



# CDC's Division of Global Migration and Quarantine

CDC Role in the Safe Movement of  
Biologics and Vectors: At the Port of Entry

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Zoonoses Team

Quarantine and Border Health Services Branch

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## Agenda

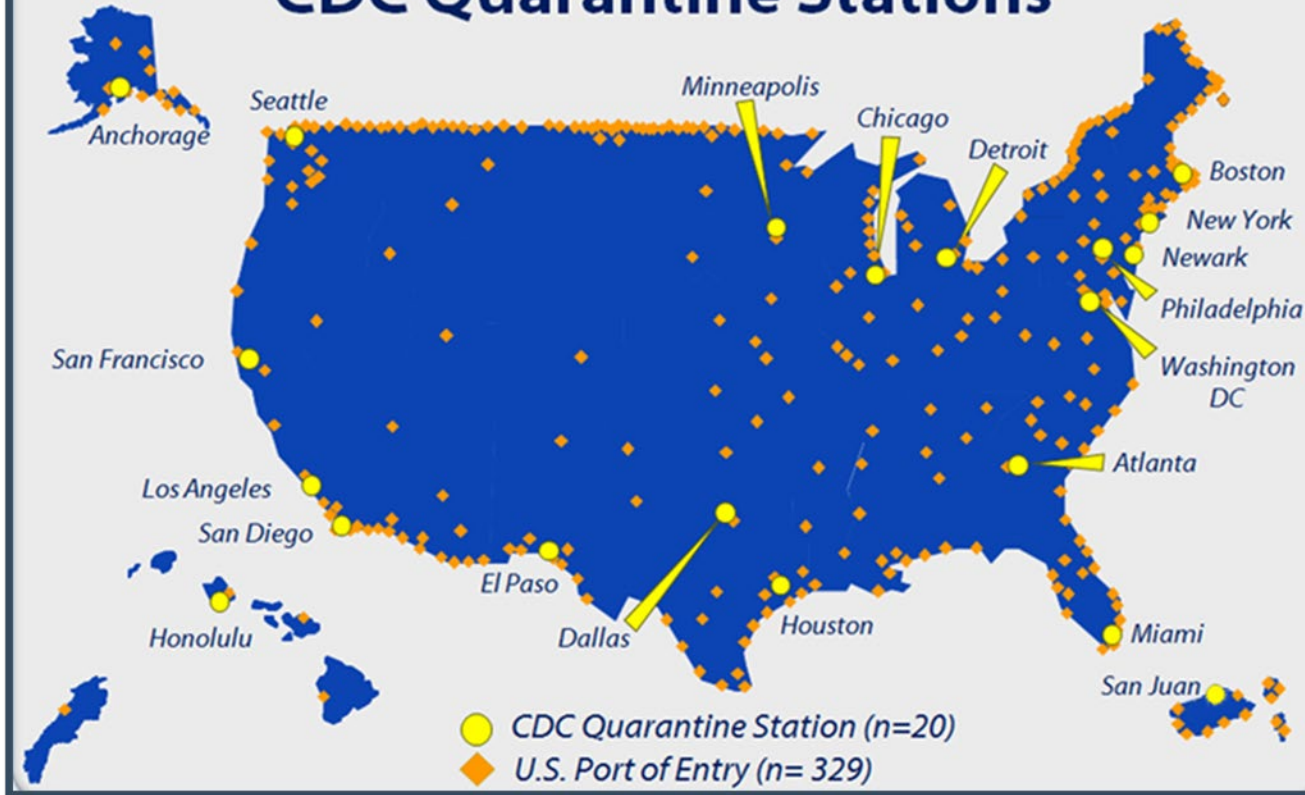
- What happens at the port of entry?
- What imported items are regulated by CDC?
- What are requirements for importing CDC-regulated items?
- Common issues occurring at ports of entry.
- Tips for importing biologics and vectors safely.



