

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 fish, fertilized eggs, or gametes must state that:

(1) The live fish, fertilized eggs, or gametes 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 SVC; and

(2) The live fish, fertilized eggs, or gametes covered by the health certificate meet the requirements of this section.

(b) *Surveillance.* The live fish, fertilized eggs, or gametes must meet the following conditions to be eligible for importation into the United States:

(1) The live fish, fertilized eggs, or gametes must originate in a region or establishment which conducts a surveillance program for SVC under the supervision of the competent authority.

(2) The region or establishment must demonstrate freedom from SVC through a minimum of 2-years' continuous health history, supported by laboratory testing by a pathogen detection facility approved for SVC viral assays by the competent authority.

(3) SVC-susceptible fish populations in the region or establishment must be tested at least twice annually, with at least 3 months between the tests and at times or under environmental conditions that would facilitate the detection of SVCV if it were present. Sampling procedures must utilize an assumed pathogen prevalence of 2 percent, with a corresponding confidence level of 95 percent. Samples must be collected and submitted by a certifying official or veterinarian recognized by the competent authority. The standard screening method for SVC must include isolation of SVCV in cell culture, using either the epithelioma papulosum cyprini (EPC) or fathead minnow (FHM) cell lines. However, the Administrator may authorize other assays for SVCV detection in lieu of virus isolation through cell culture, if the Administrator determines that such assays

provide equivalent assurance of the SVC status of an exporting region or establishment. All viral testing results must be negative.

(c) *Shipping containers.* All live fish, fertilized eggs, and gametes must be shipped to the United States in new containers or in used containers that have been cleaned and disinfected in accordance with this section.

(1) Cleaning and disinfection of shipping containers must take place under the supervision of the veterinarian or certifying official who issues the health certificate.

(2) Cleaning and disinfection must be sufficient to neutralize any SVC virus to which shipping containers may have been exposed. Acceptable disinfection procedures include individual or combination treatments with: Solutions having a pH of 12 or higher or 3 or lower with a contact time of at least 10 minutes; heat at or above 56 °C for at least 15 minutes; chlorine solutions having a concentration of at least 500 ppm with a contact time of at least 10 minutes; iodine solutions having a concentration of at least 100 ppm with a contact time of at least 10 minutes; ultraviolet exposure (254 nm; min exposure of 10,000 microwatt seconds/cm²); or other disinfectants such as Virkon used according to the manufacturer's directions. The Administrator may authorize other procedures if the Administrator determines they are adequate to neutralize the SVC virus.

(3) Cleaning and disinfection protocols 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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§93.905 Declaration and other documents for live fish, fertilized eggs, and gametes.

(a) For all live fish, fertilized eggs, and gametes offered for importation under this subpart, the importer or his or her agent must submit the following documents to the collector of customs for use by the port veterinarian:

(1) All permits, certificates, or other documentation required by this subpart; and

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(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, fertilized eggs, or gametes, 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.

(b) [Reserved]

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§ 93.906 Inspection at the port of entry.

(a) All live fish, fertilized eggs, and gametes of SVC-susceptible species imported from any part of the world must be presented for inspection at a port of entry designated under §93.902. The APHIS port veterinarian must be notified at least 72 hours in advance of the arrival in the United States of a shipment of live fish, fertilized eggs, or gametes of SVC-susceptible species. Any shipment of live SVC-susceptible fish species that the port veterinarian determines to exhibit clinical signs consistent with SVCV infection or disease, or any shipments of live fish, fertilized eggs, and gametes of SVC-susceptible species that otherwise do not meet the requirements of this subpart, shall be refused entry.

(b) Shipments refused entry, unless exported within a time fixed in each case by the Administrator, and in accordance with other provisions he or she may require in each case for their handling, shall be disposed of as the Administrator may direct.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 0579–0301)

§§ 93.907–93.909 [Reserved]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 73 FR 52186, Sept. 9, 2008, §§93.907 through 93.909 were added and reserved, effective Nov. 10, 2008. At 73 FR 63867, Oct. 28, 2008, the effective date was delayed until Jan. 9, 2009. At 74 FR 1, Jan. 2, 2009, the effective date was delayed indefinitely.

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR VHS-REGULATED FISH SPECIES

SOURCE: 73 FR 52186, Sept. 9, 2008, unless otherwise noted.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 73 FR 52186, Sept. 9, 2008, an undesignated center heading and new §§93.910 through 93.916 were added to subpart I after the newly reserved §§93.907 through 93.909, effective Nov. 10, 2008. At 73 FR 63867, Oct. 28, 2008, the effective date was delayed until Jan. 9, 2009. At 74 FR 1, Jan. 2, 2009, the effective date was delayed indefinitely.

§ 93.910 General restrictions; exceptions.

(a) No live VHS-regulated species of fish may be imported into the United States from VHS-regulated regions except in accordance with this subpart or the regulations of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in 50 CFR 16.13(a)(3) and 16.13(b), nor may such live VHS-regulated fish be moved from the port of entry after arrival until released by an APHIS representative or FWS official; *Provided*, that the Administrator may, upon request in specific cases, allow the importation of live VHS-regulated fish into the United States under conditions other than those specifically set forth in this subpart when the Administrator determines that such movement will not result in the further introduction of VHS into the United States.

(b)(1) 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 competent authority to be adequate to detect VHS virus, with confirmation of strain identity through genetic sequencing. Anadromous fish species that have migrated into freshwater and from which VHS strain type IV(a) has been isolated will not be considered VHS-regulated fish.

(2) If APHIS determines that, in accordance with the criteria in paragraph (b)(1) of this section, a species should be added to the list of VHS-regulated species, APHIS will publish a notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER announcing that determination.

(c)(1) APHIS will list as a VHS-regulated region any region in which VHS virus has been officially reported to the World Health Organization for Animal