CDC’s Role in the Safe Movement of Biologics and Vectors: At the Port of Entry

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Federal Partners Import Permit Regulations Webcast
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Outline

- What happens at the port of entry
- Other (than biologicals) CDC-regulated imports with permit requirements
- CDC’s interaction and collaboration with other governmental authorities
- Common entry issues
- Examples of what not to do
- Tips for importing biologics and vectors safely
What Happens at the Port of Entry
Protect the public’s health at US borders and beyond.

QBHSB accomplishes this mission by:

- **Preparing** for response to communicable diseases
- **Enhancing** federal, state/territorial, international, and industry partnerships
- **Enforcing** public health regulations
- **Responding** to travel-related communicable diseases
- **Supporting and providing technical assistance with** public health at domestic and international borders
- **Communicating with** the public and partners
- **Training** staff, federal, state/territorial and international partners, and industry
Import Permit Program (IPP) and Quarantine Station (QS) Staff at Ports of Entry

Importer → IPP → QS

https://www.cdc.gov/cpr/ipp/index.htm
Other CDC-Regulated Imports with Permit Requirements
CDC-Regulated Animals and Animal Products

Photo credits: iStockPhoto, CDC quarantine stations (Gambian pouched rat)
CDC-Regulated Animals – Dogs and Cats

- Focus is on canine rabies virus variant (dog rabies)
- **Permit required for dogs from high-risk restricted countries (currently Egypt)**
- Rabies vaccination certificate needed for dogs from countries that have high risk of dog rabies
- Cats do not need rabies vaccination certificate
- Dogs and cats must appear healthy on arrival

www.CDC.gov/dogtravel
CDC-Regulated Animals – Turtles and Civets

- Permit issued for science, education, or exhibition
- *Salmonella* spp. outbreak in children in 1975
  - Applies to ≥ 6 turtles with shell length smaller than four inches
- Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak in 2003
  - Applies to all members of the family Viverridae

Photo credits: CDC quarantine stations
CDC-Regulated Animals – Nonhuman Primates, Bats, African Rodents

- Live animals – require permit; only for science, education, exhibition
  - Nonhuman primates and bats are vectors or carriers for many serious human diseases
  - African rodents – since 2003 monkeypox outbreak
CDC’s Interaction and Collaboration with Other Governmental Authorities
Federal Governmental Regulatory Agencies
Animal Importation

- Livestock and equine health
- Animal welfare

- Zoonotic diseases of public health concern

- CITES *
- Conservation
- Exotics

*Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
Dog Importation Example: CDC and APHIS

Photo credit: CDC quarantine station
Federal Governmental Regulatory Agencies
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- Animal welfare

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- Exotics

United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

*Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
Nonhuman Primate Importation Example: CDC and USFWS

Photo credit – CDC quarantine stations
United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

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*Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
Customs and Border Protection

Photo credits – CDC Quarantine Stations
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Animal Importation

- Livestock and equine health
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- Enforcement at ports of entry

*Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
Common Entry Issues
Documents

- CDC Permit to Import Infectious Biological Agents, Infectious Substances, and Vectors
- Importer Certification Statement

CDC permit is not the same as USDA Import Permit – you may need both

https://www.cdc.gov/cpr/ipp/index.htm
Improper Packaging

- Condition of CDC import permit is that the importation meets all other federal agency requirements for packaging.
- Pictured is a non-adherence to Department of Transportation requirement for proper packaging and transport.

Stuart Streck will be talking at 2:45pm about requirements for packaging and transport.
Failure to Declare Biologics or Declare Items Accurately

- Often see packed in suitcase, carry-on bag, or concealed in water bottle
- Must be declared to Customs and Border Protection, and transported in accordance with Department of Transportation and International Air Transport Association requirements
- Must be entered and manifested correctly

CBP Senior Operations Manager Kristen Williams will be talking at 2:15pm about requirements.
Examples of What Not to Do
Bat Blood from Mexico

Photo credit: CDC quarantine stations
Cholera from Ghana

Photo credit: CDC quarantine stations
H1N1 and H7N9 Influenza from China

Photo credit: CDC quarantine stations
Human Tissues for Training Abroad
Human Heads from Israel

Photo credit: CDC quarantine stations
Tips for Importing Biologics and Vectors Safely
Tips for Importing Biologics and Vectors Safely

- Start preparation early
- Take biologic packaging and transportation training
- Consult the specialists at your company or academic institution who are experts in storing, packaging, and transporting infectious biological agents, infectious substances, and vectors
- Reach out to federal and state agencies that have regulatory oversight for guidance BEFORE you ship
- Read all parts of the permit application and provide supporting documents if needed
- Be transparent to customs officials
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- State animal health officials
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- US Customs and Border Protection
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.