

June 14, 1994

VETERINARY SERVICES NOTICE

Subject: Processing of Restricted Hides and Skins  
at USDA-Approved Establishments

To: Directors, VS Regions  
Area Veterinarians in Charge, VS  
Directors, Plant Protection and Quarantine

The purpose of this Notice is to amend the requirements for handling restricted skins and hides as specified in VS Memorandum No. 593.5, entitled "Restricted Imports--Handling and Disinfection," dated September 13, 1976. USDA-approved establishments under the categories CT--commercial tanneries, RST--ruminant and swine materials from foot-and-mouth disease and rinderpest-affected countries, and ASF--swine materials from African swine fever-affected countries, are currently required to use a sodium bifluoride (1:10,000) soak as a disinfection step prior to the tanning process.

This Notice amends VS Memorandum No. 593.5 as follows:

1. All restricted skins and hides, consigned to USDA-approved establishments that use a tanning process to preserve these materials, will no longer have to be subjected to a sodium bifluoride soak prior to the tanning process. The tanning process itself (provided it includes either a normal liming (pH > 12) or pickling (pH < 2) step) is considered sufficient to satisfy the disinfection requirement as stated in Title 9 CFR 95.24.
2. Any trimmings or fleshings removed prior to the tanning process will have to be incinerated or disinfected using one of the approved methods.
3. If a pre-soak step is used prior to the tanning process, the soak water has to be treated with an approved disinfectant; e.g., sodium bifluoride, sodium carbonate.
4. All other provisions of VS Memorandum No. 593.5 involving storage and handling of the restricted materials are to be observed.

Gary S. Colgrove  
Acting Director  
Operational Support  
Veterinary Services