

The Texas Animal Health Commission (commission) proposes amendments to §51.1, concerning Definitions, and §51.14, concerning Swine, in Chapter 51, which is entitled “Entry Requirements”.

The purpose of the amendments is to make swine entry requirements and identification more consistent with the current federal interstate movement requirements. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) amended its regulations and established minimum national official identification and documentation requirements for the traceability of livestock moving interstate. Under USDA’s rulemaking, unless specifically exempted, livestock belonging to species covered by the regulations must be officially identified and accompanied by an interstate certificate of veterinary inspection or other documentation. These regulations specify approved forms of official identification for each species, but allow the livestock covered under this rulemaking to be moved interstate with another form of identification, as agreed upon by animal health officials in the shipping and receiving States or Tribes. The effective date of the USDA rule was March 11, 2013, and it is found in 9 CFR part 86.

FISCAL NOTE

Ms. Larissa Schmidt, Director of Administration, Texas Animal Health Commission, has determined for the first five-year period the rules are in effect, there will be no significant additional fiscal implications for state or local government as a result of enforcing or administering the rules. An Economic Impact Statement (EIS) is required if the proposed rules have an adverse economic effect on small businesses. The agency has evaluated the requirements and determined that there is not an adverse economic impact and, therefore, there is no need to do an EIS. Implementation of these rules poses no significant fiscal impact on small or micro-businesses, or to individuals.

PUBLIC BENEFIT NOTE

Ms. Schmidt has also determined that for each year of the first five years the rules are in effect, the public benefit anticipated as a result of enforcing the rules will be to conform commission swine identification entry requirements to the standards accepted and utilized by other states and USDA.

LOCAL EMPLOYMENT IMPACT STATEMENT

In accordance with Texas Government Code §2001.022, this agency has determined that the proposed rules will not impact local economies and, therefore, did not file a request for a local employment impact statement with the Texas Workforce Commission.

TAKINGS ASSESSMENT

The agency has determined that the proposed governmental action will not affect private real property. The proposed amendments are an activity related to the handling of animals, including requirements for testing, movement, inspection, identification, reporting of disease, and treatment, in accordance with 4 TAC §59.7, and are, therefore, compliant with the Private Real Property Preservation Act in Government Code, Chapter 2007.

REQUEST FOR COMMENT

Comments regarding the proposal may be submitted to Amanda Bernhard, Texas Animal Health Commission, 2105 Kramer Lane, Austin, Texas 78758, by fax at (512) 719-0719 or by email at “comments@tahc.texas.gov”.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

The amendments are proposed under the following statutory authority as found in Chapter 161 of the Texas Agriculture Code. The commission is vested by §161.041, entitled “Disease Control”, with the requirement to protect all livestock, domestic animals, and domestic fowl from disease.

Pursuant to §161.041(b), the commission may act to eradicate or control any disease or agent of transmission for any disease that affects livestock, exotic livestock, domestic fowl or exotic fowl. The commission may adopt any rules necessary to carry out the purpose of this subsection.

Pursuant to §161.005, entitled “Commission Written Instruments”, the commission may authorize the executive director or another employee to sign written instruments on behalf of the commission. A written instrument, including a quarantine or written notice signed under that authority, has the same force and effect as if signed by the entire commission.

Pursuant to §161.046, entitled “Rules”, the commission may adopt rules as necessary for the administration and enforcement of this chapter.

Pursuant to §161.048, entitled “Inspection of Shipment of Animals or Animal Products”, the commission may require testing, vaccination, or another epidemiologically sound procedure before or after animals are moved. An agent of the commission is entitled to stop and inspect a shipment of animals or animal products being transported in this state in order to determine if the shipment originated from a quarantined area or herd; or determine if the shipment presents a danger to the public health or livestock industry through insect infestation or through a communicable or noncommunicable disease.

Pursuant to §161.054, entitled “Regulation of Movement of Animals”, the commission, by rule, may regulate the movement of animals. The commission may restrict the intrastate movement of animals even though the movement of the animals is unrestricted in interstate or international commerce.