PHOTO CREDIT: CDC QUARANTINE STATIONS

# **What Happens at the Port of Entry?**

# U.S. POE and CDC Quarantine Stations



# CDC QBHSB Mission



The mission of the Quarantine and Border Health Services Branch (QBHSB) is to **protect the public's health at US borders and beyond.**

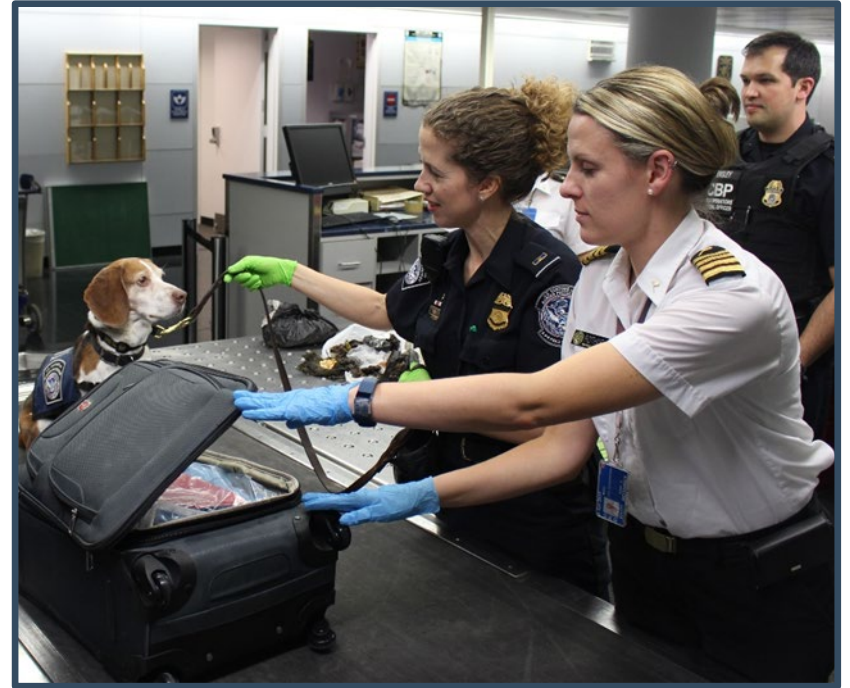
## **QBHSB accomplishes this mission by:**

- **Preparing** for response to communicable diseases
- **Enhancing** federal, state/territorial, international, and industry partnerships
- **Enforcing** public health regulations
- **Responding** to travel-related communicable diseases
- **Supporting** public health at international borders

# At the Port of Entry

CBP Officers and CDC Quarantine  
Public Health Officers

- Inspect shipments
- Review paperwork
- Verify appropriate packaging



# At the Port of Entry: Federal Partners

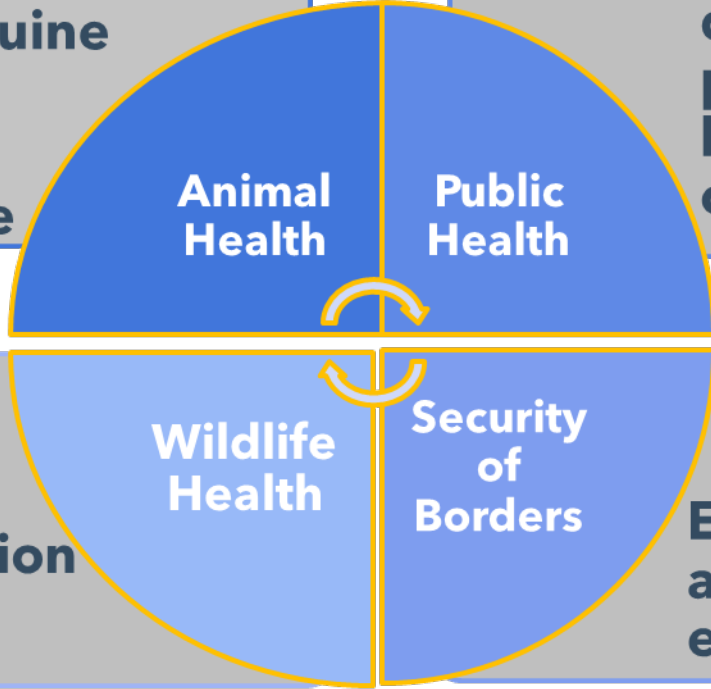


United States  
Department of  
Agriculture Animal  
and Plant Health  
Inspection Service

