

November 28, 1994

VETERINARY SERVICES NOTICE

Subject: Screening Used for Outdoor Exercise/Sun Rooms in Privately Owned
Bird Quarantine Stations

To: Directors, VS Regions
Area Veterinarians in Charge, VS
Port Veterinarians, VS

This notice is to inform U.S. importers, Veterinary Services personnel, and other interested persons of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) of our policy regarding the screens used for outdoor exercise/sunrooms in privately owned bird quarantine stations that import and quarantine ratite eggs. The policy contained in this notice has been incorporated into the updated VS Form 17-70, Quarantine Facility Inspection Report.

Outdoor exercise/sun rooms shall be used only in those facilities that quarantine hatching eggs of ratites. They cannot be used for commercial birds, horses, pigs, or other livestock.

If the outdoor exercise/sun room is constructed of walls and/or a ceiling that is not solid, it must be double screened. Double screening must meet the following requirements:

1. One of the screens shall be of a metal or nylon mesh material that is insect proof. In high-corrosion areas, there must be at least two layers of this insect-proof screened mesh. The AVIC shall make the determination if an area is high corrosion or not.

2. The second screen shall be rodent proof with a mesh size of not greater than one-half by one inch. Acceptable rodent-proof material would be smooth welded wire, rabbit wire, or hardware cloth.

If the exercise/sun room is constructed of screened walls, the two layers of screen material for the walls shall be separated by at least 3 inches. All screens shall be maintained in good repair at all times.

Donald W. Luchsinger
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Veterinary Services

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