Pursuant to §161.056(a), entitled “Animal Identification Program”, the commission, in order to provide for disease control and enhance the ability to trace disease-infected animals or animals that have been exposed to disease, may develop and implement an animal identification program that is no more stringent than a federal animal disease traceability or other federal animal identification program. Section 161.056(d) authorizes the commission to by a two-thirds vote adopt rules to provide for an animal identification program more stringent than a federal program only for control of a specific animal disease or for animal emergency management.

Pursuant to §161.081, entitled “Importation of Animals”, the commission by rule may regulate the movement, including movement by a railroad company or other common carrier, of livestock, exotic livestock, domestic animals, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl into this state from another state, territory, or country.

No other statutes, articles or codes are affected by the proposal.

51.1. Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

- (1) Accredited veterinarian--A licensed veterinarian who is approved to perform specified functions required by cooperative state-federal disease control and eradication programs pursuant to Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 160 and 161.
- (2) Animal--Includes livestock, exotic livestock, domestic fowl, and exotic fowl.
- (3) Assembly--Boarding stables, boarding pastures, breeding farms, parades, rodeos, roping events, trail rides, and training stables.
- (4) Certificate of veterinary inspection--A document signed by an accredited veterinarian that shows the livestock, poultry, exotic livestock, or exotic fowl listed were inspected and subjected to tests, immunizations, and treatment as required by the commission. Certificates are valid for 45 days for equine and 30 days for all other species.
- (5) Cervidae--Deer, elk, moose, caribou and related species in the <etb>cervidae<et>[Cervidae] family, raised under confinement or agricultural conditions for the production of meat or other agricultural products or for sport or exhibition, and free-ranging cervidae when they are captured for any purpose.
- (6) Commission--The Texas Animal Health Commission.
- (7) Commuter Flock--A National Poultry Improvement Plan (pullorum-typhoid clean or equivalent) flock in good standing with operations in participating states that are under single ownership or management control whose normal operations require interstate movement of hatching eggs and/or baby poultry without change of ownership for purposes of hatching, feeding, rearing or breeding. The owner or representative of the company owning the flock and chief animal health officials of participating states of origin and destination must have entered into a signed “Commuter Poultry Flock Agreement.”
- (8) Commuter Cattle Herd--A herd of cattle located in two or more states that is documented as a valid ranching operation by those states in which the herd is located and which requires movement of cattle interstate from a farm of origin or returned interstate to a farm of origin in the course of normal ranching operations, without change of ownership, directly to or from another premise owned, leased, or rented by the same individual. An application for "commuter herd" status must be signed by the owner and approved by the states in which the herd is located. This status will continue until canceled by the owner or one of the signatory states.
- (9) Commuter Swine Herd--A swine herd located in two or more states that is documented as a valid ranching operation by those states in which the herd is located and which requires movement of swine interstate from a farm of origin or returned interstate to a farm of origin in the course of normal ranching operations, without change of ownership, directly to or from another premise owned, leased, or rented by the same individual. An application for "commuter

herd" status must be signed by the owner and approved by the states in which the herd is located. This status will continue until canceled by the owner or one of the signatory states.

(10) Equine interstate passport--A document signed by an accredited veterinarian that shows the equine listed were inspected, subjected to tests, immunizations and treatment as required by the issuing state animal health agency, and contains a description of the equine listed. The passport is valid for six months when accompanied by proof of an official negative EIA test within the previous six months. Permanent individual animal identification in the form of a lip tattoo, brand or electronic implant is required for all equine approved for the equine interstate passport. This document is valid for equine entering from any state that has entered into a written agreement to reciprocate with Texas.

(11) Equine identification card--A document signed by the owner and a brand inspector or authorized state animal regulatory agency representative that lists the animal's name and description and indicates the location of all identifying marks or brands. This document is valid for equine entering from any state which has entered into a written agreement to reciprocate with Texas.

(12) Exotic livestock--Grass-eating or plant-eating, single-hooved or cloven-hooved mammals that are not indigenous to this state and are known as ungulates, including animals from the swine, horse, tapir, rhinoceros, elephant, deer, and antelope families.

