



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Marketing and  
Regulatory  
Programs

Animal and  
Plant Health  
Inspection  
Service

Veterinary Services

National Center for  
Import and Export

4700 River Road  
Unit 38  
Riverdale, MD 20737

Dr. José Naranjo  
Chief, Department of Epidemiological Surveillance  
Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero  
Avda. Bulnes 140, Piso 7  
Santiago, Chile

Dear Dr. Naranjo:

We received your submission of March 2002, which included additional information in support of your request to be considered free of Classical Swine Fever (CSF). The information you submitted was very helpful to us in conducting our evaluation of Chile's animal health status.

A review team has completed its evaluation of your submission and has identified areas that will need further explanation. It would facilitate our review if you could provide as much of the information as possible prior to the visit. Our specific questions related to the 11 factors defined in Title 9, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 92.2 can be found in the attachment to this letter.

On a general note, we are particularly interested in identifying the products you wish to export to the United States. Therefore, we request that you define those commodities Chile wishes to export to the United States and provide estimates concerning the amounts of each commodity. In addition, we are interested in identifying risk pathways that may introduce CSF into the United States. Relevant to this, please provide detailed information concerning export procedures for each commodity, including storage or quarantine conditions and times --as well as transport procedures-- so that we can evaluate those pathways.

As the next step in our evaluation, we request your permission to schedule a site visit to Chile for the week of August 5 to 9, 2002. You can address in writing the issues mentioned above before or during the site visit. Depending on the results of the site visit review, additional data may be requested if we decide to pursue the option of conducting a quantitative risk assessment concerning CSF in Chile.

At this point, we do not anticipate that it will be necessary to conduct a quantitative assessment. If the results of the risk assessment are favorable, we will initiate appropriate regulatory action. Please keep in mind that our regulatory process is lengthy and can require 2 to 3 years.



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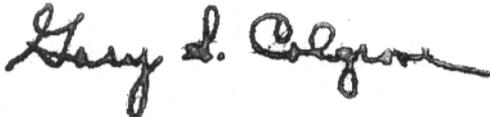
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Be advised that any information you provide will be made available to the public. In this regard, we note on page 19 of the OIE report that you provide the names of facilities and individuals from whom information was obtained. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has made a commitment to release supporting documentation to the public during the rulemaking process. Please advise us as to whether you wish to have this information released to the public.

Your primary contact for this project is Dr. Charisse Cleare of our Regionalization Evaluation Services Staff, National Center for Import and Export, Veterinary Services, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Unit 38, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737; telephone number: (301) 734-4928; facsimile number: (301) 734-3222; e-mail: Charisse.Cleare@aphis.usda.gov. Please feel free to contact Dr. Cleare if you have any questions or concerns.

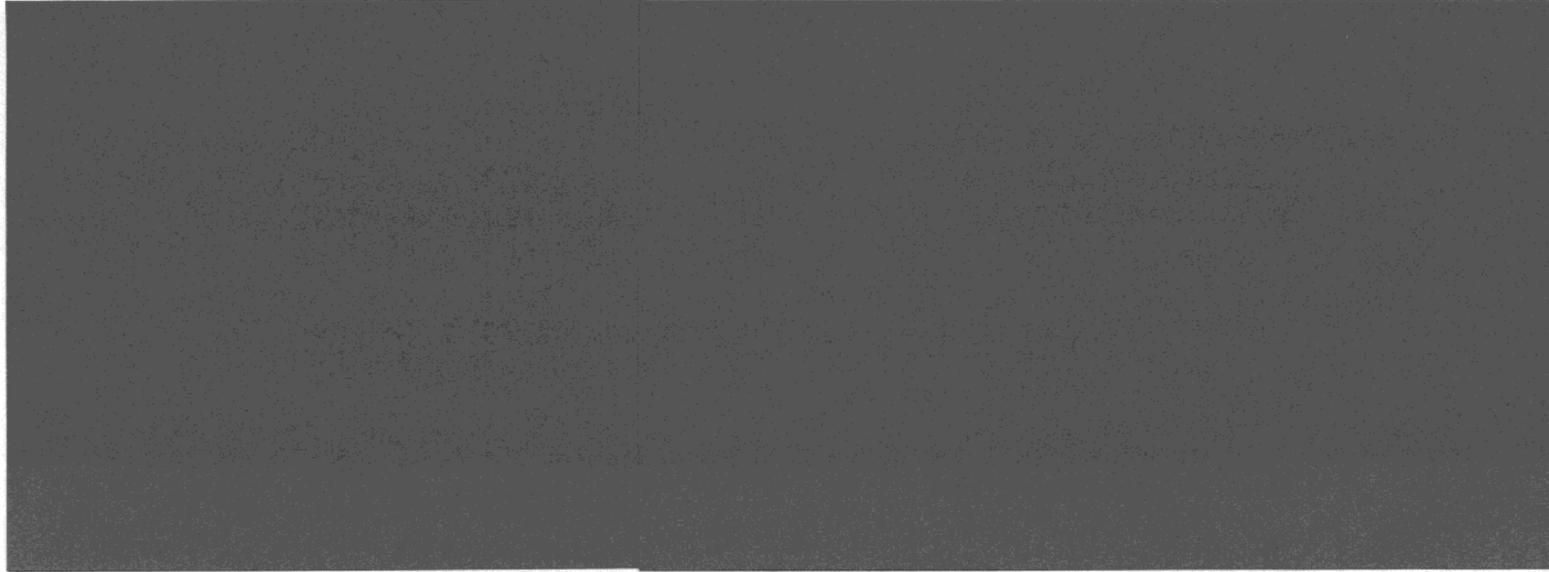
We look forward to your response and appreciate your time and cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary D. Colgrove". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "G" and "C".