**Livestock  
and equine  
health**

**Animal  
welfare**

**Zoonotic  
diseases of  
public  
health  
concern**



**CITES \*  
Conservation  
Exotics**

**Enforcement  
at ports of  
entry**



# **What Imported Items are Regulated by CDC?**



# Biological Materials: 42 CFR §71.54

Human and animal body fluids and tissues

- Blood
- Fluids
- Organs
- Bones
- Skin
- Muscle
- Connective tissue
- Human remains



Photo credits iStockPhoto

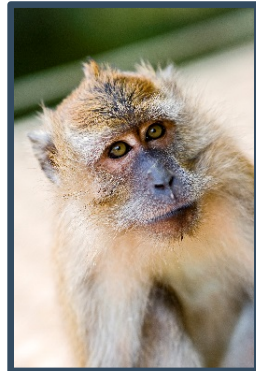
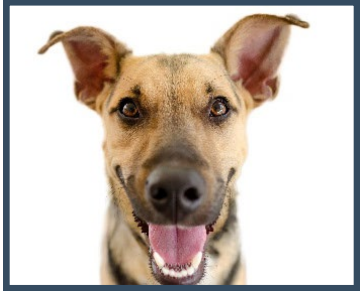
# Vectors: 42 CFR §71.54

Known to transfer or are capable of transferring infectious agent to humans

- Arthropods
- Animal products
- Molecular vectors
- Animals



# Live Animals: 42 CFR Part 71



# **What are Requirements for Importing CDC- Regulated Items?**

# Infectious Biologics and Vectors

- Appropriate packaging and shipping (49 CFR 100-185)  
**<https://www.transportation.gov/>**
- CDC Permit to Import Infectious Biological Agents, Infectious Substances, and Vectors  
**<https://eipp.cdc.gov/>**



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# ***Non-infectious* Biologics and Vectors**

## Importer Certification Statement

1. Official letterhead
2. A detailed description of materials
3. Statement affirming material is not infectious **AND:**
  - Why the material is not believed to be infectious**OR**
  - How the material was rendered noninfectious



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# Human Remains: 42 CFR §71.55

Imported for “final resting”

- Cremated remains
- Embalmed remains
  - Certificate of embalming
  - Leakproof container
- Remains not embalmed or cremated
  - Death certificate ± CDC permit
  - Leakproof container



[www.cdc.gov/importation/human-remains.html](http://www.cdc.gov/importation/human-remains.html)

# Human Remains: Cause of Death

- Cholera
- Diphtheria
- Infectious tuberculosis
- Plague
- Smallpox
- Yellow fever
- Viral hemorrhagic fevers
- Severe acute respiratory syndromes  
(SARS, COVID-19)
- Flu that causes a pandemic
- Measles

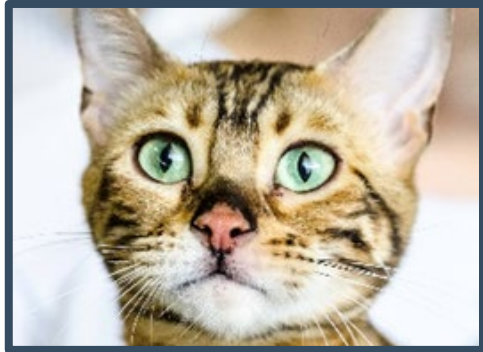
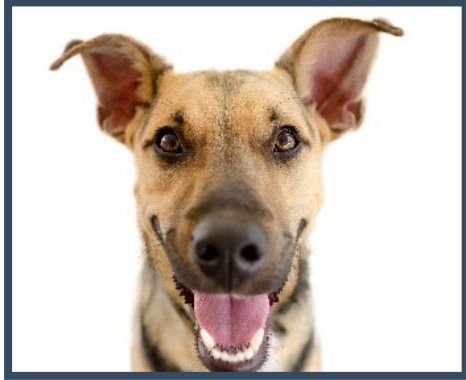


