Voluntary _ Public

Date: 12/15/2011
GAIN Report Number: RS1160

Russian Federation

Post: Moscow

Customs Union Publishes SPS Measures for Public Comment

Report Categories:
FAIRS Subject Report
Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety
Livestock and Products
Grain and Feed

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Report Highlights:
The Russian-Kazakh-Belarusian Customs Union (CU) published two draft documents on its website related to its veterinary-sanitary and sanitary-epidemiological requirements. There is a 60-day public comment period, starting December 9, 2011. Interested U.S. parties are encouraged to share their comments and concerns with USDA.

General Information:
The Russian-Kazakh-Belarusian Customs Union (CU) published the following draft documents on its website:

- Amendments to CU Decision № 317 "Uniform Veterinary (Veterinary-Sanitary) Requirements for the Goods Subject to Veterinary Control (Supervision)" of June 18, 2010 (last amended October 18, 2011) (Russian);
- Regulation on Unification of Test Methods for Assessment of Conformity with the Uniform Sanitary-Epidemiological and Hygienic Requirements for the Goods Subject to Sanitary-Epidemiological Control (Supervision) (Russian).

English translations of both documents can be found below. There is a 60-day public comment period, starting December 9, 2011. Interested U.S. parties are encouraged to share their comments and concerns with USDA. When formulating comments, please take into consideration CU Decision № 625 "On Ensuring the Harmonization of Legal Acts of the Customs Union in the Application of Sanitary, Veterinary, and Phytosanitary Measures with International Standards" of April 7, 2011.

The proposed draft amendments affect the following chapters of CU Decision № 317:

- Chapter 3: "VETERINARY REQUIREMENTS for the import of bovine embryos on the customs territory of the Customs union and/or transfer between the Parties"

- Chapter 8: "VETERINARY REQUIREMENTS for the import of semen of stud-boars in the customs territory of the Customs union and/or transfer between the Parties"

- Chapter 10: "VETERINARY REQUIREMENTS for the import of breeding, usage and sport horses (other than sport horses for participation in competitions) on the customs territory of the Customs union and/or transfer between the Parties"

- Chapter 11: "VETERINARY REQUIREMENTS for temporary import of sport horses for participation in competitions on the customs territory of the Customs union and/or transfer between the Parties"

- Chapter 12: "VETERINARY REQUIREMENTS for the import of semen of stud stallions in the customs territory of the Customs union and/or transfer between the Parties"

- Chapter 13: "VETERINARY REQUIREMENTS for the import of slaughter horses in the customs territory of the Customs union and/or transfer between the Parties"

- Chapter 25: "VETERINARY-SANITARY REQUIREMENTS for canned food, sausages and other types of prepared meat products imported in the customs territory of the Customs Union and/or transferred between the Parties"

- Chapter 33: "VETERINARY-SANITARY REQUIREMENTS for hides, horn and hoof, intestinal, furs, sheep pelt, lambskin, wool and goat fluff, bristle, horse hair, down and feather of chicken, duck, goose and other poultry, imported in the customs territory of the Customs Union and/or transferred between the Parties"

- Chapter 35: "VETERINARY-SANITARY REQUIREMENTS for the import into the customs territory of the customs union and (or) transfer between the parties of feed and feed additives of animal origin, including bird and fish origins"

Draft

Approved

By Decision of the Customs Union Commission

of _____ 2011 # _____

AMENDMENTS
to the Uniform veterinary (veterinary-sanitary) requirements for the goods subject to veterinary control (supervision)

To amend the Uniform veterinary (veterinary-sanitary) requirements for the goods subject to veterinary control (supervision), approved by the decision № 317 of the Customs Union Commission on June 18, 2010, as follows:

1. In Chapter 3:

1.1. Second and third paragraphs shall read as follows:

"Bulls shall be kept in the semen collection center and/or artificial insemination center, and embryo donor cows – in the centers, on the premises, in the artificial insemination centers during 30 days that are free from contagious animal diseases, and in the country for at least 6 months before semen and embryo collection.

