NOTIFICATION

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| **1.** | **Notifying Member:** United States of America  **If applicable, name of local government involved:** |
| **2.** | **Agency responsible:** USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) |
| **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):** Horses |
| **4.** | **Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable:**  **[****X]** **All trading partners**  **[ ]****Specific regions or countries:** |
| **5.** | **Title of the notified document:** "Import Regulations for Horses" [Docket No. APHIS-2016-0033].**Language(s):** English. **Number of pages:** 9 (pages 67661 to 67669)  <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/APHIS-2016-0033> |
| **6.** | **Description of content:** We are proposing to amend the regulations for the importation of equines. These changes include increasing the number of days horses exported from regions free from contagious equine metritis (CEM) are allowed to spend in a CEM-affected region and re-enter the United States without testing from 60 days to 90 days; requiring an import permit for horses transiting through CEM-affected regions; adding requirements for health certifications to ensure health certifications properly attest to the health of the imported horse; removing the requirement that horses permanently imported from Canada undergo inspection at the port of entry; requiring that horses transiting Central America or the West Indies comply with the same regulations that apply to horses directly imported from these regions; and adding requirements for shipping containers used in transporting horses. We are also proposing a number of miscellaneous changes to the regulations such as clarifications of existing policy or intent, and corrections of inconsistencies or outdated information. Many of these proposed changes would better align our regulations with international standards and allow us and the equine industry more flexibility. The proposed changes would also add further safeguards that protect against introducing or disseminating pests or diseases of livestock into the United States. (Federal Register, Vol. 86, No. 226, Monday, 29 November 2021, pages 67661-67669) |
| **7.** | **Objective and rationale: [ ]****food safety, [****X]****animal health, [ ]****plant protection, [ ]****protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, [ ]****protect territory from other damage from pests.** |
| **8.** | **Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:**  **[ ]****Codex Alimentarius Commission *(e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text)*:**  **[ ]****World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) *(e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number)*:**  **[ ]****International Plant Protection Convention *(e.g. ISPM number)*:**  **[****X]** **None**  **Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?**  **[ ]****Yes [ ]****No**  **If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:** |
| **9.** | **Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:** |
| **10.** | **Proposed date of adoption *(dd/mm/yy)*:** To be determined.  **Proposed date of publication *(dd/mm/yy)*:** To be determined. |
| **11.** | **Proposed date of entry into force: [ ]****Six months from date of publication**, **and/or** ***(dd/mm/yy)*:** To be determined.  **[ ]****Trade facilitating measure** |
| **12.** | **Final date for comments: [ ]****Sixty days from the date of circulation of the notification and/or *(dd/mm/yy)*:** 28 January 2022  **Agency or authority designated to handle comments: [ ]****National Notification Authority, [ ]****National Enquiry Point.** **Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:**  Dr. Iwona Popkowski, VS Strategy and Policy, Live Animal Imports, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 39, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; +(301) 851 3300 |
| **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.regulations.gov/document/APHIS-2016-0033-0001> |