

Canada's Import Requirements for Aquatic Animals



Industry Updates

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Safeguarding Animal Health



Reminders - US Co-Competent Authority for Aquatic Animal Health

- ◆ **USDA-APHIS:** farmed aquatic animals
- ◆ **US Fish & Wildlife Services:** wild & public resource freshwater animals
- ◆ **National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration-Fisheries:** wild marine animals (& aquaculture in the Exclusive Economic Zone- (EEZ))
- ◆ **Food & Drug Administration –Center for Veterinary Medicine:** Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) certification
 - Fall 2009 MOU with NOAA for all seafood export certification
- ◆ 2008 MOU with APHIS, NOAA and FWS, APHIS can endorse upon request for other agencies, except for human health.



What is aquaculture?

➤ Farming of aquatic animals – finfish, mollusk & crustaceans

➤ includes providing any level of care, i.e. feeding, water, oxygen or protection from predator for any period of the animal's life



IREGS Update on Canada – Live Animal

Aquatic Animals

- **Update - Canada's New Aquatic Animal Import Regulations - December 2012 (pdf 42kb)**
 - **Aquatic Animals and Germplasm Intended for Culture - Health Certificate (fillable) - December 2012 (pdf 71kb)**
 - **Aquatic Animals and Germplasm Instructions for above Health Certificate - December 2012 (pdf 347kb)**
 - **Live Finfish Intended for Bait and Feed - Health Certificate (fillable) - December 2012 (pdf 41kb)**
 - **Live Aquatic Animals and Germplasm Intended for Research and Education - Health Certificate (fillable) - November 2012 (pdf 262kb)**
 - **Live Ornamental Aquatic Animals Intended for Commercial Aquarium use in CLOSED Premises in Canada - Health Certificate(fillable) - November 2012 (pdf 36kb)**
 - **Live Ornamental Aquatic Animals Instructions for above Health Certificate - December 2012 (pdf 31kb)**
 - **Live Aquatic Animals Intended for Food Service or Retail Use Health Certificates - March 2013 (pdf 72kb)**
 - **Aquatic Animals Intended for Food Service or Retail Use instructions for above Health Certificate - March 2013 (pdf 30kb)**
 - **Live and/or Dead Aquatic Animals Intended for Further Processing - Health Certificate - March 2013 (pdf 66kb)**
 - **Live and/or Dead Aquatic Animals Intended for Further Processing instruction for above Health Certificate - March 2013 (pdf 30kb)**
 - **Annex 1 - Diagnostic Methods for Exports to Canada - December 2012 (pdf 17kb)**
 - **Annex 2 - Sample Collection - December 2012 (pdf 51kb)**

Other Information Continued

[More](#) 

Last Modified: April 1, 2013

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/animal_canada.shtml



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IREGS Update on Canada – Animal Product

Aquaculture Commodities to Canada

Dead (Ungutted) Aquatic Animals for Food Service/Retail Use - April 2013 (pdf 56kb)

Dead (and Live) Aquatic Animal for Food Service or Retail Use- Instructions - April 2013 (pdf 296 kb)

Live and Dead Aquatic Animals for Further Processing - April 2013 (pdf 66kb)

Live and Dead Aquatic Animals for Further Processing- Instructions - April 2013 (pdf 30kb)

Last Modified: April 1, 2013

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/products/product_canada_aquaculture.shtml



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What about Canada?

- **Canada Gazette II published on December 22, 2010**
 - **New import requirements for**
 - ❖ **405 aquatic species**
 - ❖ **24 different end uses**
 - ❖ **35 diseases**
 - Import permit issued by Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)
 - Health certificate from the competent authority of the country of origin
- **Implementation date December 10, 2011**
- **Enforcement date December 10, 2012**





So what did happen NOW???

- **November 30, 2012**, CFIA announces its phased in enforcement of the import requirements.
 - Phase 1 – **December 10, 2012**, High risk end uses: culture, bait, feeding, stocking;
 - Phase 2 – **February 4, 2013**, Medium risk end use: ornamental, research/education
 - Phase 3 - **April 8, 2013**, Low risk end uses: food service, retail use, further processing





Who needs what???

