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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Marketing and  
Regulatory  
Programs

Animal and Plant  
Health Inspection  
Service

Washington, DC  
20250

Dr. Andrzej Rudy  
Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer  
General Veterinary Inspectorate  
30 Wspolna Street  
00-930 Warsaw  
POLAND

Dear Dr. Rudy:

Thank you for the information you provided in support of your request that Poland be considered free from swine vesicular disease (SVD). The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has completed a preliminary evaluation of your submission and identified areas where more information is needed to adequately assess your country's request. APHIS' questions are outlined in the enclosure to this letter. The questions are arranged according to the 11 factors listed for requests for recognition of a region in Title 9, *Code of Federal Regulations* (9 CFR), section 92.2.

In September 2003, APHIS responded to your previous classical swine fever submission with a request for further information. Many of the same questions arose during review of your SVD information; consequently, APHIS plans to evaluate the status of Poland with regard to both of these diseases concurrently from this point forward, provided that the status of the information on both diseases remains equivalent. However, this response focuses on issues specific to SVD to avoid repetition.

Once the information on both diseases is complete, and if the animal health situation in Poland appears generally satisfactory, APHIS will need to conduct a site visit to complement and verify the information. A risk assessment will then be conducted using information provided during the initial evaluation and obtained during the site visit. In addition, the evaluation process may require changes to APHIS' regulations (9 CFR). The regulatory process, which includes a period of review and comment by the public, can be lengthy, sometimes requiring 2 to 3 years.

Your primary contact for this project is Dr. Kelly Rhodes, USDA, APHIS, VS, National Center for Import and Export, Regionalization Evaluation Services Staff, Unit 38, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737. Dr. Rhodes can be reached by telephone at 301-734-4356; by facsimile at 301-734-3222; and by e-mail at [Kelly.Rhodes@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Kelly.Rhodes@aphis.usda.gov).



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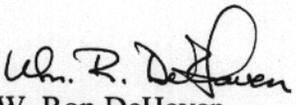
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Dr. Andrzej Rudy

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We look forward to working with you during this process.

Sincerely,

  
W. Ron DeHaven  
Deputy Administrator  
Veterinary Services

Enclosure

1. Authority, organization, and infrastructure of the veterinary services.

Please provide a copy (in English) of the National Contingency Plan for Swine Vesicular Disease (SVD). If not included in the National Contingency Plan, please describe the required procedures for specimen collection and laboratory testing if SVD is suspected, and outline the epidemiological investigation that would be conducted to trace the source of infection if SVD is confirmed.

2. Disease status of the region.

Has surveillance for SVD been conducted in wild pigs in Poland, and if so, has evidence of SVD ever been found? Please provide any available data regarding such surveillance and its outcomes, including a description of the surveillance methods.

3. Disease status of adjacent regions.

Are you aware of any surveillance for SVD that has been conducted in wild pigs in adjacent regions? If so, has evidence of SVD been found since 1985? Please provide any available data regarding such surveillance and its outcomes.

4. Extent of active disease control.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has no additional questions at this time.

5. Vaccination status of the region.

APHIS has no additional questions at this time.

6. Separation from higher risk regions.

Your submission states that natural barriers such as rivers and mountain ranges along the borders with the Republic of Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and the Federal Republic of Germany may provide protection against the entry of SVD. What natural or other barriers exist along the borders with Belarus, Ukraine, and the Kaliningrad region of Russia?

7. Movement control from higher risk regions and biosecurity.

From what countries does Poland import animals and/or animal products that could potentially carry SVD (regardless of the current SVD status of the exporting country)? Which of these countries is currently considered to present a higher level of SVD risk than Poland?

The submission states that imported live animals are quarantined for 26 days. Where does this quarantine take place, and who monitors the disease status of quarantined animals? Are quarantined pigs tested for SVD prior to release?

8. Livestock demographics and marketing practices in the region.

APHIS has no additional questions at this time.

9. Disease surveillance.

Please describe any serologic surveys for SVD that have been conducted in domestic pigs over the past 3 years, including the sampling strategy, the number of samples collected, the diagnostic test(s) used, and the survey results.

10. Diagnostic laboratory capabilities.

How many laboratories within Poland conduct testing for SVD? Where are they located? What tests are conducted? How many tests does each laboratory conduct per year? What security measures are in place in laboratories to prevent escape of biological agents? What specific training have the diagnostic personnel had regarding SVD virus? How are samples delivered to the laboratory, and how long does this usually take?

11. Emergency response capability.

Please give your best estimate of the amount of time it would take to detect and report the presence of SVD should it be reintroduced into Poland.