§ 83.4 VHS-regulated fish and VHS-regulated areas.

(a) APHIS will list as a VHS-regulated fish any fish species found in freshwater to be susceptible to the North American (type IV) strain of VHS virus under natural (i.e., non-controlled) conditions of exposure and from which VHS virus has been isolated in cell culture or other assay determined by the Administrator to be adequate to detect VHS virus, with confirmation of strain identity through genetic sequencing. Anadromous fish that have migrated into freshwater and from which VHS strain type IV(a) has been isolated will not be considered VHS-regulated fish.

(b) APHIS will list as a VHS-regulated area each State or portion of a State from which VHS virus has been detected in any VHS-regulated fish species (with or without clinical signs of disease) in a water source that is not a secure water source, or which the Administrator determines should be regulated based on criteria such as inadequate surveillance or movement requirements, or other epidemiologic information.

(c) APHIS maintains the lists of VHS-regulated fish and VHS-regulated areas.
§ 83.6 Testing requirements.

(a) A facility can demonstrate freedom from VHS through negative testing results provided by an approved laboratory. Testing must meet the following conditions:

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

(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 5 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) Include virus isolation or other assays authorized by the Administrator, 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) Use proportional numbers of each VHS-regulated fish species which might be present in the facility.

(4) Be conducted at water temperatures between 50 and 72 °F, or at other