Semen used for insemination of donor cows shall comply with the requirements of Chapter 2 of the Uniform veterinary (veterinary-sanitary) requirements for the goods subject to veterinary control (supervision), approved by the decision № 317 of the Customs Union Commission on June 18, 2010.";

1.2. In the fourth paragraph the words "other animals imported into the country over the past 12 months" shall be replaced with the following words "animals with lower health status";

1.3. Fifth and sixth paragraphs shall read as follows:

"Embryos shall originate from a country or an administrative territory free from contagious animal diseases:

- Infectious bluetongue - in the past 12 months at the farms or in the administrative territory, in which animals were not vaccinated against infectious bluetongue

or for at least the last 3 months at the farms, in which animals were vaccinated against all serological types of bluetongue virus that are present or suspected in the appropriate epidemiological area of origin;

- Rinderpest, contagious pleuropneumonia - during the last 24 months;

- Vesicular stomatitis - within 30 days on the farm;

- Foot and mouth disease - in the last 12 months for *in vitro* derived embryos.

Farms, establishments, cattle embryo collection centers shall be free from contagious diseases:

- Brucellosis, tuberculosis – during the last 6 months;

- Enzootic bovine leucosis for *in vitro* derived embryos – during the last 12 months.

- Infectious rhinotracheitis, trichomoniasis (T.fetus), campylobacteriosis (Campylobacter fetus venerealis), clamidiosis - during the last 12 months;

- Anthrax - during the last 20 days.

There shall be no reported cases of:

- Paratuberculosis - during the last 3 years on the farm

- Leptospirosis - during the last 3 months;

- Bovine viral diarrhea - in the last 6 months on the farm.";

1.4. Delete seventh paragraph;

1.5. Eighth and ninth paragraphs shall read as follows:

"Animal donors were at least tested once a year with negative diagnostic results in the authorized state laboratory using a diagnostic test, which corresponds to the methods approved by the exporting country (specify method and date of testing) for the following diseases: tuberculosis, paratuberculosis, brucellosis , leptospirosis, leucosis, bluetongue (testing by PCR or ELISA (specify date of analysis), bovine viral diarrhea, infectious rhinotracheitis, trichomoniasis, campylobacteriosis, and clamidiosis.

After collecting the embryos, donor-cows should be kept under supervision of a veterinarian for at least 30 days.

In case of discovery of any contagious animal disease specified in these requirements, the import of embryos into the customs territory of the Customs Union or their transfer within the Customs Union shall be prohibited.";

1.6. Delete tenth paragraph.

2. In Chapter 8:

2.1. The first paragraph shall read as follows:

"For import on the customs territory of the Customs union and/or transfer between the Parties, swine semen shall be permitted only if collected from healthy animals in semen collection centers and/or artificial insemination establishments where vaccination against brucellosis and leptospirosis was not conducted.";

2.2. Sixth and seventh sub-paragraphs of the second paragraph shall read as follows:

"- Aujeszky's disease (pseudorabies) - during the last 12 months on the farm;
- Tuberculosis, brucellosis, porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome, Teschovirus encephalomyelitis of swine (Teschen disease or enteroviral encephalomyelitis of swine) - during the last 6 months on the farm;";

2.3. In the third paragraph the words "at the enterprise of artificial insemination during 6" shall be replaced with the following words "at the semen collection center and/or artificial insemination establishments for at least 3";

2.4. The fourth - sixth paragraphs shall be replaced with the following paragraphs:

“While in the semen collection center, before semen collection and/or at the artificial insemination facilities boars shall be tested (using OIE recommended testing methods and time frames) for classical swine fever, tuberculosis, porcine brucellosis, leptospirosis (unless vaccinated or prophylacticly treated using dihydrostreptomycin or a substance with equivalent effect, which is registered in the exporting country), Aujeszky's disease (pseudorabies), clamidiosis, swine vesicular disease, porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome, transmissible gastroenteritis virus.”