- **Aquatic animals (finfish, mollusk & crustacean) listed under Schedule III, will need:**
 - Aquatic Animal Import permit issued by CFIA to importer
 - Health certificate from Competent Authority of the country of origin
 - ❖ **USDA APHIS:** LIVE animals for Culture, Ornamental, Research and **cultured animals LIVE and Dead for Food Services/Retail Use or Further Processing (ie. human consumption)** & aquatic product for Bait & Animal Feed
 - ❖ **DOC NOAA Seafood Inspection Program:** **wild** aquatic product Food Services/Retail Use or Further Processing (ie. human consumption)



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“Key” Live aquatic animals requiring health certificates



- **Rainbow trout** (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)
- **Atlantic salmon** (*Salmo salar*)
- **Tilapia** (*Oreochromis* spp.)...coming off!!!!!!
- **Bass** (*Micropterus* spp. & *Morone* spp.)....hybrids count
- **Oysters** (*Crassostrea gigas* & *C. virginica*)
- **Mussels** (*Mytilus edulis* & *M. galloprovincialis*)
- **Manila clams**

- **Ornamental**

- Goldfish (*Carassius auratus*)
- Koi (*Cyprinus carpio*)
- Plus other species





Why is tilapia coming off the list you ask???

- CFIA proposed removing all species susceptible to epizootic ulcerative syndrome (EUS)
- 75 species, including tilapia and several ornamental species
- CFIA comment period closed March 22, 2013.



Blue Ridge Aquaculture

➤ Thank you for providing comments!!!



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What is required for export certificate?



Option 1

- Shipment by shipment health certification required
 - Meeting all the specified health conditions
 - 7 health certificates are finalized
- **IREGS**
- **Contact your local APHIS Area Office or NCIE**

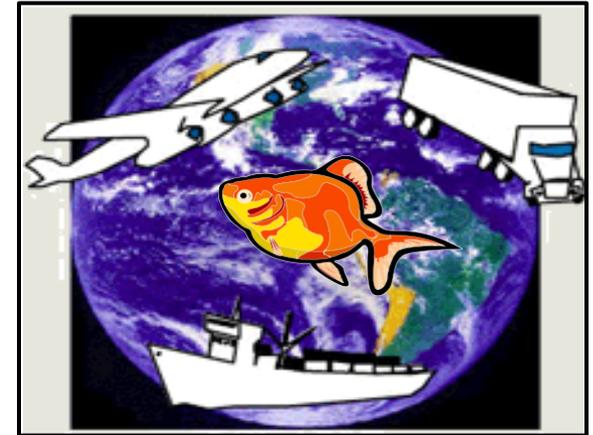
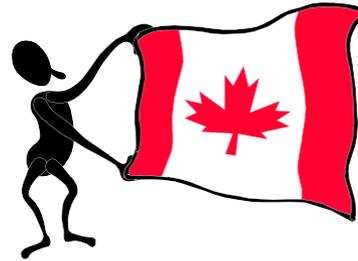
Option 2

- USDA facility registration with specific program as agreed upon by CFIA & USDA “compartmentalization equivalent” OR **APHIS Registration specific to Canada and end use**
 - Still being negotiated!!!





Specifics of export certificate



- **General Information**

- US origin
- US Competent Authority.....USDA- APHIS
- Canadian destination
- Transportation information
- Description of animals (scientific name, number/ weight, life stage)

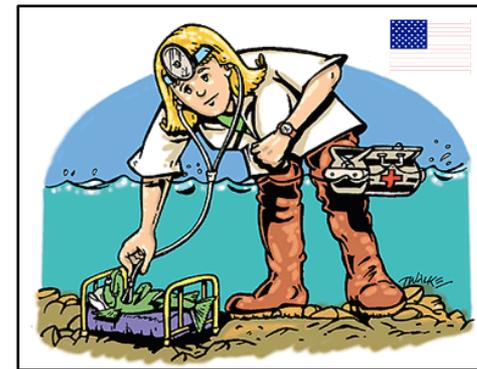


Specifics of export certificate cont.

