forms: (such as a Customs Declaration- VS 17-29) may be completed at the port of entry at arrival. The importer/ representative should make arrangements to meet with the APHIS VS port veterinarian upon arrival of the shipment at the first U. S. port of entry.

4. PORT INSPECTION:

After receiving an import permit, the importer must contact the APHIS VS port personnel listed on the permit no later than 3 business days in advance of arrival of the avians to coordinate the import process. At the first port of arrival into the United States, an APHIS VS port veterinarian will review all documentation.

4.1 All avians included in the shipment must be inspected and/or monitored by VS at the first port of arrival to the United States (the import permit may list alternatives, if applicable).

4.2 The importer is responsible for providing bonded broker transportation to the site of quarantine after the VS veterinarian has inspected the imported consignment at the first U.S port of entry. Transport is conducted per the language in the application plan.

5. ANIMALS REFUSED ENTRY

5.1 Reasons: Avian imports may be refused entry at the port of entry for any of the following reasons:

- a. Missing or non-compliant documentation
- b. Greater number of avians in the shipment than what was listed on the import permit.
- c. Any avians in the shipment appear to be ill.

5.2 Options:

- a. Any avian shipments that are refused entry may be returned to the country of export or to another country, if either country will consent to receive the shipment. This option should be referred to a VS NIES Import-Export Coordinator and to the Riverdale, MD NIES avian import subject matter expert (SME) for follow-up and communication with the country of export and any other applicable receiving country. The shipment is to remain at the airport until further instructions are received from NIES staff.
- b. If avians that are clinically ill arrive in the U.S., and the exporting country (or another country) will not accept them, the port veterinarian should meet with importers and discuss euthanasia. If indicated, the importer should inform the USFWS of the status of the shipment.

5.3 Documentation of VS actions should be captured on VS form 17-30 R. A copy of that form and any user fees incurred must be submitted to the NDAIC who will refund any fees, close the quarantine request, etc.

6. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE PERMIT INFORMATION:

The importer should contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) regarding any applicable permits or other importation requirements that agency may have in addition to APHIS' requirements.

7. USE OF APPROVED ZOO FACILITIES FOR ENTRY QUARANTINE:

Importers must obtain the approval for a private facility to be used as quarantine prior to applying for an import permit. Information and guidance on obtaining that approval can be obtained from the National Director, Animal Import Centers (NDAIC). To contact that office by phone: 845-838-5500, or via email address at:

VS.Live.Animal.Import.Export@aphis.usda.gov

7.1 Quarantine Procedures: All zoological avians must be quarantined for a minimum of 30 days, or longer, if required by the Administrator (exceptions for some species that originate from Canada may apply- see section 6 of this document).

- a. Zoological avian quarantines must take place at one of the USDA facilities in section 1.1.2 above, or may occur in an APHIS approved zoological facility.
- b. During the quarantine period, all zoo avians in the shipment will be tested to determine if they are free of avian influenza and Newcastle disease. Avians may be held for an additional length of time if any communicable disease becomes evident during the quarantine period; and will not be released until negative test results have been received and the animals are judged by APHIS to be clinically healthy.
- c. If avians become ill for any reason other than from AI or ND, the Director of the quarantine facility, or the designee of the NDAIC, will contact the importer and discuss treatment options.

8. ZOOLOGICAL AVIANS IMPORTED FROM CANADA

8.1 Zoological avians from Canada are generally not required to be quarantined. (Note: if quarantine is required, it will be stipulated on the APHIS VS import permit.) However, shipments must be accompanied by a veterinary health certificate issued within 30 days of importation and endorsed by a Canadian Food Inspection Agency veterinarian. An APHIS import permit is required for all zoological avians imported from Canada. Permits may be obtained by contacting the Riverdale, MD office as listed above. Zoological avians must be inspected by a VS veterinarian at the first United States port of entry. The importer must arrange for VS inspection(s) at least 3 business days in advance by contacting the USDA Port Veterinary Office at the telephone number listed on the import permit.

Questions about this document can be directed to:

Avian Import Specialist
National Import-Export Services, Unit 39
4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD 20737-1231

Telephone: (301) 851-3300 option 2

Fax: (301) 734-4704

By email: VS.Live.Animal.Import.Export@aphis.usda.gov