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Department of
Agriculture

VETERINARY SERVICES NOTICE NO. 08-08

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Veterinary Services

Washington, DC
20250

TO: Veterinary Services (VS) Management Team

FROM: John R. Clifford
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Veterinary Services

SUBJECT: Clarification of Accreditation Standards for Accuracy of Certification of Inspection for Animals Moving in Interstate Commerce on a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI)

I. PURPOSE

This notice clarifies the accreditation standards and attestations about inspections that are made on certificates. It provides a standard interpretation which Area Veterinarians in Charge (AVICs) should use when working with industry and State Veterinarians on interstate movements.

II. BACKGROUND

Recently, the recipient of an interstate shipment of swine learned that the swine listed on the CVI had not been inspected prior to shipment. The statement on the CVI, however, said that the animals in question had been inspected. The issuing accredited veterinarian believed that the swine did not have to be inspected because there was a regular health maintenance program in place for the herd, and the shipped swine were born after the latest regular herd inspection.

III. CLARIFICATION

The requirements governing the issuance of certificates are covered in title 9 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, section 161.3, Standards for Accredited Veterinarian Duties. Specifically, 161.3(a) states:

- Following the first two inspections of a herd or flock as part of a regular health maintenance program, an accredited veterinarian shall not issue a certificate, form, record, or report which reflects the results of any inspection, test, vaccination or treatment performed by him or her with respect to any animal in that program, unless he or she has personally inspected that animal within 10 days prior to issuance.
- Following the third and subsequent inspections of a herd or flock in a regular health maintenance program, an accredited veterinarian shall not issue a certificate, form, record, or report which reflects the results of any inspection, test, vaccination, or treatment performed by him or her with respect to any animal in



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that program, unless he or she has personally inspected that animal within 30 days prior to issuance.

These standards require an accredited veterinarian to issue certificates that reflect the actual inspections that veterinarian has conducted. Specifically, if the animals being shipped (i.e., early weaned pigs) were not inspected, the statements on the certificate should attest to the animals that the veterinarians did inspect, i.e., the sow herd which produced the early weaned pigs.

A clear example of these different types of statements is included on the VS Form 17-6: Certificate for Poultry of Hatching Eggs for Export. This certificate provides specific certification based on the flock of origin. The statement for hatching eggs or day-old chicks allows accredited veterinarians to certify that "the flock or flocks and the hatchery or hatcheries from which the above-described hatching eggs or newly hatching poultry originated were inspected by me or another accredited veterinarian within 30 days prior to shipment . . . and found free from evidence of communicable diseases." This statement allows for movement of hatching eggs or day-old chicks based on an accurate certification of the flock health status and inspection of the flock. However, the statement for poultry other than those just described attests to the inspection of the individual birds in question, and therefore those individual birds must have been inspected within the past 30 days before an accredited veterinarian can attest to that fact.

IV. SUMMARY

The accreditation standards require accredited veterinarians to accurately attest to inspections they have conducted when preparing certificates reflecting such inspections. These standards do not require that animals born or hatched into a flock in a regular health maintenance program since the last inspection be individually inspected prior to movement, but they do require that the certificate accurately reflect whether veterinarians inspected the animals being moved or inspected the flock or herd of origin. VS personnel should familiarize themselves with this understanding of the regulations and share this information with accredited veterinarians and State personnel as necessary.