- Cremated OR
  - Embalmed + Leakproof Container OR
  - CDC Import Permit + Leakproof Container
- Phone: 770-488-7100  
Email: [dgmqpolicyoffice@cdc.gov](mailto:dgmqpolicyoffice@cdc.gov)



# CDC Regulated Animals: Dogs and Cats

## 42 CFR §71.51



- Focus on canine rabies virus variant (dog rabies)
- Dogs and cats must appear healthy on arrival
- As of July 14, 2021, temporary suspension of dogs entering U.S. from high-risk countries for dog rabies
  - Exceptions:
    - Dog has a CDC permit (issued on limited basis) OR
    - Dog has valid U.S.-issued rabies vaccination certificate AND is
      - at least 6 months old AND
      - microchipped

# CDC Regulated Animals: Viverridae

## 42 CFR §71.32 (b)



Photo credit: iStockPhoto

- Embargo imposed after civets implicated in 2003 severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak
- Live Viverridae may only be imported for science, education, or exhibition with CDC permission
- Products require importer certification statement/taxidermy certificate (treated) or import permit (untreated)

**Request permit: [cdcanimalimports@cdc.gov](mailto:cdcanimalimports@cdc.gov)**

# CDC Regulated Animals: Turtles, Tortoises, and Terrapins

## 42 CFR §71.52



- Small turtles caused *Salmonella* outbreaks in children
- CDC regulates:
  - Turtles, tortoises, and terrapins with shells smaller than four inches long
  - Viable turtle eggs
  - These cannot be imported for commercial purposes
  - Six or fewer small turtles, tortoises, or terrapins can be imported as personal pets
  - More than six only for science, education, or exhibition with CDC permission

**Request permit: [cdcanimalimports@cdc.gov](mailto:cdcanimalimports@cdc.gov)**

# CDC Regulated Animals: African Rodents

## 42 CFR §71.56



Photo credit: CDC quarantine station

- African rodents may transmit monkeypox
- CDC regulates:
  - Imported rodents obtained in Africa and species native to Africa
  - Live African rodents - may only import for science, education, or exhibition with CDC permission
  - Products require importer certification statement/taxidermy certificate (treated) or import permit (untreated)

**Request permit: [cdcanimalimports@cdc.gov](mailto:cdcanimalimports@cdc.gov) and <https://eipp.cdc.gov/>**



# CDC Regulated Animals: Nonhuman Primates

## 42 CFR §71.53



Photo credit: iStockPhoto

- Nonhuman primates (NHP) may be infected with various zoonotic diseases
- Live NHP may ONLY be imported for science, education, or exhibition
- Importers must be registered\* and regularly inspected by CDC
- Biological materials require CDC permit\*\*
- Hunting trophies require taxidermy certificate

**\* Email [NHPImporters@cdc.gov](mailto:NHPImporters@cdc.gov)**

**\*\* Apply at <https://eipp.cdc.gov/>**

# CDC Regulated Animals: Bats

## 42 CFR §71.54



- Bats are reservoirs and vectors for many serious zoonotic diseases
- Live bats and biological materials – CDC permit required for import
- Dead bats must have taxidermy certificate stating how treated to render non-infectious

**Apply for permit at <https://eipp.cdc.gov/>**

# **Common Issues Occurring at Ports of Entry:**

**Missing/Incomplete Paperwork  
Improper Packaging/Labeling  
Failure to Declare or Declare Accurately**

# Missing paperwork: Small tortoises



- 100 small tortoises
- No CDC Permit
- Returned to country of origin



Photo credit: Miami CDC quarantine station



# Incomplete paperwork: human blood samples

## Importer Certification Statement of Non-infectiousness

- ✓ Official letterhead
- ✓ A detailed description of materials
- ✓ Statement affirming:
  - ✓ Material not infectious
  - X Why the material is not believed to be infectious
- OR
- X How the material was rendered noninfectious

This package contains Whole blood for [REDACTED] test.

