

October 2008

Certification Procedure for Rodents Export to Japan

USDA (APHIS) shall follow the procedures stipulated below and certify pet rodents for export to Japan:

1. Standards and specifications for the establishments where rodents are kept
 - 1) An official veterinarian employed full-time by USDA (APHIS) shall investigate and approve establishments where rodents that are intended for export to Japan are kept within the 12 months prior to export.

The standards for this review are set by the government of Japan and are as follow:

- Specifications for storage establishments for Rodents as stipulated by the Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) of Japan

1. The construction of the establishment must be appropriate in order to prevent the intrusion of animals from outside.
 2. Sanitary controls, such as disinfection, must be periodically implemented.
 3. No outbreak of plague (*Yersinia pestis*), rabies, monkey pox, hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome, hanta virus pulmonary syndrome, tularemia and leptospirosis has been clinically reported in human beings or animals in the establishment for the past 12 months, and necessary measures have been taken in order to prevent the outbreak of these infectious diseases.
 4. The data regarding the sanitary and feeding control of animals (including records of the introduction, breeding, death and shipment of animals) must be recorded and be kept adequately.
- 2) USDA (APHIS) shall report through the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo the following items to Tuberculosis and Infectious Diseases Control Division, Health Service Bureau, MHLW immediately after the above-mentioned approval:
 - a. Name of storage establishment
 - b. Address
 - c. Establishment Number
- 3) The information of certified establishments shall be kept at USDA (APHIS). When there are any changes in the information, MHLW shall be notified.
2. Posting the form of Health Certificate (Form 1)

The form of the Health Certificate is attached herewith as "Form 1". This form shall be posted under "Commercial Pet Rodents" on the website of USDA (APHIS):

URL:http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/regs/animals/animal_japan.shtml

3. Issuing Procedure

It shall be confirmed that the establishment is registered before a Health Certificate is issued.

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