3. The second-fourth paragraphs of Chapter 10 shall read as follows:

"Horses shall not be vaccinated against infectious encephalomyelitis of all types and African horse sickness during the last 40 days and shall originate from the territories free from contagious animal diseases:

- Venezuelan and Japanese Equine Encephalomyelitis and African Horse Sickness – during the last 24 months on the territory of the country or administrative territory in accordance with regionalization;

- Eastern and Western Equine Encephalomyelitis (for non-vaccinated horses) – during the last 3 months on the premises;

- West Nile Equine Encephalomyelitis (for non-vaccinated horses) – during the last 3 months on the premises;

- African horse sickness - during the last 12 months on the territory of the country or administrative territory in accordance with regionalization or if the horses were kept during the last 40 days on the territory of such country or administrative territory in accordance with regionalization;

- Vesicular stomatitis - during the last 24 months on the territory of the country or administrative territory in accordance with regionalization;

- Glanders - during the last 6 months on the territory of the country or administrative territory in accordance with regionalization;

- Equine influenza - in the absence of clinical cases during the last 21 days on the farm;

- Dourine (Trypanosoma evansi), Surra (Trypanosoma equiperdum) - duirng the last 6 months on the administrative territory in accordance with regionalization or farm;

- Contagious equine metritis - during the last 2 months on the farm;

- Infectious anemia - during the last 3 months on the farm;

- Viral arteritis - in accordance with the recommendations of the OIE Code;

- Nutaliosis (Theileria equi), piroplasmosis (Babesia caballi) - during the last 30 days before being sent on the farms free of potential carriers;

- Horse pox, mange, leptospirosis - in the absence of clinical cases during the last 3 months on the farm;

- Rhinopneumonitis – equine herpes virus infection of type 1 (in abortive or paralytic form) - during the last 21 days on the farm;

- Anthrax - during the last 20 days on the farm.

During the quarantine all animals shall be subject to daily visual inspection and testing for glanders, dourine (*Trypanosoma evansi*), surra (*Trypanosoma equiperdum*), piroplasmosis (*Babesia caballi*), nutaliosis (*Theileria equi*), infectious equine metritis, infectious anemia, rhinopneumonitis, anaplasmosis, equine viral arteritis (for mature stallions only), vesicular stomatitis, leptospirosis (unless vaccinated or prophylacticly treated using dihydrostreptomycin or a substance with equivalent effect, which is registered in the exporting country).

Animals exhibiting clinical signs of diseases shall be clinically examined including daily thermometry.

Testing for other infectious diseases notifiable to OIE can be only requested by the authorized body of the Party if an eradication and/or prophylactic program for these diseases is maintained on the territory of the requesting Party.

Animals shall be vaccinated in accordance with the instructions of the manufacturer of the vaccine, compliant with the standards described in the Manual for terrestrial animals, in the period between the 21st and 90th day prior to sending or for the first time, or for the second time; information on their status of vaccination shall be included in the veterinary certificate.”

4. In Chapter 11:

4.1. In the first paragraph:

4.1.1 The first sub-paragraph shall read as follows:

“For import on the customs territory of the Customs union and/or transfer between the Parties, only healthy horses shall be permitted, not vaccinated against African horse sickness, Venezuelan and Japanese Equine Encephalomyelitis during the last 40 days and originating from the territories free from contagious animal diseases:”

4.1.2. The third-seventh sub-paragraphs shall read as follows:

“- African horse sickness - during the last 12 months on the territory of the country or administrative territory in accordance with regionalization, or kept within the last 40 days in the territory of such country or administrative territory in accordance with regionalization;

- Glanders - during the last 6 months on the territory of the country or administrative territory in accordance with regionalization;

- Dourine (*Trypanosoma evansi*) - during the last 6 months on the territory of the country and there were no clinical signs on the day of departure;

- Equine influenza - in the absence of clinical cases during the last 21 days on the farm;

- Rhinopneumonitis – equine herpes virus infection of type 1 (in abortive or paralytic form) - during the last 21 days on the farm;”

4.1.3. Delete eleventh sub-paragraph;

4.2. The fourth paragraph shall read as follows:

“For import on the customs territory of the Customs union and/or transfer between the Parties horses shall be examined for glanders, dourine, equine infectious anemia, as well as vaccinated against equine influenza in

accordance with the instructions of the manufacturer of the vaccine, compliant with the standards described in the Manual for terrestrial animals, in the period between the 21st and 90th day prior to sending or for the first time, or for the second time; information on their status of vaccination shall be included in the veterinary certificate."

