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
- CDC’s interaction and collaboration with other governmental authorities
- CDC-regulated animal species with import permit requirements
- Common entry issues
- Examples of what not to do
- Tips for importing biologics and vectors safely
What Happens at the Port of Entry
The mission of the Quarantine and Border Health Services Branch (QBHSB) is to **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** public health at international borders
U.S. POE and CDC Quarantine Stations

- CDC Quarantine Station (n=20)
- U.S. Port of Entry (n=329)
At the Port of Entry:

- Land border, airport, or seaport
- Customs and Border Protection officers review documents and inspect the import
- Customs Officers contact CDC Quarantine Station staff to determine whether the import meets CDC requirements
Biological Materials

- Specimens of human and animal tissues
  - Blood
  - Organs
  - Fluids
  - Bones
  - Skin
  - Muscle
  - Connective tissue
  - Etc.
Vectors

- Known to transfer or are capable of transferring infectious agent to humans
  - Animals
  - Arthropods
  - Animal products
  - Molecular vectors
Federal Governmental Regulatory Agencies At Ports of Entry

- Livestock and equine health
- Animal welfare
- CITES *
- Conservation
- Exotics

- Zoonotic diseases of public health concern
- Livestock and equine health
- Animal welfare
- Wildlife Health
- Security of Borders

*Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CDC-Regulated Animal Species with Import Permit Requirements
CDC-Regulated Animals and Animal Products

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

42 CFR §71.51

- 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
- Dogs and cats must appear healthy on arrival

www.CDC.gov/dogtravel

* Contact: cdcanimalimports@cdc.gov
Civets - Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak in 2003
Applies to all members of the family Viverridae
Live Viverridae – permit required
Viverridae products – rendered non-infectious

Permission letter issued for science, education, or exhibition
Contact: cdcanimalimports@cdc.gov

Photo credits: CC BY-SA
CDC-Regulated Animals – Turtles

42 CFR §71.52

- *Salmonella* sp. outbreak in children in 1975
- Applies to turtles with shell smaller than four inches long and viable turtle eggs
- Cannot be imported for commercial purposes
- Six or fewer can be imported if not for commercial purposes

Permission letter issued for science, education or exhibition

Contact: cdcanimalimports@cdc.gov

Photo credits: CDC quarantine stations
CDC-Regulated Animals – African Rodents

42 CFR §71.56

- Restrictions followed a 2003 monkeypox outbreak in the United States
- Linked to African rodents imported for the pet trade
- A total of 71 human cases were investigated
- First human monkeypox cases reported outside of Africa

Permission letter issued for science, education, or exhibition
Contact: cdcanimalimports@cdc.gov

Photo credits: CDC quarantine stations
CDC-Regulated Animals – Nonhuman Primates

42 CFR §71.53

- Nonhuman primates can be reservoirs or vectors for various serious zoonotic diseases
- May ONLY be imported for science, education, or exhibition
- Importers must be registered* and routinely inspected by CDC
- Biological materials require CDC permit** or certificate of non-infectiousness

* cdcanimalimports@cdc.gov
** https://eipp.cdc.gov/
CDC-Regulated Animals – Bats

42 CFR §71.54

- Bats can be reservoirs or vectors for various serious zoonotic diseases
- Live bats and materials not rendered non-infectious - CDC permit required
  https://eipp.cdc.gov/
- Dead bats must have certificate of non-infectiousness

Photo credits: iStockPhoto and CDC quarantine stations
1. Missing/Improper Paperwork
2. Improper Packaging/Labeling
3. Failure to Declare or Declare Accurately

Common Entry Issues
Missing/Improper Paperwork

Live animals – documents depend on species/country Biologics and Vectors

- CDC Permit to Import Infectious Biological Agents, Infectious Substances, and Vectors
  https://eipp.cdc.gov/

- Importer Certification Statement on Official Letterhead
  ✓ A detailed description of materials
  ✓ Statement affirming:
    ✓ Material not infectious
    ✓ Why the material is not believed to be infectious
    ✓ How the material was rendered noninfectious

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

- Biologics and vectors must be packaged, labeled, and shipped in accordance with Department of Transportation regulations.

Example: human tissues

- Does not meet DOT requirements
- Leaking/improper packaging
- No CDC Permit or importer certification statement
Failure to Declare or Declare Accurately

✔ Must be declared to Customs and Border Protection
✔ Must be entered and manifested correctly

Example: biologic samples concealed in box of T-shirts

✗ Not declared on the manifest
✗ Not labeled appropriately
✗ Not packaged appropriately

Photo credit – CDC quarantine stations
Examples of What Not to Do
Bat Blood from Mexico

Photo credit: CDC quarantine stations
Cholera from Ghana

Photo credit: CDC quarantine stations
216 vials of monkey serum from South Korea for research

✓ On cargo manifest
✓ US Fish and Wildlife Permit
✓ CITES Permit
✓ USDA Statement of Non-infectiousness
X No CDC Permit to Import Infectious Biological Agents, Infectious Substances, and Vectors
X No importer certification statement
Human Heads Manifested as Electronics

Photo credit: CDC quarantine stations
Human Tissue from Canada

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

- Start preparation early
- 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
- Be transparent with customs officials
Acknowledgments

- CDC Quarantine Station Staff
- CDC Division of Select Agents and Toxins Import Permit Program
- CDC Quarantine and Border Health Services Branch, Zoonoses Team
- State public health officials
- State animal health officials
- US Department of Agriculture
- US Customs and Border Protection
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
Resources:

DSAT IPP email: importpermit@cdc.gov
DSAT IPP phone 404-718-2077
DSAT IPP website: www.cdc.gov/cpr/ipp/index.htm

DGMQ Importation website: www.cdc.gov/importation/index.html
DGMQ Animal Imports email: cdcanimalimports@cdc.gov