USDA, APHIS, VETERINARY SERVICES (VS)
STRATEGY & POLICY
PROTOCOL TO IMPORT BREEDING SWINE
FROM A REGION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU)
RECOGNIZED AS LOW-RISK FOR CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER (CSF)

December 2009; updated April 2026

This protocol describes the conditions required to import live domestic breeding swine according to regulations found in 9 CFR Part 93 from a region of the European Union recognized by USDA APHIS as low-risk for CSF (USDA APHIS | Animal Health Status of Regions).

Note: In accordance with this protocol, USDA APHIS reserves the right to inspect the quarantine and export facilities as needed in order to ensure USDA APHIS imports standards are met.

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

This protocol is only applicable to live swine for breeding purposes exported from Member States of the EU recognized by the USDA as low-risk for CSF, listed in Title 9, Code of Federal Regulations (9 CFR), Parts 93 and 94, as an "APHIS-defined EU CSF region." This protocol may also be used for the importation of pet swine (intact or neutered) from this region.

1.1 The importer must obtain an **Import Permit** from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Servies (VS). The application, VS Form 17-129, "Application for Import or in Transit Permit" may be filed electronically using the eFile system.

1.2. The importer must reserve quarantine space at the following USDA animal import center (AIC). Information on the Import Center may be found at the following web site: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/live-animal-import/animal-import-centers#nyaic

New York AIC (NYAIC)
474 International Boulevard
Rock Tavern, NY 12575
Phone: 845-838-5500
vspsnic@usda.gov

1.3. An official health certificate is required on entry into the United States.

1.3.1. The official health certificate must be issued by a veterinarian accredited and recognized by the competent veterinary authority of the EU Member State and must be endorsed by the competent veterinary authority certifying the attestations and tests required in this protocol.

1.3.2. The official health certificate must include:

- name and address of the importer;
- species, breed, and number of animals to be imported;
- purpose of importation
- individual identification, including an official eartag number or other approved forms of individual identification for the country of origin, and any other identification present on the animal, including registration number and brands;
- description of the animals, including age in months, sex, breed, and markings (if

- any);
- region/country of origin;
- address or other means of identifying the premises of origin and any other premises where the animals resided immediately prior to export;
- name and address of the exporter;
- name and address of the receiving facility;
- the mode of transportation, and port of entry in the United States.

1.3.3. Results and dates of all required official tests must be included in the certification.

1.3.4. Records with animal identification numbers and dates must be included for all animals vaccinated for Pseudorabies.

2. **CERTIFICATIONS:** certification statements are attested to by the accredited Veterinarian and Official Government Veterinarian per the official export health certificate. Please refer to parts 11 and 13 of the official model Health Certificate.

2.1. The accredited veterinarian authorized by the competent veterinary authority of the EU Member State shall certify:

2.1.1. Since birth or within the 12 months prior to export, there was no clinical or pathological evidence of tuberculosis, brucellosis or Aujeszky's disease found in the swine or any other animals in contact with them;

2.1.2. During the 60 days prior to export, the swine were isolated from all other livestock in an embarkation quarantine facility approved by the competent veterinary authority of (EU Member State) and placed under the supervision of the accredited veterinarian;

2.1.3. During the 60 days prior to export, no swine erysipelas or swine plague (acute pasteurellosis) existed in the embarkation quarantine facility;

2.1.4. During the 60 days prior to export, the swine were not held with other animals of lesser animal health status or with animals under any restrictions which would make them ineligible for export to the United States;

2.1.5. The swine were inspected at the embarkation quarantine facility within 24 hours prior to export and found to be free of clinical evidence of contagious or communicable disease, and as far as can be determined, exposure thereto, during the preceding 60 days in isolation;

2.1.6. The swine will be transported from the embarkation quarantine facility to the port of embarkation in a conveyance which has been cleaned and disinfected prior to loading and will be sealed with official seals. The seal numbers are recorded on the export health certificate.

2.1.7. Testing:

Within the 60-day period of quarantine prior to export, the swine were subjected to the following tests at least once with negative results:

2.1.7.1. **Tuberculosis**: an intradermal tuberculin test with animals injected with 0.1 mL of *Mycobacterium bovis* tuberculin. The injection site was visually observed and palpated 48 hours (plus or minus 6 hours) following injection. *(Note: this should be done as soon as possible during the quarantine period to allow for repeat testing after arrival in the United States).* The date of testing and result must be recorded on the health certificate.

