



September 18, 2013

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Animal and Plant  
Health Inspection  
Service

Veterinary Services

National Center  
for Import and Export

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Unit 39  
Riverdale, MD  
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Ms. Cathy Liss  
President  
Animal Welfare Institute  
900 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE.,  
Washington, D.C. 20003

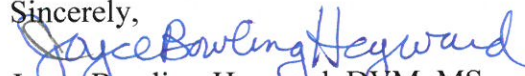
Dear Ms. Liss:

This letter is a follow up to letter of September 19, 2012 from Kevin Shea APHIS Administrator, apprising you on progress in updating 9 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 91 (9CFR 91).

It is of the highest importance to us to ensure that animals exported from the United States are fit for travel, fulfill import requirements and arrive in the importing country in the best possible condition. To that end, we are updating our current regulations to better ensure the welfare and safety of animals during transport for export to foreign countries. The amended regulations will be published as a Proposed Rule as early as Fiscal year 2014. We are looking forward to your comments to our amendments to 9 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 91

Thank you again for your continuing interest in issues of animal health and welfare.

Sincerely,

  
Joyce Bowling-Heyward, DVM, MS  
Director, Import-Export Animals Staff  
National Center for Import and Export  
Veterinary Services



Safeguarding American Agriculture

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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Animal and  
Plant Health  
Inspection  
Service

1400 Independence  
Avenue, SW

Washington, DC  
20250

SEP 19 2012

Ms. Cathy Liss  
President  
Animal Welfare Institute  
900 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE.,  
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Ms. Liss:

Thank you for your letter of August 14, 2012, regarding an incident of high mortality among cattle while in transit from the United States to Russia, and a petition your organization submitted to the Department of Agriculture (USDA) in February of 2011.

We share your concern about the unfortunate cattle deaths. Officials with our Agency's Veterinary Services program are investigating this incident in collaboration with Russian authorities. It is of the highest importance to us to ensure that livestock being exported from our country are fit for travel and that their shipping vessel is appropriately equipped to transport them safely. To that end, our regulations include requirements with regard to accommodations for animals on ocean vessels and inspection of those vessels, addressing areas such as feed and fresh water, loading ramps and doors, space requirements for animals, ventilation, and others (9 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 91, Subpart D—Inspection of Vessels and Accommodations).

With regard to your organization's request that USDA make changes to live animal export regulations, I regret that we did not follow up with you sooner. We are in the process of exploring with exporters the possibility of additional requirements to help protect animal health during international transport. We hope to be able to provide you with more information about our efforts in the near future.

Thank you again for your letter and your continuing interest in issues of animal health and welfare.

Sincerely,

Kevin Shea  
Acting Administrator



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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

MAR 10 2011

Ms. Dena Jones  
Animal Welfare Institute  
900 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE.  
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Ms. Jones:

Thank you for your letter of February 18, 2011, on behalf of the Animal Welfare Institute and the World Society for the Protection of Animals, submitting a Petition for Rulemaking to amend *Inspection and Handling of Livestock Exportation* regulations to include fitness-for-transport requirements.

I appreciate your commitment to protecting the welfare and health of our Nation's livestock and share your interest in this important issue. Because the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) enforces the regulations of interest to you, I have forwarded your petition to that Agency for consideration. You may be pleased to know that APHIS officials have been engaged in high-level discussions about this issue and are working diligently to ensure that animals are safely transported both interstate and internationally. APHIS leadership will thoroughly and carefully review your petition.

Thank you again for writing. I assure you that USDA is fully committed to safeguarding the health and safety of U.S. livestock.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Vilsack", written in a cursive style.

Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary