

Rules and Regulations

Federal Register

Vol. 66, No. 233

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

9 CFR Part 94

[Docket No. 01-062-1]

Change in Disease Status of the Czech Republic Because of BSE

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Interim rule and request for comments.

SUMMARY: We are amending the regulations by adding the Czech Republic to the list of regions where bovine spongiform encephalopathy exists because the disease has been detected in native-born animals in that region. The Czech Republic is currently listed among the regions that present an undue risk of introducing bovine spongiform encephalopathy into the United States. Therefore, the effect of this action is a continued restriction on the importation of ruminants that have been in the Czech Republic and meat, meat products, and certain other products of ruminants that have been in the Czech Republic. This action is necessary in order to update the disease status of the Czech Republic regarding bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

DATES: This interim rule was effective June 8, 2001. We invite you to comment on this docket. We will consider all comments we receive that are postmarked, delivered, or e-mailed by February 4, 2002.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by postal mail/commercial delivery or by e-mail. If you use postal mail/commercial delivery, please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to: Docket No. 01-062-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-

1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 01-062-1. If you use e-mail, address your comment to regulations@aphis.usda.gov. Your comment must be contained in the body of your message; do not send attached files. Please include your name and address in your message and "Docket No. 01-062-1" on the subject line.

You may read any comments that we receive on this docket in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690-2817 before coming.

APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register**, and related information, including the names of organizations and individuals who have commented on APHIS dockets, are available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Donna Malloy, Senior Staff Veterinarian, National Center for Import and Export, Products Program, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 40, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (301) 734-3277.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The regulations in 9 CFR parts 93, 94, 95, and 96 (referred to below as the regulations) govern the importation of certain animals, birds, poultry, meat, other animal products and byproducts, hay, and straw into the United States in order to prevent the introduction of various animal diseases, including bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). BSE is a neurological disease of cattle and is not known to exist in the United States.

It appears that BSE is primarily spread through the use of ruminant feed containing protein and other products from ruminants infected with BSE. Therefore, BSE could become established in the United States if materials carrying the BSE agent, such as certain meat, animal products, and animal byproducts from ruminants, are imported into the United States and are fed to ruminants in the United States. BSE could also become established in

the United States if ruminants with BSE are imported into the United States.

Sections 94.18, 95.4, and 96.2 of the regulations prohibit or restrict the importation of certain meat and other animal products and byproducts from ruminants that have been in regions in which BSE exists or in which there is an undue risk of introducing BSE into the United States. In § 94.18, paragraph (a)(1) lists the regions in which BSE exists. Paragraph (a)(2) lists the regions that present an undue risk of introducing BSE into the United States because their import requirements are less restrictive than those that would be acceptable for import into the United States and/or because the regions have inadequate surveillance. Paragraph (b) of § 94.18 prohibits the importation of fresh, frozen, and chilled meat, meat products, and most other edible products of ruminants that have been in any region listed in paragraph (a)(1) or (a)(2). Paragraph (c) of § 94.18 restricts the importation of gelatin derived from ruminants that have been in any of these regions. Section 95.4 prohibits or restricts the importation of certain byproducts from ruminants that have been in any of those regions, and § 96.2 prohibits the importation of casings, except stomach casings, from ruminants that have been in any of these regions. Additionally, the regulations in 9 CFR part 93 pertaining to the importation of live animals provide that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service may deny the importation of ruminants from regions where a communicable disease such as BSE exists and from regions that present risks of introducing communicable diseases into the United States (see § 93.404(a)(3)).

Currently, the Czech Republic is among the regions listed in § 94.18(a)(2), which are regions that present an undue risk of introducing BSE into the United States. However, on June 8, 2001, a case of BSE was confirmed in a native-born animal in the Czech Republic. Therefore, in order to update the disease status of this region regarding BSE, we are amending the regulations by removing the Czech Republic from the list in § 94.18(a)(2) of regions that present an undue risk of introducing BSE into the United States and adding the Czech Republic to the list in § 94.18(a)(1) of regions where BSE is known to exist. The effect of this action is a continued restriction on the

importation of ruminants that have been in the Czech Republic and on the importation of meat, meat products, and certain other products and byproducts of ruminants that have been in the Czech Republic. We are making these amendments effective retroactively to June 8, 2001, which is the date that BSE was confirmed in a native-born animal in that region.