Gary Colgrove  
Assistant Director  
Sanitary Trade Issues Team

Enclosures



**Specific information requested on the 11 factors:**

*Factor 1: Authority, organization, and infrastructure of the veterinary services organization in the region*

There is a prohibition on the feeding of waste as provided in the document entitled, "Regulation for the Eradication of the Swinish Pest." What are the current policies for the feeding of international waste products?

There is mention in Chile's January 2000 submission that failure to report CSF is covered under Article 13 of the Law of Animal Sanitation. We were unable to locate Article 13 in the material provided. Please provide an English translation.

What information is available concerning the level and source of resources today for disease surveillance and control?

*Factor 2: Disease status*

What updated information is available on any suspected cases of CSF? The updated information should include the region, type of operation, type of sample, final diagnosis, and when the suspected cases were detected.

One of Chile's submissions makes reference to carrier sows causing a disease focus in some cases during the eradication phase (1996-1998). In how many cases and exactly when were carrier sows implicated in disease transmission?

Were these carrier sows vaccinated? Of note in this regard is that vaccination was prohibited in 1997 (January 2000 submission, page 18). We recognize that the carrier sows causing the problem may have been some vaccinated animals remaining after 1997, but we would appreciate your clarification of the sequence of events.

*Factor 3: Status of adjacent regions with respect to the agent*

Please provide any available information on the CSF status of adjacent regions.

What is the potential for movement of feral infected swine from adjacent regions into Chile?

*Factor 4: Extent of an active disease control program*

If a suspect case of CSF is detected, what is the quarantine procedure and time for the premises? One report indicates that in the initial outbreak of 1995, the quarantine was 6 months. However, in the outbreak of 1996, the quarantine was lifted in 5 months.

What is the reason for the difference?

When a premises is placed under quarantine, what are the parameters for release? The outbreak of 1996 (see page 11 of the January 2000 submission) was detected during a routine visit by inspectors. Is there a policy in place to determine the scheduling of re-inspection at premises that have had outbreaks? If so, please provide details.

*Factor 5: Vaccination status of the region*

What is the level of compliance with prohibition of vaccination?

What mechanisms are in place to keep vaccination from occurring?

The "Regulation for the Eradication of the Swinish Pest" states that vaccination will be allowed against CSF as a method of prevention and that its use will fulfill the norms established by the Service. Is this information still correct? If so, please provide the norms in detail.

*Factor 6: Degree to which the region is separated from adjacent regions of higher risk through physical or other barriers*

The review team raised no questions regarding this factor.

*Factor 7: Extent to which movement of animals and animal products is controlled from regions of higher risk and the level of biosecurity regarding such movements*

Identify the animals (especially live pigs), animal products, and countries of origin from which Chile has imported since 1998.

*Factor 8: Livestock demographics and marketing practices in the region*

The review team raised no questions regarding this factor.

*Factor 9: Type and extent of disease surveillance in the region*

Are officials routinely monitoring commercial and backyard establishments or just taking samples at slaughterhouses?

If there is monitoring, who is conducting it and what is the schedule? What is the sampling design, especially for backyard (family) establishments?

How and where are clinical signs monitored?

Please provide the details regarding any ongoing surveillance activity that began in 2002.

How long does it take to get samples to laboratories and confirm sample results?

*Factor 10: Diagnostic laboratory capabilities*

Please provide copies of laboratory Standard Operating Procedures for CSF testing.

What quality control measures are followed?

How are false-positive results ruled out from the ELISA tests?

How are laboratories accredited and who monitors quality control?

*Factor 11: Policies and infrastructure for animal disease control in the region*

In each of the outbreaks reported within the last 10 years, how long did it take to diagnose the disease, get the emergency system in operation, and notify trading partners?

The January 2000 submission states, on page 31, that there will be an implementation of a system of emergency animal sanitation to protect and consolidate the patrimony zoosanitario of the country. Has this been established? If so, is there a policy in writing that can be provided to us?

Please provide English language versions of the following documents that were referenced in your March 2002 submission: Exotic Disease Prevention Plan, Manual Care of Notifications, Emergency Master Plan, and Specific Contingence Plan for Classical Swine Fever.

Also, the following documents were identified as appendices in the March 2002 submission but were not attached: Sanitary Requirements for Import Operations, Sanitary Barrier Regulations, and Organic Law of the Livestock and Agriculture Service.