

## **Additional Instruction for Exportation of U.S. origin live reptiles, namely snakes and turtles to the Russian Federation**

(April 29, 2016)

The Federal Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance Service (VPSS) of the Russian Federation issued a waiver on April 29, 2016 for the importation of U.S. origin live reptiles, namely snakes and turtles, accompanied by the Veterinary Certificate for Zoo and Circus Animals Exported to the Customs Territory of the Eurasian Economic Union (Form No. 41).

The VPSS has waived the requirement Point 4.1, for “clinically healthy zoo and circus animals of any biological species exported to the customs territory of the Eurasian Economic Union originate from the territories or water areas that are free from contagious animal diseases, namely from **bluetongue**, during the last 24 months on the territory of the country or administrative territory in accordance with the regionalization, since reptiles are not susceptible to and are not vectors of the bluetongue virus;” and Point 4.2, that “each animal was clinically inspected with **mandatory thermometry**, since reptiles are ectothermic.”

As such, U.S. origin live reptiles, namely snakes and turtles, may use the “Form No. 41” template veterinary certificate on the Iregs, with the 2 waived statements lined out and initialed by the veterinarian.

The “Form No. 41” veterinary certificate must be issued by a USDA-accredited veterinarian and endorsed by APHIS prior to export.