5. In Chapter 12:

5.1. The first paragraph after the word "received" the following words shall be added "in the centers of semen collection and/or";

5.2. In the second paragraph:

5.2.1. The second - fourth sub-paragraphs shall read as follows:

"- African horse sickness - during the last 24 months on the territory of the country or administrative territory in accordance with regionalization, or kept for 40 days on the territory of such country or administrative territory in accordance with regionalization;

- Dourine, vesicular stomatitis - during the last 24 months on the territory of the country or administrative territory in accordance with regionalization;

- Glanders - during the last 6 months on the farm;

- Equine influenza - in the absence of clinical cases during the last 21 days on the farm;"

5.2.2. The seventh sub-paragraph shall read as follows:

"- Leptospirosis, sura (*Trypanosoma equiperdum*) - during the last 6 months on the farm;"

5.2.3. Delete ninth sub-paragraph;

5.3. The third-seventh paragraphs shall read as follows:

"Stud stallions shall be isolated on the farm of origin and/or artificial insemination centers for 30 days before semen collection and during that time shall not be used for natural breeding.

Stud stallions shall not be vaccinated against African horse sickness.

During the quarantine all animals shall be subject to daily visual inspection and testing (in accordance with OIE recommended methods and time frames) for glanders, piroplasmosis (*Babesia caballi*), nutaliosis (*Theileria equi*), dourine (*Trypanosoma evansi*), surra (*Trypanosoma equiperdum)*, rhinopneumonitis, infectious metritis, infectious anemia, viral arteritis, vesicular stomatitis, and leptospirosis (unless vaccinated or prophylacticly treated using dihydrostreptomycin or a drug with equivalent effect, which is registered in the exporting country).

Animals exhibiting clinical signs of diseases shall be clinically examined including daily thermometry.

Testing for other infectious diseases notifiable to OIE can be only requested by the authorized body of the Party if an eradication and/or prophylactic program for these diseases is maintained on the territory of the requesting Party.

Semen shall be collected, processed, stored and transported in accordance with the recommendations of the OIE Code."

6. In Chapter 13:

6.1. The third - sixth paragraphs shall read as follows:

"- Infectious equine encephalomyelitis of all types - during the last 24 months on the farm;

- African horse sickness, vesicular stomatitis - during the last 24 months on the territory of the country or administrative territory in accordance with regionalization;

- Dourine (*Trypanosoma evansi*), Surra (*Trypanosoma equiperdum*) - during the last 6 months on the administrative territory in accordance with regionalization or on the farm;"

6.2. The second paragraph shall read as follows:

"During the quarantine all animals shall be tested for glanders, dourine (*Trypanosoma evansi*), and infectious anemia.

All animals shall be subject to daily visual inspection.

Animals showing signs of disease shall be clinically examined, including daily thermometry."

7. The fourth paragraph of Chapter 25 shall read as follows:

"Prepared meat products must be considered as fit for human consumption. Products must have marking (veterinary stamp) at packaging. Identification label must be stuck on the package in such a way that unpacking was impossible without the damage of the identification label integrity or identification label must be fixed on the packaging in such a way as to prevent its re-use. In this case packaging must be designed to resist product tampering."