Emergency Action

This rulemaking is necessary on an emergency basis to update the disease status of the Czech Republic regarding BSE. Under these circumstances, the Administrator has determined that prior notice and opportunity for public comment are contrary to the public interest and that there is good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553 for making this rule effective less than 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register**.

We will consider comments we receive during the comment period for this interim rule (see **DATES** above). After the comment period closes, we will publish another document in the **Federal Register**. The document will include a discussion of any comments we receive and any amendments we are making to the rule as a result of the comments.

Executive Order 12866 and Regulatory Flexibility Act

This rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12866. For this action, the Office of Management and Budget has waived its review process required under Executive Order 12866.

We are amending the regulations by adding the Czech Republic to the list of regions where BSE exists because the disease has been detected in native-born animals in that region. The Czech Republic is currently listed among the regions that present an undue risk of introducing BSE into the United States. Regardless of which of the two lists a region is on, the same restrictions apply to the importation of ruminants and meat, meat products, and most other products and byproducts of ruminants that have been in the region. Therefore, this action, which is necessary in order to update the disease status of the Czech Republic regarding BSE, will not result in any change in the restrictions that apply to the importation of ruminants and meat, meat products, and certain other products and byproducts of ruminants that have been in the Czech Republic.

Under these circumstances, the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has determined that this action will not

have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

Executive Order 12988

This rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. This rule: (1) Preempts all State and local laws and regulations that are inconsistent with this rule; (2) has retroactive effect to June 8, 2001; and (3) does not require administrative proceedings before parties may file suit in court challenging this rule.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This interim rule contains no information collection or recordkeeping requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

List of Subjects in 9 CFR Part 94

Animal diseases, Imports, Livestock, Meat and meat products, Milk, Poultry and poultry products, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Accordingly, we are amending 9 CFR part 94 as follows:

PART 94—RINDERPEST, FOOT- AND-MOUTH DISEASE, FOWL PEST (FOWL PLAGUE), EXOTIC NEWCASTLE DISEASE, AFRICAN SWINE FEVER, HOG CHOLERA, AND BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY: PROHIBITED AND RESTRICTED IMPORTATIONS

1. The authority citation for part 94 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 450, 7711, 7712, 7713, 7714, 7751, and 7754; 19 U.S.C. 1306; 21 U.S.C. 111, 114a, 134a, 134b, 134c, 134f, 136, and 136a; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 42 U.S.C. 4331 and 4332; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.4.

§ 94.18 [Amended]

2. Section 94.18 is amended as follows:

a. In paragraph (a)(1), by adding, in alphabetical order, the words “the Czech Republic,”.

b. In paragraph (a)(2), by removing the words “the Czech Republic,”.

Done in Washington, DC, this 28th day of November 2001.

W. Ron DeHaven,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 01–30001 Filed 12–3–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–U

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Office of the Comptroller of the Currency

12 CFR Part 5

[Docket No. 01–21]

RIN 1557–AB92

Operating Subsidiaries of Federal Branches and Agencies

AGENCY: Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), Treasury.

ACTION: Final rule; correction.

SUMMARY: This document makes corrections to typographical errors in the final rule that the OCC published in the **Federal Register** on September 26, 2001 (66 FR 49093). The final rule provides that a Federal branch or agency may establish, acquire, or maintain an operating subsidiary in generally the same manner that a national bank may acquire or establish an operating subsidiary.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 26, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Martha Clarke, Counsel, Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, 202–874–5090.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In rule FR Doc. 01–24005 published on September 26, 2001, (66 FR 49093) make the following corrections:

1. On page 49097, in the second column, in amendatory instruction 1, the authority citation for part 5 is corrected to read as follows:

Authority: 12 U.S.C. 1 *et seq.*, 24a, 24(Seventh), 93a, and 3101 *et seq.*

§ 5.34 [Corrected]

2. On page 49097, in the third column, in § 5.34(d)(2), in the fourth line, remove the word “by”.

3. On page 49097, in the third column, in § 5.34(d)(3)(ii), remove the word “AGENCY:” and add, in its place, “agency”.

Dated: November 26, 2001.

Julie L. Williams,

First Senior Deputy Comptroller and Chief Counsel, Comptroller of the Currency.

[FR Doc. 01–29898 Filed 12–3–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810–33–P