DIVISION OF SELECT AGENTS & TOXINS
PROTECTING AMERICA FROM DANGEROUS BIOLOGICAL AGENTS AND TOXINS

CDC IMPORT PERMIT PROGRAM

Regulates the importation of infectious biological agents into the U.S. that could cause disease in humans, including:

- Infectious biological agents capable of causing illness in humans
- Materials known to contain an infectious biological agent
- Vectors of human disease (such as insects or animals)

More than 2,000 import permits are issued each year by the CDC’s Import Permit Program.

WHAT IS A SELECT AGENT?

Biological agents and toxins that have the potential to pose a severe threat to public health, to animal and plant health, or to animal or plant products.

The list includes 68 select agents & toxins

Common examples include:

- Anthrax
- Bubonic plague
- Smallpox
- Ricin

IMPORTANCE OF SELECT AGENT RESEARCH

Research on select agents helps provide a defense against naturally occurring diseases and bioterrorism.

Research on select agents provides:

- Bioterrorism detection and prevention resources
- Vaccines, drugs, and treatments for deadly diseases

CDC’s Division of Select Agents & Toxins (DSAT) helps regulate facilities that use select agents through the Federal Select Agent Program (FSAP).

FEDERAL SELECT AGENT PROGRAM

FSAP is managed jointly by CDC and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). CDC provides oversight for the select agents that cause diseases in people, and APHIS provides oversight for select agents that cause diseases in animals and plants. CDC and APHIS share the responsibility for agents that threaten both humans and animals, such as anthrax. In 2020:

- 244 entities were registered with the Federal Select Agent Program to possess select agents.
- The majority of entities, 86 percent, were registered with CDC. The remaining 14 percent were registered with APHIS.

KEY ACTIVITIES

FSAP develops, implements, and enforces the select agent regulations:

- Provides oversight, conducts inspections, and approves program registrations
- Approves individual access to select agents and toxins
- Receives reports of theft, loss, or release
- Serves as a resource on the regulations

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Center for Preparedness and Response

BENEFITS

CDC’s Import Permit Program ensures that:

- Biological agents imported into the U.S. that could cause disease in humans are monitored.
- Facilities that receive import permits have the appropriate biosafety measures in place to work with the imported agents.

www.cdc.gov/cpr/ipp/

www.selectagents.gov