2.1.7.2. **Brucellosis**: (check the test used)

- ☐ Buffered *Brucella* antigen card test or
- ☐ Rose Bengal test or
- ☐ Buffered plate agglutination test or
- ☐ Indirect ELISA test or
- ☐ Competitive ELISA test.

2.1.7.3 **Aujeszky's disease** (check the test used):

- ☐ Serum Neutralization test at a dilution of 1:4 or
- ☐ ELISA test using all the Aujeszky's disease viral antigens in the case of non-vaccinated-swine, or
- ☐ ELISA test for the Aujeszky's disease g1 (gE) antigens in the case of swine vaccinated with a g1 (gE) deleted vaccine.

2.1.7.4 The dates of testing and results must be recorded on the health certificate.

2.1.7.5 Testing must be conducted at a laboratory approved by the competent veterinary authority of the EU Member State.

2.2. The Official veterinarian of the EU Member State shall certify that:

2.2.1. The swine for export originate in (EU Member State) recognized by the USDA as low-risk for classical swine fever, hereinafter "CSF," defined in 9 CFR Part 93 and 94 as an "APHIS-defined EU CSF region," designated by the USDA to be free of foot-and-mouth disease, and swine vesicular disease as indicated in 9 CFR Part 94 and other official publications;

2.2.2. The swine for export to the United States did not originate in a zone established by the European Union (EU), any EU Member State, or Northern Ireland because of detection of African Swine Fever (ASF) in domestic, wild, or feral swine.

2.2.3. The swine for export have not been imported into (EU Member State) from countries/regions that are designated by the USDA in 9 CFR Part 94 and other official publications as affected with foot-and-mouth disease, or swine vesicular disease or from zones established by the

European Union (EU), any EU Member State, or Northern Ireland because of detection of African Swine Fever (ASF) in domestic, wild, or feral swine;

2.2.4. The swine for export have not been in a country/region where classical swine fever is known to exist (except for the APHIS-defined EU CSF region), as indicated in 9 CFR Part 93 and 94 and other official publications; nor have they commingled with other swine that at any time were in any of these regions or zones; nor have they transited such countries/regions unless the swine were moved directly through the region or zone in a sealed means of conveyance with the seal determined to be intact by the Official Veterinarian or Accredited Veterinarian upon arrival at the point of destination;

2.2.5. The swine for export have not been in a restricted zone in the APHIS-defined EU CSF region established due to detection of CSF in domestic swine, from the time of detection until the designation of the zone as a restricted zone is removed by the competent veterinary authority of the EU Member State; or until 6 months following depopulation of the swine on affected premises in the restricted zone and the cleaning and disinfection of the last affected premises in the zone, whichever period of time is later;

2.2.6. The swine for export have not been in a restricted zone in the APHIS-defined EU CSF region established due to the detection of CSF in wild boar, from the time of detection until the designation of the zone as a restricted zone is removed by the competent authority of the EU Member State;

2.2.7. The swine for export have not commingled with swine that have at any time been in any of the regions or zones described in points 2.2.5 and 2.2.6 unless the swine are exported after the periods described in these sections;

2.2.8. They have not transited any region or zone described in points 2.2.5 and 2.2.6, and the swine were moved directly through the region or zone in a sealed means of conveyance with the seal determined to be intact by the Official Veterinarian or Accredited Veterinarian upon arrival at the point of destination, or unless the swine are exported after the periods described in these sections;

2.2.9. The breeding swine have **not** transited such countries/regions where ASF is known to exist or through zones established by the European Union (EU), any EU Member State, or Northern Ireland because of detection of African Swine Fever (ASF) in domestic, wild, or feral swine.

2.2.10. They have been treated before and at the time of loading in accordance with the relevant provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, in particular as regards watering and feeding and they are fit for the intended transport;

2.2.11. The swine were not vaccinated with any live or attenuated or inactivated vaccine during the 14 days preceding export to the United States. **NOTE**: If the swine were vaccinated for

Aujeszky's disease, a compete vaccination record must be provided, in English or with an English translation.