We hereby declare that the specimen have been collected from [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**These diagnostic specimens are non-infectious and not restricted.**  
**Do not x-ray.**

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The package must be delivered immediately to [REDACTED]. The package does not have any commercial value.

Total Declared Commercial value of the shipment: \$1

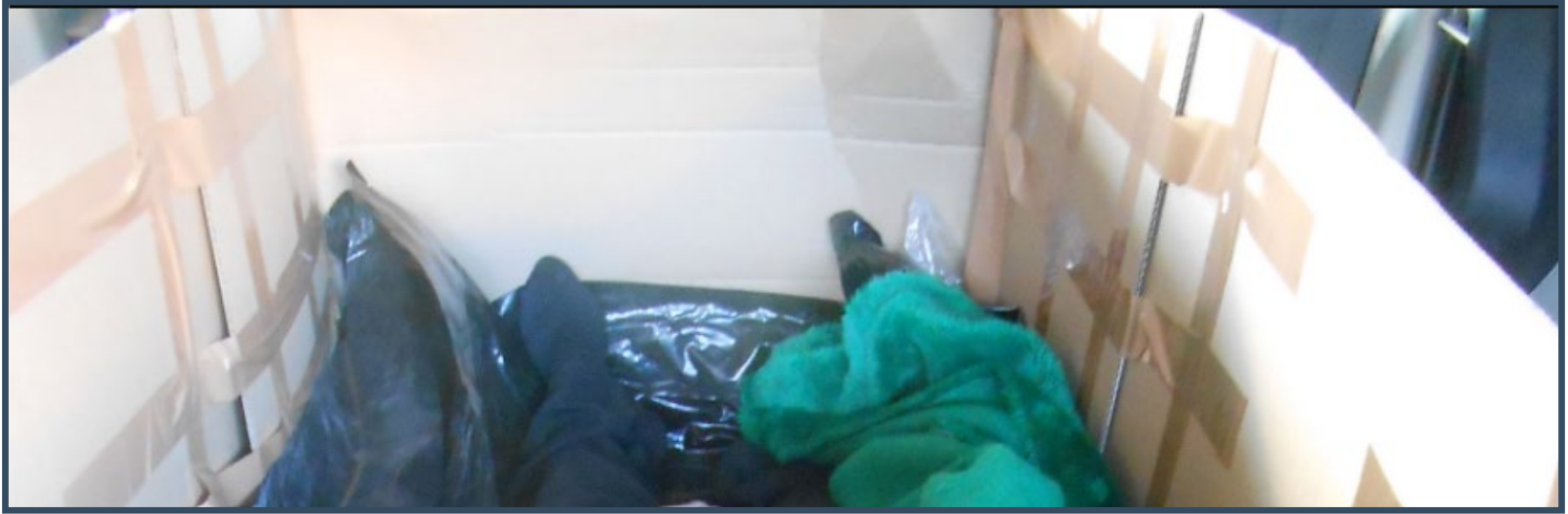
Sincerely,

# Missing paperwork and improper packaging: human blood samples

- X No CDC permit to Import Infectious Biological Agents, Infectious Substances, and Vectors
- X No importer certification of non-infectiousness
- X Not packaged according to US DOT hazardous materials regulations



