

**USDA, APHIS, VETERINARY SERVICES,
NATIONAL IMPORT AND EXPORT SERVICES**

**PROTOCOL FOR THE IMPORTATION OF AVIAN EGGS FOR RESEARCH
PURPOSES
TO AN APPROVED PRIVATE QUARANTINE FACILITY
May 2015**

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- 1.1 For all shipments of fertilized eggs for research for avian species exported from countries not designated by USDA APHIS as free of Newcastle disease or Avian Influenza, (countries' disease status may be found on our website- [Country Disease Status](#). The importer must obtain an **import permit** from the:

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

Telephone: (301) 851-3300, opt. 2
Facsimile: (301) 734-6402

To obtain the permit, importers must submit a **VS Form 17-129, "Application for Import or in Transit Permit,"** which can be obtained by writing or calling NIES, downloading it from the APHIS Web site: [VS Forms](#) or by accessing the ePermits system http://www.aphis.usda.gov/permits/login_epermits.shtml

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) also regulates the importation of avian species (including their hatching eggs) protected by various national and international acts and treaties. To determine if the research eggs you wish to import are also regulated by the USFWS, you should contact them at USFWS, Office of Management Authority 1 (800) 358-2104 (within the United States), or (703) 358-2104.

- 1.2 A health certificate must accompany the research eggs and contain the certifications listed in Section 2 below.
- 1.3 Two copies of a VS form 17-29 'Declaration of Importation' should be provided to the customs agent at the port of entry. The form may be obtained from the VS port veterinarian or may be downloaded at: [VS Forms](#)

Research eggs from countries not designated by USDA APHIS as free of Newcastle disease or avian influenza must be imported to a research facility

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that has been approved by USDA APHIS as having the appropriate containment measures and other biosecurity elements in place to conduct the research. Importers of research eggs should have a signed Cooperative Service Agreement . A Cooperative Service Agreement may be obtained by calling the USDA NIES District Office in the state, where the private quarantine will be located. State offices contact information can be found at the following link- [District offices contacts](#)

- 1.3 Research eggs from countries not designated by USDA APHIS as free of Newcastle disease may be imported through ports found on the following web link:
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/animal_import/animal_import_ports_portlist.shtml
Importing from countries affected with highly pathogenic avian influenza requires special approval. Upon application to the Riverdale office, individual circumstances will be discussed.
- 1.4 Advance notification of the time of arrival at the port of entry must be made to the VS port veterinarian at least 3 business days in advance of the shipment's presentation for entry to the U.S.
- 1.5 Some hatching eggs are required to be quarantined for a minimum of 30 days upon entry into the United States. Quarantine requirements are based on Newcastle or avian influenza disease status of the country of export.
- 1.6 Research eggs must be quarantined in an approved quarantine facility under the supervision of the Local District office and must have a pre-shipment Cooperative Service Agreement in place. Importers should contact the District Supervisor in the receiving state or NIES staff for further details.
- 1.7 The import permit will not be issued until the quarantine facility has been approved by the local District office.

2. HEALTH CERTIFICATIONS (must be stated on the health certificate)

- 2.1 The flock(s) of origin for the research eggs were found upon inspection to be free from evidence of communicable diseases of poultry; that no Newcastle disease or any genotype of Avian Influenza has occurred on the premises of origin or on adjoining premises during the 90 days immediately preceding the movement of the eggs from such region and that as far as it has been possible to determine such flock (s) were

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not exposed to such diseases, or any communicable disease of poultry during the preceding 90 days.

- 2.2 Flock(s) of origin for the hatching eggs were not vaccinated against any H5 or H7 subtype of avian influenza.
- 2.3 The shipment will not transit through any regions where APHIS considers highly pathogenic avian influenza to exist except if eggs are transiting through the EU-PTR. This group of countries is defined [here](#).
- 2.4 The flock(s) of origin has 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:
- 2.5 The flock(s) of origin has not been vaccinated against Newcastle disease.
- 2.6 At least 5% or a minimum of 150 animals from the flock(s) of origin tested negative for egg drop syndrome (EDS) by serological tests performed at a government-approved laboratory.
- 2.7 The flock or the flock(s) of origin is negative within the previous 90 days for Avian Metapneumovirus (also known as Turkey Rhinotracheitis, (TRT), or Swollen Head Syndrome). At least 30 poultry per house were tested using any of the following methods: rRT-PCR, ELISA, or serology. The health certificate must state if poultry have or have not been vaccinated against this disease. Note: Testing for Avian Metapneumovirus does not apply to waterfowl species.
- 2.7 The flock(s) of origin tested negative for Salmonella Enteritidis (SE) on environmental culture, and there must be no evidence or knowledge of SE present in the flock.
- 2.8 All research eggs for export to the United States have been sanitized by a method recognized by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and has been packed in appropriately sanitized or new packing material.

3. U.S. PORT PROCEDURES

- 3.1 Documents will be reviewed by VS personnel at the port of entry. Research eggs will be inspected for breakage and may be rejected entry if broken, with appropriate disposal of the eggs, and cleaning and disinfection of the

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conveyance. The importer will be responsible for any user fees associated with these services.

- 3.2 Research eggs from countries not designated by USDA APHIS as free of Newcastle disease or Avian Influenza that are moving from the port of entry to the receiving facility must be transported in a vehicle sealed by the USDA. A VS form 1-27 ('Movement of Restricted Animals') should be generated and accompany the shipment. Seal numbers should be written on the VS-127.
- 3.3 Research eggs from countries not designated by USDA APHIS as free of Newcastle disease or Avian Influenza that are traveling from one U.S. city to another en route to a receiving facility must be monitored by APHIS VS personnel at any intervening ports. The importer will be responsible for any user fees associated with these services.

4. PROCEDURES AT THE RECEIVING FACILITY

- 4.1 Seals will be broken by APHIS VS personnel at the receiving facility. The importer will be responsible for any user fees associated with these services.
- 4.2 Research eggs (and/or animals hatching from them) from countries not designated by USDA APHIS as free of Newcastle disease or Avian Influenza will be tested by APHIS VS after arrival at the receiving facility in accordance with the stipulations of the CTFA or import permit. The importer will be responsible for any user fees associated with these services.
- 4.3 All packing materials must be cleaned and disinfected or incinerated after arrival at the receiving facility under VS supervision. The importer will be responsible for any user fees associated with these services.
- 4.4 A daily log and identification records for 12 months following the date of euthanasia/disposal of all eggs, contents or other by-products of research conducted at the facility will be kept. Records of use of primordial material must be maintained to identify potential trace backs to eggs from quarantined lots.
- 4.5 At the conclusion of the research, any remaining research eggs, and all materials deriving from their hatching (eggshells, hatched animals, etc.) must be destroyed under APHIS supervision in accordance with the stipulations of the CTFA or import permit. The importer will be responsible for any user fees associated with these services.