- **Packing & Shipping Information**

- New or cleaned & disinfected shipping containers
- Shipping contained prevents release of water or animals
- Animals packed such they will not contact other animal or water of lesser health status
- Visible label with origin, destination & scientific name of ALL the animals in the shipment

- Moving towards “Producer’s Declaration” for these statements



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Health Certificates are species AND end use specific – Part 1

- APHIS and CFIA have finalized wording for
 - Phase 1, December 10, 2012
 - ❖ Aquatic Animals and Germplasm Intended for Culture
 - ❖ Live Finfish Intended for Bait and Feed
 - Phase 2, February 4, 2013
 - ❖ Live Ornamental Aquatic Animals Intended for Commercial Aquarium use in Closed Premises in Canada
 - ❖ Live Aquatic Animals and Germplasm Intended for Research and Education



Health Certificates are species AND end use specific – Part 2

- APHIS and CFIA have finalized wording for
 - Phase 3, April 8, 2013
 - ❖ Live Aquatic Animals Intended for Food Services/ Retail Use
 - ❖ Dead (ie. Ungutted) Aquatic Animals Intended for Food Services/ Retail Use
 - ❖ Live and/or Dead Aquatic Animals Intended for Further Processing
 - Except for **BAIT** certs apply to finfish, mollusk and crustaceans



Phase 1 – December 10, 2012

- Aquatic Animals and Germplasm Intended for Culture

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/downloads/ca_aqua_a_germ_hc.pdf

- Live Finfish Intended for Bait and Feed

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/downloads/ca_live_a_bf_hc.pdf



Health Certificate for Aquatic Animals and Germplasm Intended for Culture – Part 1

Option 1

Meet attestations 1-5 for a **premises** that is free of the CFIA listed disease(s)

- Routine testing at APHIS approved labs
- OIE diseases are reportable or if non-OIE disease they are tested free
- Biosecurity plan
- Transport water equal status to facility or treated



OR



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Health Certificate for Aquatic Animals and Germplasm Intended for Culture – Part 2 **OR**

Option 2

Meet attestations 1-13 for live animals, plus attestations 14-15 for germplasm

- Testing of each shipment for CFIA listed disease
- OIE diseases are reportable or if non-OIE disease they are tested free
- Visual inspection of each shipment 96 hr prior to export
- Feeding requirements; either commercial feed or live feed which are species not susceptible to the CFIA listed diseases
- Must not be vaccinated
- Transport water equal status to premise or treated
- Disinfection of eggs



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Diagnostic Testing Details???

- OIE standards are usually acceptable, with few exceptions
 - ISA “Snow et. al” for real time PCR. APHIS currently working with some APHIS approved laboratories on bench marks for this method
 - EUS, visual inspections for lesions, and if found, testing according to OIE...again anticipate EUS being off the list by April 8, 2013.
- Not OIE listed....do as we have been doing, BUT where appropriate will move in direction of PCR over the next year.
 - Annex 1 – “Diagnostics Methods for Exports to Canada” document on IREGS



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Health Certificate for Aquatic Animals and Germplasm Intended for Culture – Part 3

- Health certificate issued by an APHIS accredited veterinarian
 - Aquavetmed to find an APHIS accredited veterinarian in your area
 - <http://www.aquavetmed.info/>
- Health certificate endorsed by your local APHIS Area Office



Live Cultured Finfish Intended for Bait

- Similar attestations to those animals intended for **Culture**, EXCEPT
 - 1) No premises free option
 - 2) No vaccination restriction statement
- APHIS will endorse certificates for **CULTURED** animals, both live and dead.
 - Certificate for dead to come
- NOAA will endorse wild marine bait



Phase 2 – February 4, 2013

- Live Ornamental Aquatic Animals Intended for Commercial Aquarium use in Closed Premises in Canada

- ❖ http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/downloads/ca_aqua_comm_hc.pdf

- Live Aquatic Animals and Germplasm Intended for Research and Education

- ❖ http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/downloads/ca_ag_re_hc.pdf



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Attestation for “Live Ornamental Aquatic Animalsuse in CLOSED Premise in Canada”

- 1) Keep animals on premises for 7 days without change in health status or mortality
- 2) Legally imported and under no APHIS restrictions
- 3) Transport water equal status of animals at premise or origin or treated
- 4) Visual inspection by APHIS accredit veterinarian 7 days prior



What constitutes a CLOSED premises in Canada?

- A premises which “prevents effluent water from contacting Canadian natural water”
 - Discharge into municipal wastewater system/ septic field
OR
 - Treat water prior to discharge
- Importers required to sign declaration regarding effluent water of the premises
- CFIA will inspect importing premises as necessary to verify
 - CFIA will NOT have a list of closed facilities, so it will be up to the exporter to contact the importer to determine if their facility is a closed premises.



