

Moshe Shalev, MSc, VMD, Column Editor

USDA posts inspection reports of regulated facilities on the web

As of 15 March, the Animal Care (AC) unit of the US Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) will post on the web its frequently requested redacted inspection reports (dated from 1 January 2002) for

zoos, circuses, research facilities, breeding operations, and other licensees and registrants regulated under the Animal Welfare Act. Until now, such inspection reports were available only by requests to the APHIS Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) office.

Frequently requested inspection reports are now available online at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ac/redacted_inspections/WebList.htm. Reports not listed in this website may be requested from the APHIS FOIA office at <https://foia.aphis.usda.gov/request.html>.

USDA and HHS publish final regulations for select agents and toxins

On March 18, the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Department of Agriculture (USDA) published complementary final rules for the possession, use, and transfer of select agents and toxins^{1,2}. These rules, which took effect on 18 April, replace interim final rules that have been revised several times since 2002 and harmonize the structure and format of the USDA and HHS regulations.

The final rules are remarkably similar to the interim final rules, but do contain a number of amendments, including modifications to the list of regulated agents. The revised list of 'High Consequence Livestock and Plant Pathogens and Toxins' is presented in the box below. The HHS list of 'Select Biological Agents and Toxins' can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/od/sap/docs/salist.pdf>. Documents comparing in detail the final

rules with the interim final rules are available at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/programs/ag_selectagent/FinalRuleQ&A.pdf and <http://www.cdc.gov/od/sap/matrix.pdf>.

1. USDA APHIS. Final rule. Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002; Possession, Use, and Transfer of Biological Agents and Toxins. *Federal Register* **70(52)**, 13242–13292 (18 March 2005).
2. DHHS. Final rule. Possession, use, and transfer of select agents and toxins. *Federal Register* **70(52)**, 13239–13325 (18 March 2005).

Agricultural Select Agent Program High Consequence Livestock and Plant Pathogens and Toxins

USDA only agents and toxins

Livestock

- African horse sickness virus
- African swine fever virus
- Akabane virus
- Avian influenza virus (highly pathogenic)
- Bluetongue virus (exotic)
- Bovine spongiform encephalopathy agent
- Camel pox virus
- Classical swine fever virus
- *Cowdria ruminantium* (Heartwater)
- Foot-and-mouth disease virus
- Goat pox virus
- Japanese encephalitis virus
- Lumpy skin disease virus
- Malignant catarrhal fever virus (exotic)
- Menangle virus
- *Mycoplasma capricolum* /M.F38/M. *mycoides capri* (contagious caprine o pleuropneumonia)
- *Mycoplasma mycoides mycoides* (contagious bovine pleuropneumonia)
- Newcastle disease virus (velogenic)
- Peste des petits ruminants virus
- Rinderpest virus
- Sheep pox virus
- Swine vesicular disease virus
- Vesicular stomatitis virus (exotic)

Plants

- *Liberobacter africanus*
- *Liberobacter asiaticus*
- *Peronosclerospora philippinensis*
- *Ralstonia solanacearum*, race 3, biovar 2
- *Sclerophthora rayssiae* var. *zeae*
- *Synchytrium endobioticum*
- *Xanthomonas oryzae* pv. *oryzicola*
- *Xylella fastidiosa* (citrus variegated chlorosis strain)

USDA/HHS overlap agents and toxins

- *Bacillus anthracis*
- Botulinum neurotoxins
- Botulinum neurotoxin producing species of *Clostridium*
- *Brucella abortus*
- *Brucella melitensis*
- *Brucella suis*
- *Burkholderia mallei*
- *Burkholderia pseudomallei*
- *Clostridium perfringens* epsilon toxin
- *Coccidioides immitis*
- *Coxiella burnetii*
- Eastern equine encephalitis virus
- *Francisella tularensis*
- Hendra virus
- Nipah virus
- Rift Valley fever virus
- Shigatoxin
- Staphylococcal enterotoxins
- T-2 toxin
- Venezuelan equine encephalitis virus