2.2.12. The Accredited Veterinarian that completed Section A of the health certificate is authorized by the competent veterinary authority to perform this service.

2.3. Port of Embarkation Certification: To be completed by an Official veterinarian or by an accredited veterinarian authorized by the Competent Authority of the EU Member State.

2.3.1. The swine described above arrived at the port of embarkation in a sealed means of conveyance. The seal was intact when it was broken by the issuing veterinarian. Seal number:

2.3.2. No livestock, other than those intended for export to the United States, were aboard the means of conveyance that transported the swine to the port of embarkation.

2.3.3. The transporting aircraft or vessel was cleaned and disinfected prior to loading.

2.3.4. All hay, straw, forage, feed and bedding aboard the transporting aircraft or vessel originated in an EU Member State designated by the USDA to be free of foot-and-mouth disease, rinderpest, African swine fever and swine vesicular disease as indicated in 9 CFR Part 94 and other official publications;

2.3.5. No equipment or materials used in transporting the swine to the United States was previously used for transporting swine that do not meet the above requirements unless the equipment or materials was first cleaned and disinfected.

2.3.6. No livestock, other than those intended for export to the United States, are aboard the transporting aircraft or vessel.

2.3.7. The captain or transport carrier has been informed of the transportation requirements described in this Section.

3. PRE-EMBARKATION QUARANTINE: The pre-embarkation period is for a minimum of 60 days (2 months) in an approved quarantine facility approved and overseen by the competent veterinary authority of the EU Member State but may be extended to allow for all testing requirements.

4. TESTING: Within the 60-day pre-embarkation quarantine period prior to export, the breeding swine were subjected to the following tests at least once with negative results:

4.1. Tuberculosis: An intradermal tuberculin test with animals injected with 0.1 mL of

Mycobacterium bovis tuberculin.

4.1.1. The sites of injection must be the lips of the vulva (boars may be injected at the junction of the skin and mucous membrane of the anus) and the soft skin just posterior to the ear.

4.1.2. The injection sites must be visually observed and palpated 48 hours (plus or minus 6 hours) following injection. A negative test result is the lack of any response that may be seen or palpated. Swine with tissue reactions that may be observed or palpated are classified as reactors to *M. bovis*.

4.1.3. If reactors are observed, all the reactors must be necropsied, and tissues submitted to the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) for culture.

4.1.4. If no gross lesions are observed and all cultures are negative, the remaining non-reactors in the shipment may be released.

4.1.5. APHIS recommends the testing be performed as soon as possible after entering the quarantine facility.

4.2. Brucellosis

4.2.1. A buffered Brucella antigen test (card test, Rose Bengal test, or the buffered plate agglutination test) or an ELISA (indirect or competitive) test is required.

4.2.2. Fluorescence polarization assay (FPA) for Brucellosis is an acceptable alternative.

4.2.3. Samples with non-negative results must be retested with negative results using a suitable confirmatory test, such as the complement fixation test.

4.3. Aujeszky's disease (Pseudorabies):

4.3.1. A serum neutralization at a dilution of 1:4 or an ELISA test using all the Aujeszky's disease viral antigens in the case of non-vaccinated swine, OR

4.3.2. An ELISA test for Aujeszky's disease g1 (gE) antigens in the case of swine vaccinated with a g1 (gE) deleted vaccine; g1 or gB ELISA test are acceptable alternative tests.

4.4. **Note**: Test records must accompany the shipment. All diagnostic tests must be conducted at a laboratory approved by the competent veterinary authority of EU Member State.

5. TRANSPORTATION TO PORT OF EMBARKATION AND TO THE UNITED STATES

5.1. The animals must be transported to the port of embarkation in a vehicle thoroughly cleaned and disinfected prior to use.

5.2. The swine must be transported from the embarkation quarantine facility to the port of embarkation in a vehicle sealed with an official seal issued by the competent veterinary authority. The seal must be broken at the port of embarkation by a veterinarian officially recognized by the competent veterinary authority.

5.3. Transportation of swine from the quarantine facility to the port of embarkation must follow all guidelines for movement of swine in the European Union, including regulations for feed, water and rest periods (FWR).

5.4. No livestock, other than those intended for export to the United States, are permitted aboard the vehicle that transports the swine to the port of embarkation.

5.5. The shipping containers housing the animal(s) will be wrapped underneath and up the side to a minimum height of two (2) feet with heavy gauge, impermeable plastic to prevent contact of bedding or wastes with the environment or be specifically designed to contain bedding and waste.

5.6. All hay, straw, forage, feed, and bedding aboard the transporting aircraft or vessel must originate from a Member State designated by the USDA to be free of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), African swine fever, and swine vesicular disease, as indicated in 9 CFR Part 94 and other official publications. No equipment or materials used in exporting the swine to the United States may have previously been used for transporting swine that do not meet the requirements of this protocol, unless the equipment and materials have first been cleaned and disinfected.

5.7. The transporting aircraft or vessel must be cleaned and disinfected under the supervision of the competent veterinary authority prior to loading.

5.8. No livestock, other than those intended for export to the United States, are permitted aboard the transporting aircraft or vessel.

5.9. The shipment must be routed directly to the United States with no stops en route other than those provided on the USDA import permit. This shipment may not transit a region considered by USDA APHIS to have foot and mouth disease (FMD), Classical Swine Fever (CSF) or African Swine Fever (ASF) as noted on the USDA APHIS webpage Animal Health Statuses of Regions.

5.10. Transport must be arranged so the arrival at the U.S. port of entry will be accomplished with minimal transiting of other U.S. ports of entry. Transit of another U.S. port is only allowed if authorized on the import permit issued by USDA APHIS. The import permit must accompany the shipment.

5.11. The captain of the transport carrier must be advised of the transportation requirements.

5.12. The import permit and the required certifications relating to the health of the swine, tests conducted and results, cleaning and disinfecting, and feed and bedding must accompany the swine to the U.S. port of entry.

6. U.S. PORT OF ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

6.1. All hay, straw, bedding, manure, and similar material scattered outside of the animal crates (except pelleted feed stored separate and apart from the animals) must be removed and disposed of in accordance with the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) guidance upon arrival at the first U.S. port of entry.

6.2. The animal area of the aircraft, ship or transport vehicles, and equipment, must be cleaned and disinfected once livestock have been unloaded (per regulations in 9 CFR 93.402 and 93.502).

6.3. The means of conveyance to the entry quarantine facility must be in a closed vehicle and the transport crates must be thoroughly covered with mesh to prevent loss of bedding, etc., from escaping into the environment, and sealed with official government seals.

6.4. Any debris, manure, leftover food, and/ or bedding in the secondary transport conveyance, and within the crate(s), must be collected and incinerated as international waste, and the vehicle cleaned and disinfected under the supervision of APHIS personnel.

6.5. The port inspection, required testing, and quarantine must be completed at the USDA-approved animal import center at the first port of entry, as specified on the import permit.

6.6. On arrival, the swine will be quarantined at a USDA Animal Import Center facility for a minimum of 30 days, with the Aujeszky's, tuberculosis and brucellosis tests repeated once during the quarantine period. All requirements of the quarantine facility must be followed.

6.7. Deceased animals must be disposed of by incineration or other appropriate methods after evaluation of the cause of death under APHIS oversight.

6.8. If all test results are negative and no other infectious and communicable disease conditions become evident, and the animals are considered fit for travel, the swine will be released to the importer.

7. ADDITIONAL IMPORTER RESPONSIBILITIES

7.1. Other relevant agency regulations may be applicable and must also be complied with completely; this is the responsibility of the importer.

7.2. Importers are advised that individual states may have other import regulations than those required by the USDA. It is the importer's responsibility to verify these conditions and to meet them. The exporter may contact the U.S. State veterinarian of the destination state to determine the state requirements and, among other things, whether a state import permit is needed, additional testing is necessary, or non- vaccination status is required.

8. ANIMALS REFUSED ENTRY:

Any animal refused entry into the United States for noncompliance with the requirements of this protocol must be removed from the United States within a time period specified by the Administrator or will be considered abandoned by the importer. Pending removal or abandonment the animal will be subject to such safeguards as the APHIS inspector determines necessary to prevent the possible introduction of ectoparasites or disease into the United States. If an animal that has been refused entry is not removed from the United States within the prescribed period or is abandoned, it may be seized and destroyed, or otherwise disposed of as the Administrator determines necessary to prevent the possible introduction of ectoparasites or disease into the United States.