8. In Chapter 33:

8.1. In the first paragraph after the words "animal diseases", the following words shall be added "that meet specific accessory materials";

8.2. In the second paragraph:

8.2.1. The first sub-paragraph shall read as follows:

"Raw material originates from farms free from contagious diseases of susceptible species of animals and birds that can be transmitted through products obtained from these species of animals:";

8.2.2. The eighth - ninth sub-paragraphs shall read as follows:

"- Notifiable Avian Influenza - during the last 3 months on the territory of the country or administrative territory in accordance with regionalization with "stamping out" and the negative results of epizootic control in accordance with regionalization;"

"- Newcastle disease - during the last 3 months on the territory of the country or administrative territory in accordance with regionalization prior to slaughter, with "stamping out" and the negative results of epizootic control in accordance with regionalization;"

8.2.3. Delete tenth sub-paragraph.

9. In Chapter 35:

9.1. In the first paragraph:

9.1.1. The first sub-paragraph after the words “animal diseases”, shall be supplemented with the following words “attributable to the species based on the respective raw material”;

9.1.2. The ninth - twelfth paragraphs shall read as follows:

“- Avian influenza (AI) - feed and feed additives containing the ingredients of poultry products that have passed technological processing in the country, zone or compartment free from AI, obtained from poultry which was kept in a country, zone or compartment free from AI from the moment of hatching until the date of slaughter or for at least 21 days before slaughter, and provided the compliance with the treatments:

- Moist heat with a minimum temperature of 118 º C for at least 40 minutes;

or

- Continuous hydrolysis under steam pressure of at least 3.79 bar at a minimum temperature of 122ºC for at least 15 minutes;

or

- Through alternative technology of fat rendering, which ensures the achievement of the internal temperature of not less than 74 ° C at all points of the product;

and

- The necessary precautions have been taken to avoid contact by the good with any source of virus;

- Newcastle disease (BN) - feed and feed additives containing the ingredients of poultry products that have passed technological processing in the country, zone or compartment free of BN, obtained from poultry which was kept in a country, zone or compartment free of BN, from the moment of hatching to the date of slaughter or at least during 21 days before slaughter, and provided the compliance with the treatments:

- Moist heat with a minimum temperature of 118 º C for at least 40 minutes;

or

- Continuous hydrolysis under steam pressure of at least 3.79 bar at a minimum temperature of 122ºC for at least 15 minutes;

or

- Through alternative technology of fat rendering, which ensures the achievement of the internal temperature of not less than 74 ° C at all points of the product;

and

- The necessary precautions have been taken to avoid contact by the good with any source of virus;”

9.2. The second paragraph shall read as follows:

“Ruminant proteins were not used for the production of feed and feed additives, except for proteins recommended by the OIE Code.”.

Draft

Approved
by the Protocol of the Coordination Committee
on Technical Regulation, Application of Sanitary, Veterinary
and Phytosanitary Measures
of #

REGULATION
on the Unification of Test Methods for Assessment of Compliance
with the Unified Sanitary-Epidemiological and Hygienic Requirements
for the Goods Subject to Sanitary Supervision (Control)

1. General Provisions

1.1. This Regulation is designed for establishment and approval of the Single List of Methods (Techniques) for the Purposes of Assessing Compliance with the Uniform Sanitary-Epidemiological and Hygienic Requirements for Goods Subject to Sanitary Supervision (Control) (hereinafter - Single List of Methods (Techniques)).

The Regulation establishes the principles, the basic steps for establishing a Single List of Methods (Techniques) used for assessment of the products' compliance with the Uniform Sanitary-Epidemiological and Hygienic Requirements for Goods Subject to Sanitary Supervision (Control) (hereinafter - Uniform Sanitary Requirements), the selection criteria and the order of unification of the methods for inclusion in the Single List of Methods (Techniques), the procedure for resolving disputes regarding the application of methods for assessment of compliance with the Uniform Sanitary Requirements.

1.2. For inclusion in the Single List of Methods (Techniques) in accordance with the criteria established in these Regulations, each Party shall ensure the appropriate choice of test methods that allow to determine the value of the indicators identified in the Uniform Sanitary Requirements with the required accuracy.

