

# Rules and Regulations

Federal Register

Vol. 63, No. 8

Tuesday, January 13, 1998

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains regulatory documents having general applicability and legal effect, most of which are keyed to and codified in the Code of Federal Regulations, which is published under 50 titles pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 1510.

The Code of Federal Regulations is sold by the Superintendent of Documents. Prices of new books are listed in the first FEDERAL REGISTER issue of each week.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### 9 CFR Parts 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, and 130

[Docket No. 94-106-11]

RIN 0579-AA71

#### Importation of Animals and Animal Products; Correction

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Final rule; correction.

**SUMMARY:** We are correcting an error in the Supplementary Information section of a final rule that amended the regulations regarding the importation of animals and animal products. The final rule was published in the **Federal Register** on October 28, 1997 (62 FR 56000-56026, Docket No. 94-106-9), and was made effective on November 28, 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Gary Colgrove, Chief Staff Veterinarian, National Center for Import and Export, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 38, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231, (301) 734-8590.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On October 28, 1997, we published in the **Federal Register** a final rule that amended the regulations regarding the importation of animals and animal products, to establish procedures for recognizing regions, rather than only countries, for the purpose of such importations. We also established procedures by which regions may request permission to export animals and animal products to the United States under certain conditions. Additionally, we provided for the unloading and reloading at the port of arrival, under certain conditions, of meat and other animal products otherwise prohibited entry into the United States; we removed the

requirement that cattle from Canada be tested for brucellosis before being imported into the United States; we removed the requirement that dry milk products from countries where rinderpest or foot-and-mouth disease exists be processed for human food; and we made several other minor changes to clarify our intent or to remove provisions that were no longer being applied.

In the Supplementary Information section of the final rule, under the heading "National Environmental Policy Act," we stated that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) had prepared an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact for the rule. However, in our discussion of the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact, we did not indicate that we had assessed the potential impact only of the miscellaneous changes effected by the final rule, and not of the implementation of a framework for requesting recognition as a region and for requesting permission to export animals and animal products to the United States. Because this framework will not be fully implemented until we receive requests to allow the importation of animals or animal products into the United States, and because we could not estimate the number or sources of requests we will receive in the future, it was not appropriate or possible to prepare an assessment regarding the framework. Any necessary assessments of individual requests will be done on a case-by-case basis.

#### Correction

In FR Doc 97-28473 (62 FR 56000-56026), at page 56011, third column, the statement under the heading "National Environmental Policy Act" will be corrected to read as follows:

#### National Environmental Policy Act

An environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact have been prepared for the miscellaneous changes to the regulations contained in this final rule on the importation of animals and animal products. This environmental analysis analyzed the impacts of the following miscellaneous changes to the regulations: The removal of requirements for the testing of cattle from Canada for brucellosis; the

provision for the transiting at the port of arrival of certain animal products; the removal of the requirement that dry milk products imported from regions where foot-and-mouth disease or rinderpest exists be processed for human food; and clarifications of intent or removal of inactive regulations regarding the movement of pork or pork products, the disposal of animals, and casings. This environmental assessment did not analyze the implementing of a framework for requesting recognition as a region or for requesting permission to export animals and animal products to the United States; *i.e.*, "regionalization." The assessment provides the basis for the conclusion that the miscellaneous changes in this rule will not present a significant risk of introducing or disseminating animal disease agents into the United States and will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment.

The environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact were prepared in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), (2) Regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), (3) USDA regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1b), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

Copies of the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact are available for public inspection at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect copies are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the reading room. In addition, copies may be obtained by writing to the individual listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Done in Washington, DC, this 7th day of January 1998.

**Craig A. Reed,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-774 Filed 1-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P