(13) Exotic fowl--Any avian species that is not indigenous to this state. The term includes ratites.

(14) Interstate show--A show, fair, or exhibition that permits livestock and poultry from other states to enter for show or exhibition and be held in common facilities with Texas origin livestock and poultry of the same species.

(15) Livestock--Cattle, horses, mules, asses, sheep, goats, and hogs.

(16) Owner-shipper statement--A statement signed by the owner or shipper of the livestock being moved stating the location from which the animals are moved interstate; the destination of the animals; the number of the animals covered by the statement; the species of the animal covered; the name and address of the shipper; and the identification of each animal as required by the commission or the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

(17) Permit--A document recognized by the commission with specified conditions relative to movement, testing and vaccinating of animals which is required to accompany the animals entering, leaving or moving within the State of Texas.

(A) "E" permit--Premovement authorization for entry of animals into the state by the commission. The "E" permit states the conditions under which movement may be made, and will provide any appropriate restrictions and test requirements after arrival. The permit is valid for 15 days.

(B) VS 1-27 (VS Form 1-27)--A premovement authorization for movement of animals to restricted designations.

(18) Purebred registry association--A swine breed association formed and perpetuated for the maintenance of records of purebreeding of swine species for a specific breed whose characteristics are set forth in constitutions, by-laws, and other rules of the association.

(19) (18) Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID)--Official individual animal identification with an identification device that utilizes radio frequency technology. The RFID devices include ear tags, boluses, implants (injected), and tag attachments (transponders that work in concert with ear tags).

(20) (19) Sponsor--An owner or person in charge of an exhibition, show or fair.

51.14. Swine.

(a) Swine imported into Texas for feeding, breeding, or exhibition purposes shall be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection certifying that:

- (1) swine have not been fed garbage, either raw or cooked;
- (2) swine have not been exposed to pseudorabies;
- (3) swine have not been vaccinated for pseudorabies;
- (4) for non-commercial swine entering Texas for purposes other than immediate slaughter, swine have not originated from a premises known to be affected by Novel Swine Enteric Coronavirus Disease(s) (SECD), and have not been exposed to SECD within the last 30 days; and
- (5) swine have been permanently identified with one of the following: ~~(ear tag, ear notched, or number tattoo).~~

(A) official identification ear tag approved by the commission or USDA;

(B) ear notching, if the ear notching has been recorded in the book of record of a purebred registry association;

(C) tattoos on the ear or inner flank, if the tattoos have been recorded in the book of record of a swine registry association; or

(D) any other official identification device or method that is approved by the commission.

(b) Swine not known to be infected with or exposed to pseudorabies, and originate from a state not classified as Stage IV or V, may enter provided they:

- (1) are tested negative within 30 days prior to entry and then held in isolation and under quarantine on the premise where first unloaded and tested or retested for PRV in not less than 30 nor more than 60 days after arrival. Feeder swine are exempt from the retest provided that the swine enter on an entry permit from the commission and are destined directly to a designated feedlot and remain restricted to the feedlot until they are sent to slaughter; or
- (2) originate from a qualified PRV-negative herd; or
- (3) are shipped directly from a farm of origin in a Stage IV or free state or area as described in the National PRV Program; or
- (4) originate from and are sold at an approved feeder-pig market in a Stage IV or free state or area and enter the state directly from that market.

(c) Additionally, breeding swine shall have a negative brucellosis test within the previous 30 days or originate from a validated brucellosis-free herd or state and shall be vaccinated within the previous 30 days with Leptospirosis vaccine containing the following strains: Canicola, Hardjo, Icterohaemorrhagiae, Grippotyphosa, and Pomona.

(d) Exhibition swine originating in Texas entered in terminal shows are exempt from brucellosis and pseudorabies requirements.

(e) Swine imported into Texas for slaughter purposes shall either be consigned directly to slaughter or to a federally approved livestock market where a VS 1-27 will be issued to accompany them to slaughter following sale.