

UPDATE: Canada Will Begin Enforcement of New Aquatic Animal Import Regulations as of December 10, 2012.

The three U.S. federal agencies that function as Competent Authorities for exported aquatic animals (the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service [USDA-APHIS]; the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service [NOAA Fisheries]; and the U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Services [FWS]) have worked with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) on specific export requirements that will facilitate continued US trade in aquatic animals and products with Canada.

CFIA announced the phased-in enforcement of the new Canadian import regulations for aquatic animals. Enforcement will be in three phases based on end uses, beginning December 10, 2012, February 4, 2013 and April 8, 2013. Details of the aquatic animals and their end uses are at

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/aquatic-animals/imports/new-regulatory-requirements/harmonized-codes/eng/1354247636615/1354247711295>.

Upon enforcement each shipment must be accompanied by an import permit issued from CFIA and a health certificate from APHIS.

The regulated species and the diseases of concern are at the link below.

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/aquatic-animals/diseases/susceptible-species/eng/1327162574928/1327162766981>

Several health certificates are finalized and are available on-line.

APHIS is working closely with CFIA to establish zones of equal disease health status and compartmentalization (management) equivalence programs to facilitate trade and provide alternative means for US exporters to meet CFIA requirements. APHIS anticipates some of these options will be available in 2013.

Background: On December 22, 2010, CFIA published changes to the Canadian *Health of Animals Regulations* and *Reportable Diseases Regulations*. These changes resulted in new import controls for aquatic animals that are listed in Schedule III of the regulations, covering hundreds of aquatic animal species. New phased-in import requirements for these animals will include the need for importers in Canada to obtain an import permit issued from CFIA, and for shipments of listed aquatic animals to be accompanied by a zoosanitary (health) certificate issued in the country of origin. This effort is focused on preventing the introduction, and/or spread within Canada, of certain animal diseases. The new regulations and list of regulated aquatic species (finfish, mollusk and crustacean), developed in a context of end-purposes and aquatic animal diseases, can be found at: <http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2010/2010-12-22/html/sor-dors296-eng.html>

CFIA had delayed the enforcement of the changes to their *Health of Animals Regulations* and *Reportable Diseases Regulations* until December 10, 2012. Because of the potential for significant impact on international trade in aquatic animals, CFIA has implemented a Stream of Commerce Policy to facilitate trade during a transition to enforcement period between December 10, 2011 and December 10, 2012.

Additional information regarding the Stream of Commerce Policy is at:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/animal/aqua/2011118inde.shtml>

Until December 10, 2012, U.S. exporters may ship aquatic animals listed in Schedule III without an import permit and zoosanitary/health certificate. However, exporters should be aware that the additional delay of enforcement does not eliminate the need to eventually comply with Canada's new regulations, and should carefully review the information at the website above to determine the relevance of these changes for their exported aquatic animals. Exporters are encouraged to work with their Canadian import counterparts regarding the exact import conditions that will come into effect for their specific exports in December 2012.

For concerns or questions regarding specific exports please contact the appropriate offices below.

- Live aquatic animals intended for culture, ornamental, research/education, bait, feed or farmed aquatic animals intended for human consumption in Canada: please contact APHIS National Center for Import and Exports (NCIE) Animals Export staff (301) 851- 3300, Option 2.
- Wild aquatic animals intended for direct retail or human consumption: please contact NOAA Seafood Inspection Program at (800) 422-2750.
- Farmed aquatic products for bait, pet food or intended human consumption: please contact APHIS NCIE Products staff at (301) 851- 3300, Option 6.