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your sponsor must also sign and date under the same certification.

(b) *Invoice.* Any restricted organism must be accompanied at the time of arrival in the United States by an invoice or packing list accurately indicating the complete contents of the shipment and the exporting region.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 0579–0207)

§ 322.15 APHIS review of permit applications; denial or cancellation of permits.

(a) *Review of permit applications to import restricted organisms*—(1) *Consultation.* During our review of your permit application, we may consult with any Federal officials; appropriate officials of any State, Territory, or other jurisdiction in the United States in charge of research or regulatory programs relative to bees; and any other qualified governmental or private research laboratory, institution, or individual. We will conduct these consultations to gain information on the risks associated with the importation of the restricted organisms.

(2) *Review by destination State.* We will transmit a copy of your permit application, along with our anticipated decision on the application, to the appropriate regulatory official in the destination State for review and recommendation. A State's response, which we will consider before taking final action on the permit application, may take one of the following forms:

(i) The State recommends that we issue the permit;

(ii) The State recommends that we issue the permit with specified additional conditions;

(iii) The State recommends that we deny the permit application and provides scientific, risk-based reasons supporting that recommendation; or

(iv) The State makes no recommendation, thereby concurring with our decision regarding the issuance of the permit.[4]

[4] If a State regulatory official does not respond within 20 business days, we will conclude that the State has chosen to make no recommendation regarding the issuance of the permit.

(b) *Results of review.* After a complete review of your application, we will either:

(1) Issue you a written permit with, if applicable, certain specific conditions listed for the importation of the restricted organisms you applied to import. You must initial each condition on the proposed permit and return the proposed permit conditions to the Permit Unit before we will issue you a signed valid permit; or

(2) Notify you that your application has been denied and provide reasons for the denial.

(c) *Denial of permit applications.* APHIS will deny an application for a permit to import a restricted organism regulated under this subpart when, in its opinion, such movement would involve a danger of dissemination of an exotic bee disease or parasite, or an undesirable species or subspecies of honeybee. Danger of such dissemination may be deemed to exist when:

(1) Existing safeguards against dissemination are inadequate and no adequate safeguards can be arranged; or

(2) The potential for disseminating an exotic bee disease or parasite, or an undesirable species or subspecies of honeybee, with the restricted organism outweighs the probable benefits that could be derived from the proposed movement and use of the restricted organism; or

(3) When you, as a previous permittee, failed to maintain the safeguards or otherwise observe the conditions prescribed in a previous permit and have failed to demonstrate your ability or intent to observe them in the future; or

(4) The proposed movement of the restricted organism is adverse to the conduct of an eradication, suppression, control, or regulatory program of APHIS.

(d) *Cancellation of permits.* (1) APHIS may cancel any outstanding permit whenever:

(i) We receive information subsequent to the issuance of the permit of circumstances that would constitute cause for the denial of an application for permit under paragraph (c) of this section; or

(ii) You, as the permittee, fail to maintain the safeguards or otherwise

observe the conditions specified in the permit or in any applicable regulations.

(2) Upon cancellation of a permit, you must either:

(i) Surrender all restricted organisms to an APHIS inspector; or

(ii) Destroy all restricted organisms under the supervision of an APHIS inspector.

(e) *Appealing the denial of permit applications or cancellation of permits.* If your permit application has been denied or your permit has been canceled, APHIS will promptly inform you, in writing, of the reasons for the denial or cancellation. You may appeal the decision by writing to the Administrator and providing all of the facts and reasons upon which you are relying to show that your permit application was wrongfully denied or your permit was wrongfully canceled. The Administrator will grant or deny the appeal as promptly as circumstances allow and will state, in writing, the reasons for the decision. If there is a conflict as to any material fact, you may request a hearing to resolve the conflict. Rules of practice concerning the hearing will be adopted by the Administrator.

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§ 322.16 Packaging of shipments.

(a) Restricted organisms must be packed in a container or combination of containers that will prevent the escape of the organisms and the leakage of any contained materials. The container must be sufficiently strong to prevent it from rupturing or breaking during shipment.

(b) The outer container must be clearly marked with the contents of the shipment, *i.e.*, either "Live Bees," "Bee Germ Plasm," or "Live Bee Brood," and the name of the region of origin.

(c) Only approved packing materials may be used in a shipment of restricted organisms.

(1) The following materials are approved as packing materials: Absorbent cotton or processed cotton padding free of cottonseed; cages made of processed wood; cellulose materials; excelsior; felt; ground peat (peat moss); paper or paper products; phenolic resin foam; sawdust; sponge rubber; thread waste, twine, or cord; and vermiculite.

(2) Other materials, such as host material for the organism, soil, or other types of packing material, may be included in a container only if identified in the permit application and approved by APHIS on the permit.

§ 322.17 Mailed packages.

(a) If you import a restricted organism through the mail or through commercial express delivery, you must attach a special mailing label (APHIS Form 599), which APHIS will provide with your permit, to the package or container. The mailing label indicates that APHIS has authorized the shipment.

(b) You must address the package containing the restricted organism to the containment facility or apiary identified on the permit (post office boxes are not allowed).

(c) If the restricted organism arrives in the mail without the mailing label described in paragraph (a) of this section or addressed to a containment facility or apiary other than the one listed on the permit, an inspector will refuse to allow the organism to enter the United States.

§ 322.18 Restricted organisms in a commercial vehicle arriving at a land border port in the United States.

(a) If you import a restricted organism through a land border port in the United States by commercial vehicle (*i.e.*, automobile or truck), then the person carrying the restricted organism must present the permit required by § 322.14 and an invoice or packing slip accurately indicating the complete contents of the shipment to the inspector at the land border port.

(b) The restricted organisms must be surrendered at the port of entry and can continue on to the destination identified on the permit only by a bonded carrier (commercial express delivery).

(c) If you fail to present a copy of the permit and an invoice or packing list accurately indicating the complete contents of the shipment at the port of entry, an inspector will refuse the organism's entry to the United States or