

## §93.912

## 9 CFR Ch. I (1–1–10 Edition)

an import permit through the following Canadian border ports: Eastport, ID; Houlton and Jackman, ME; Detroit, Port Huron, and Sault Ste. Marie, MI; Baudette, MN; Opheim, Raymond, and Sweetgrass, MT; Alexandria Bay, Buffalo, and Champlain, NY; Dunseith, Pembina, and Portal, ND; Derby Line and Highgate Springs, VT; and Oroville and Sumas, WA.

(b) Live VHS-regulated fish may be imported into the United States with an import permit through the following ports: Anchorage, AK; Los Angeles and San Francisco, CA; Miami and Tampa, FL; Atlanta, GA; Honolulu, HI; Chicago, IL; Boston, MA; Newark, NJ; Jamaica and Newburgh, NY; Portland, OR; Memphis, TN; Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX; Seattle, WA; and San Juan, PR.

(c) *Designation of other ports.* Other ports may be designated by the Administrator in specific cases with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.

### §93.912 Import permits.

(a) Live VHS-regulated fish imported from VHS-regulated regions through a limited port as described in §93.911(b) must be accompanied by an import permit issued by APHIS and must be imported within 30 days of the proposed arrival date stated in the import permit.

(b) An application for an import permit must be submitted for each shipment of live VHS-regulated fish to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, National Center for Import and Export, 4700 River Road Unit 38, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231. Application forms for import permits may be obtained from this address. Applications may also be obtained from the following APHIS Web site: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie/pdf/vs17-129.pdf>.

(c) A completed application must include the following information:

(1) The name and address of the person intending to export live VHS-regulated fish to the United States;

(2) The proposed date of shipment to the United States;

(3) The name and address of the person intending to import live VHS-regulated fish into the United States;

(4) The species and number of live VHS-regulated fish to be imported into the United States;

(5) The purpose of the importation;

(6) The port of embarkation;

(7) The mode of transportation;

(8) The route of travel, including all carrier stops en route;

(9) The port of entry in the United States;

(10) The proposed date of arrival in the United States; and

(11) The name and address of the person to whom the live VHS-regulated fish will be delivered in the United States.

(d) If APHIS determines that the live VHS-regulated fish from VHS-regulated regions are eligible for importation, APHIS will issue an import permit indicating the applicable conditions for importation. An import permit does not guarantee that any live VHS-regulated fish will be allowed entry into the United States; the VHS-regulated fish will be allowed to enter the United States only if they meet all applicable requirements of the permit and regulations.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 0579-0340)

### §93.913 Health certificate.

(a) *General.* All live VHS-regulated fish that are imported from VHS-regulated regions for other than immediate slaughter or research or laboratory use must be accompanied by a health certificate issued by a full-time salaried veterinarian of the national government of the exporting country, or issued by a certifying official and endorsed by the competent authority of that country. The health certificate must be written in English or contain an English translation. The health certificate will be valid for 30 days from the date of issuance. The health certificate for the live VHS-regulated fish must state that:

(1) The live fish were inspected by the veterinarian or certifying official who issued the certificate within 72 hours prior to shipment, and were found to be free of any clinical signs of disease consistent with VHS; and

(2) The live fish covered by the health certificate originated in a region or facility that has demonstrated freedom

from VHS through testing in accordance with paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section.

(b) *Testing.* A facility can demonstrate freedom from VHS through negative testing results by a pathogen detection laboratory approved for VHS viral assays by the competent authority of that country. Testing must meet the following conditions:

(1) Testing must be conducted with a testing sample size that provides for a 95 percent confidence level of detecting a 2 percent prevalence of infection in the facility.

(i) Facilities with cultured fish of VHS-regulated species which can document a 2-year history of negative testing for VHS virus can conduct testing at a sampling level to provide a 95 percent confidence level of detecting a 5 percent prevalence of infection in the facility. Such testing must be conducted twice a year, with at least 3 months between tests.

(ii) Facilities with cultured fish of VHS-regulated species which can document a 4-year history of negative testing for VHS virus can conduct testing at a sampling level to provide a 95 percent confidence level of detecting a 10 percent prevalence of infection in the facility. Such testing must be conducted twice a year, with at least 3 months between tests.

(iii) Such facilities must be on a secure water source, and document that any VHS-regulated species in the facility that originated in VHS-regulated States or Canadian provinces originate from facilities of the same or higher health status.

(2) Tests must include virus isolation or other assays authorized by the competent authority, using appropriate cell lines to detect VHS virus, if present. All suspect VHS cytopathic effects must be positively identified as VHS through molecular assays and/or genetic sequencing.

(3) Proportional numbers of each VHS-regulated fish species which might be present in a shipment must be used for testing, if applicable.

(4) Testing must be conducted at water temperatures between 50 and 72 °F, or at other times or under environmental conditions when VHS virus is most likely to be detected, if present.

(c) When APHIS adds a new species to the list of VHS-regulated species after a facility has been determined to be free of VHS in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section, the facility must conduct additional testing on fish of the newly listed species, if present in the facility, and the fish must be free of VHS virus for the facility to retain its free status. VHS testing must be conducted on each newly listed species with a sample size that provides for a 95 percent confidence level of detecting a 2 percent prevalence of infection in the fish facility.

(d) *Shipping containers.* Except as provided in § 93.910(e)–(g), all live fish that are to be shipped to the United States must be shipped in new containers or in containers that have been cleaned and disinfected.

(1) Cleaning and disinfection of shipping containers must be monitored by the veterinarian or certifying official who issues the health certificate.

(2) Cleaning and disinfection must be sufficient to neutralize any VHS virus to which shipping containers may have been exposed.

(3) The cleaning and disinfection protocols used must be referenced in the health certificate or in a separate cleaning and disinfection certificate accompanying the shipment to the U.S. port of entry.

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#### § 93.914 Declaration and other documents.

(a) For live VHS-regulated fish offered for importation under this subpart, the importer or his or her agent must submit the following documents to the appropriate Customs and Border Protection officer for use by the port veterinarians:

(1) All permits, certificates, or other documentation required under §§ 93.912 and 93.913; and

(2) Two copies of a declaration that lists the port of entry; the name and address of the importer; the name and address of the broker; the origin of the live fish; the number, species, and the purpose of the importation; the name of the person to whom the fish will be delivered; and the location of the place to which such delivery will be made.