2. Basic Principles and Approaches to Establishing a Single List of Methods (Techniques)

2.1. A Single List of Methods (Techniques) shall be established in accordance with the following principles:

- The basis for the Single List of Methods (Techniques) shall be formed by the techniques that are officially approved in accordance with the established procedure by one of the Parties;

- Mutual recognition of the methods (techniques) officially approved in accordance with the established procedure by the Member States of the Customs Union;

- Mutual recognition of metrological certification (confirmation of suitability) of the methods (techniques);

- Mutual exchange of testing methods (techniques);

- The possibility for updating of the Single List of Methods (Techniques) as well as for amending and supplementing.

2.2. Establishment of the Single List of Methods (Techniques) shall be carried out based on the indicators set for groups of products as regulated by the Uniform Sanitary Requirements.

2.3. For establishment of the Single List of Methods (Techniques) the methods (techniques) developed by international organizations, including the Codex Alimentarius Commission, may be used, without the procedure of metrological certification (confirmation of suitability).

3. Main Stages of Establishment of the Single List of Methods (Techniques)

3.1. Information Gathering and Establishment of Draft Lists of Test Methods at the Level of Member States of the Customs Union with the Indication of the Document Governing the Method, its Metrological Characteristics, Information on Certification (Validation)

The Working Group on Harmonization of Test Methods for Assessment of Compliance with the Uniform Sanitary-Epidemiological and Hygienic Requirements for Goods Subject to Sanitary supervision (Control) (hereinafter - the Working Group), coordinates the work on gathering information for establishment of lists of test methods for the purposes of assessing compliance with the Uniform Sanitary Requirements.

Methods of testing (measurement) shall ensure the possibility of implementing assessment of compliance with the Uniform Sanitary Requirements by the authorized bodies as well as accredited laboratories of all Member States of the Customs Union.

When selecting methods for inclusion in the lists of test methods, preference should be given to the methods satisfying the following criteria:

- The status of a certified technique, registered in accordance with the established procedure by one of the Member States of the Customs Union;

- Availability of the required metrological characteristics of measurement techniques as well as characteristics of sensitivity and specificity of test systems;

- Availability of access to the document, updating of the method;

- Economic capabilities for ensuring laboratory control of Member States of the Customs Union, and peculiarities of instrumentation in accordance with national registries of measuring instruments.

For inclusion in the lists of test methods, methods (techniques) having the best performance and ensuring best compliance with the requirements of the Uniform Sanitary Requirements, shall be selected.

3.2. Establishment of Draft Single List of Methods (Techniques) of Measurement

Establishment of draft Single List of Methods (Techniques) shall be conducted by one of the Parties on the basis of draft lists of test methods, provided by Member States of the Customs Union.

3.3. Agreement by Member States of the Customs Union of the Single List of Methods (Techniques) and Establishment of the Final Version of the Document Based on Comments and Proposals from Parties

After establishment of the draft Single List of Methods (Techniques), it shall be forwarded to the Parties for consideration and approval.

The Parties shall, within a period of not more than 3 months, submit their comments and suggestions and forward the Single List of Methods (Techniques) to the Secretariat of the Customs Union Commission (hereinafter - Commission).

3.4. Adoption of the Single List of Methods (Techniques)

The Single List of Methods (Techniques) shall be approved by the Commission.

3.5. Updating and Amending the Single List of Methods (Techniques)

The Single List of Methods (Techniques) shall be updated with the inclusion (exclusion) of indicators in the Uniform Sanitary Requirements, as well as the development of new methods (techniques) upon suggestion by one of the Parties.

The Secretariat of the Commission shall forward suggestions, received from any Party, to amend the Single List of Methods (Techniques), to the other Member States of the Customs Union for consideration. Subject to approval of the proposals by the Parties, the amendments in the Single List of Methods (Techniques) shall be approved by the Commission in accordance with the established procedure.

4. Procedure for Dispute Resolution on Issues regarding Incorporation of Techniques in the Single List of Methods (Techniques)

Should any disputes arise at the stage of establishment of the Single List of Methods (Techniques) the Parties shall forward the materials to the Secretariat of the Commission for consideration and decision at a meeting of the working group.

If the working group cannot make a decision on controversial issues, these issues shall be included on the agenda the Coordinating Committee meeting in accordance with the established procedure