



NOTIFICATION OF EMERGENCY MEASURES

1. Notifying Member: <u>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</u> If applicable, name of local government involved:
2. Agency responsible: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
3. Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable): Importation of dogs
4. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All trading partners <input type="checkbox"/> Specific regions or countries:
5. Title of the notified document: Final Rule: Control of Communicable Diseases; Foreign Quarantine: Importation of Dogs and Cats. Document Citation: 89 FR 41726. Language(s): English. Number of pages: 123 https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/05/13/2024-09676/control-of-communicable-diseases-foreign-quarantine-importation-of-dogs-and-cats
6. Description of content: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), issues this final rule to provide clarity and safeguards that address the public health risk of dog-maintained rabies virus variant (DMRVV) associated with the importation of dogs into the United States. This final rule addresses the importation of cats as part of overall changes to the regulations affecting both dogs and cats, but the final rule does not require that imported cats be accompanied by proof of rabies vaccination and does not substantively change how cats are imported into the United States.
7. Objective and rationale: <input type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, <input type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests.
8. Nature of the urgent problem(s) and reason for urgent action: Through this final rule, HHS/CDC is revising its regulation at 42 CFR 71.51 to prevent the reintroduction and spread of dog-maintained rabies virus variant (DMRVV) in the United States. HHS/CDC is also revising 42 CFR 71.50, which contains definitions applicable to animal importations under 42 CFR part 71, subpart F. The United States was declared DMRVV-free in 2007. The importation of just one dog infected with DMRVV risks re-introduction of the virus into the United States; such a public health threat could result in the loss of human and animal life and consequential economic impact. The rabies virus can infect any mammal, and, once clinical signs appear, the disease is almost always fatal. A DMRVV-infected dog can transmit the virus to humans, domestic pets, livestock, or wildlife. Importing inadequately vaccinated dogs from countries at high risk of DMRVV (high-risk countries) involves a significant public health risk to people who directly interact with those dogs. This rule also includes requirements for dogs from DMRVV-free and low-risk countries to confirm that the dog has not been in a high-risk country during the six months before arriving in the

<p>United States. In 2019, the importation of a DMRVV-infected dog cost the affected State governments more than \$400,000 US dollars (USD) for the ensuing public health investigations and rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) treatments administered to exposed persons.</p>
<p>9. Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Codex Alimentarius Commission (e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text):</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) (e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number): World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) Terrestrial Manual 2023, chapters 3.1.18 and 8.15.7</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> International Plant Protection Convention (e.g. ISPM number):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p>Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard: This final rule adopts many but not all WOAH standards.</p> <p>The HHS/CDC requirements outlined in this final rule are less burdensome than WOAH standards in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HHS/CDC is not requiring cats or ferrets meet the standards outlined by WOAH as HHS/CDC is not aware of any previous reports of imported rabid cats or ferrets; • HHS/CDC is not requiring examination of dogs the day before travel and is allowing a longer time period between examination and travel to assist importers in submitting all required documentation to the airlines in a timely manner to make flight reservations; • HHS/CDC is not requiring the use of rabies vaccines manufactured in accordance with the WOAH Terrestrial Manual as this would exclude individuals from importing dogs from most DMRVV high-risk countries due to lack of availability of these high-quality vaccines; • Peer-reviewed findings suggest a shorter waiting period is adequate to prevent the importation of a rabid dog that is incubating rabies at the time the titer is collected; • CDC will publish the length of the waiting period in technical instructions. The technical instructions will be based on the latest scientific information and may be updated in the future based on new scientific information and advancements in veterinary medicine related to vaccination and titer testing; • HHS/CDC is not requiring a six-month quarantine prior to shipping an animal without a titer as most countries do not have this capacity. Instead, HHS/CDC has identified CDC-registered Animal Care Facilities that can provide quarantine services after arrival for dogs unable to receive a titer prior to shipment; • HHS/CDC is not requiring a quarantine period of six months and is instead requiring 28-days based on peer-reviewed findings, if the importer does not have rabies serologic test results. This represents a significantly lower time and cost burden for importers.
<p>10. Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2024/SPS/USA/24_03719_00_e.pdf</p>
<p>11. Date of entry into force (dd/mm/yy)/period of application (as applicable): This final rule is effective 1 August 2024.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Trade facilitating measure</p>
<p>12. Agency or authority designated to handle comments: <input type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</p> <p>Ashley C. Altenburger, J.D., Division of Global Migration Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Road NE, MS H16-4, Atlanta, GA 30329. Tel: +(1 800) 232 4636</p>

For information regarding CDC operations and importations: Dr. Emily Pieracci, D.V.M., Division of Global Migration Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Road NE, MS H16-4, Atlanta, GA 30329; Tel: +(1 800)232 4636

13. Text(s) available from: [] National Notification Authority, [] National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/05/13/2024-09676/control-of-communicable-diseases-foreign-quarantine-importation-of-dogs-and-cats>