LIVE Aquatic Animals & Germplasm Intended for Research & Education

- Similar attestations to those animals intended for **Culture**, EXCEPT
 - NO visual inspection 96 hr prior to export
- Exporter should work with importer....depending on the biosecurity of laboratory in Canada, there may be alternative import conditions.



Phase 3 – April 8, 2013

- Live Aquatic animals for Food Service/Retail Use
 - ❖ http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/downloads/ca_live_food_retail_use_hc.pdf
- Dead (ie. ungutted, fresh, on ice) Aquatic animals for Food Service/Retail Use
 - ❖ http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/products/downloads/ca_dead_aq_cert.pdf
- Live and/or Dead Aquatic Animals Intended for Further Processing in Canada
 - ❖ http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/downloads/ca_live_dead_further_processing.pdf



What about aquatic animals for human consumption?



- Prior to the new CFIA regulations APHIS was not involved in any human consumption health certifications because the certificates referred to human health concerns under HACCP. The new CFIA certificates do not refer to human health, but rather animal health
- NOAA and APHIS will collaborate and assist where necessary
 - NOAA will endorse certificates wild caught aquatic animals
 - APHIS will endorse certificates for cultured aquatic animals



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Live Aquatic Animals for Food Service/Retail Use – Part 1

Animal Health Requirements

- 1) OIE diseases are reportable or if non-OIE reports of suspect diseases are investigate
- 2) Not under no APHIS restrictions or intended for slaughter for disease control
- 3) Transport water of equal health status of animals at premises of origin
 - APHIS Area Office will endorse...does NOT to be issued by an accredited veterinarian



Live Aquatic animals for Food Service/Retail Use – Part 2

Producer's Declaration

1) Animal Management –

- ❖ No visible ectoparasites, intermediate host or fellow travelers, that is you are only shipping what is on the import permit

2) The 4 packing and shipping attestations discussed previously

- This must be submitted with animal health requirements for APHIS endorsement



Dead (ie. ungutted, fresh, on ice) Aquatic animals for Food Service/Retail Use – Part 1 Animal Health Requirements



- 1) OIE diseases are reportable or if non-OIE reports of suspect diseases are investigate
- 2) Not under no APHIS restrictions or intended for slaughter for disease control
- 3) Transport water and/or **ice** of equal health status of animals at premises of origin
 - **APHIS Area Office will endorse....does NOT to be issued by an accredited veterinarian**



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Dead (ie. ungutted, fresh, on ice) Aquatic animals for Food Service/Retail Use – Part 2

Manufacturer's Declaration

1) The 4 packing and shipping attestations discussed previously

- This must be submitted with animal health requirements for APHIS endorsement



Live and/or Dead Aquatic Animals Intended for Further Processing in Canada

Animal Health Requirements

- 1) OIE diseases are reportable or if non-OIE reports of suspect diseases are investigate
- 2) Not under no APHIS restrictions or intended for slaughter for disease control
- 3) Read Manufacturer's/Producer's declaration
 - APHIS Area Office will endorse...does NOT to be issued by an accredited veterinarian



Live and/or Dead Aquatic Animals Intended for Further Processing in Canada – Part 2

Producer's /Manufacturer's Declaration

1) Animal Management –

- a) Animals examined within 96 hr of harvest and showed no visible lesions.....nothing abnormal
- b) Animals and/or product derived from population with no unusual signs of illness or death within last 3 months
- c) Transport water and/or ice of equal health status of animals of premises of origin
- d) And for LIVE animals, no fellow travelers

2) The 4 packing and shipping attestations



Possible Alternatives to Health Certificates.....

- Compartmentalization equivalent to CFIA's Program
- Registration specific Canada and specific to commodity end use
- Like to like/Regionalization status
- Combination of options
- **Still in negotiation with CFIA!!!!**



What can you do?

- Work with your local APHIS Area Office
 - ❖ http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/downloads/savic.pdf
 - Make sure you understand the health certificate and process for endorsement
 - Make the Area Office understands your business needs, commodity, origin of animal/products and shipping frequency
- Work with your Canadian imports
 - Ask to see copies of import permit
 - Explain new challenges of meeting import requirements



Questions???



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Additional Information



- **Link to APHIS Area Offices**
 - http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/download/s/vsavic.pdf
- **Dr. Christa Speekmann**
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 Email: Christa.L.Speekmann@aphis.usda.gov
 Phone: (301) 851-3300, Option 2
- **Dr. Kristin Schmitz**
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