

VETERINARY SERVICES NOTICE

Subject: Sampling of Animal Serum Shipments  
From China for Species Verification

July 28, 1992

To: Directors, VS  
Area Veterinarians in Charge, VS  
Port Inspectors, PPQ  
Directors, PPQ Regions  
Veterinary Medical Officers, PPQ  
Director, NVSL

This Notice replaces Veterinary Services (VS) Notice dated July 14, 1992. This amendment is to provide for distribution to VS Regional Directors and Area Veterinarians in Charge. The purpose of this Notice is to establish procedures for sampling of commercial serum shipments to verify the species of origin.

Several commercial U.S. importers of animal serum for use as a laboratory reagent have begun to import serum from China and other countries. China is considered to be affected with several livestock animal diseases, such as hog cholera, swine vesicular disease, foot-and-mouth disease, rinderpest, and viral hemorrhagic disease of rabbits. The only animal serums that are allowed to be imported from China are mouse, rat, dog, guinea pig, and other non-livestock animals, excluding rabbits. To ensure that sera from other species is not being imported, particularly livestock sera, we have issued permits with the provision that the serum shipments are subject to random sampling for species verification.

These samples should be randomly selected from shipments upon arrival at the importer's establishment. A sample should be taken from each bottle of serum. The sample should be taken so as to provide at least 3 milliliters for testing at the laboratory. The samples should be sent to Dr. Delmar Cassidy, Chief, Pathobiology Laboratory, National Veterinary Services Laboratories, Ames, Iowa, for testing to verify that the serum being imported is in compliance with the permit. The results of this testing should be reported to the Import-Export Products (TEP) Staff, Hyattsville, Maryland.

Port of entry inspectors should notify the IEP Staff of shipments with the date, permit number, State of destination, and approximate volume. This can be done by telephone, Area Code (301) 436-7885 or by telefax (301) 436-8226. IEP Staff will notify the Area Office to contact the consignee to arrange for sampling.

Questions regarding this procedure should be referred to the IEP Staff, Hyattsville, Maryland, telephone Area Code (301) 436-7885.

/s/

Al Strating  
Acting Director  
Operational Support  
Veterinary Services