# Human Remains for Burial, Cremation, or Entombment: Common Issues

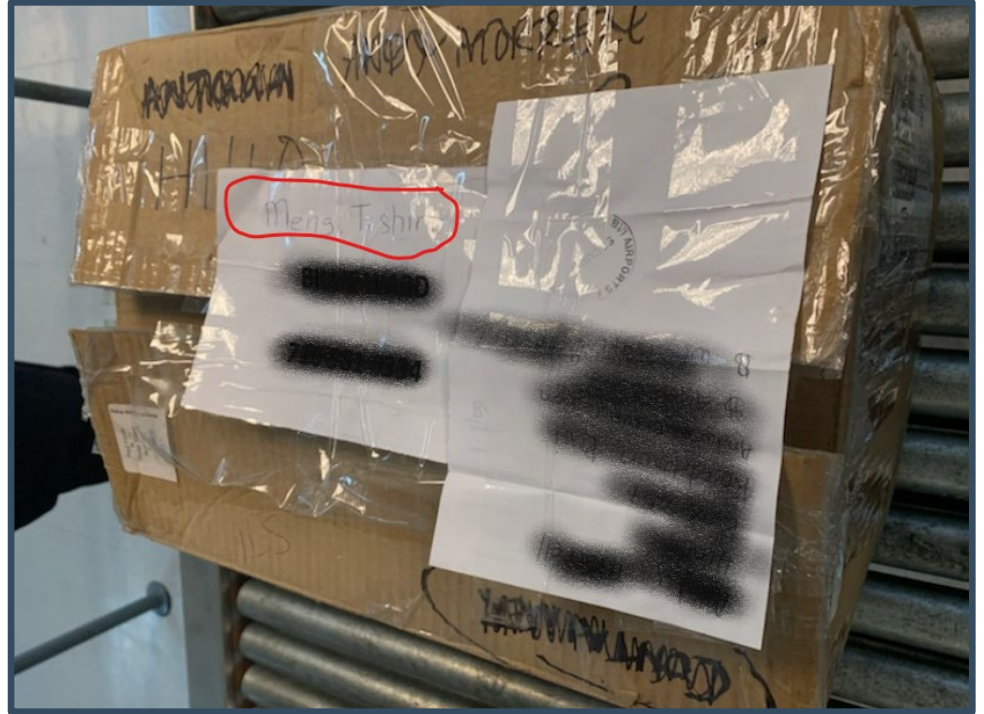


- X Not packaged in leakproof container
- X Documents not in English/no certified English translation
- X Death certificate incomplete
- X Death certificate lists COVID-19 and no embalming certificate/no CDC permit

# Failure to Declare and Missing Paperwork: Diagnostic Biological Samples

Biological samples concealed in box of T-shirts

- X Not declared on the manifest
- X No importer certification of non-infectiousness
- X No CDC permit to Import Infectious Biological Agents, Infectious Substances, and Vectors



# **Tips for Importing Biologics and Vectors Safely**

# Tips for Importing Biologics and Vectors Safely

- Start preparation as early as possible
- Check other federal and state importation regulations
- Consult with others at your institution
- Be transparent with customs officials

# Tips for Importing Biologics and Vectors Safely

## CDC Resources:

Bringing an Animal Into the United States:

<https://www.cdc.gov/importation/bringing-an-animal-into-the-united-states/index.html>

Bringing Animal Products into the United States:

<https://www.cdc.gov/importation/animal-products.html>

Importation of Human Remains into the United States for Burial, Entombment, or Cremation:

<https://www.cdc.gov/importation/human-remains.html>

Import Permit Program:

<https://www.cdc.gov/cpr/ipp/index.htm>

## External Resources:

United States Department of Agriculture: <https://www.usda.gov/>

United States Fish and Wildlife Service: <https://fws.gov/>

United States Department of Transportation: <https://www.faa.gov/hazmat/>

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State Animal Health Officials  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. Department of Transportation



## Contact:

DSAT IPP email [importpermit@cdc.gov](mailto:importpermit@cdc.gov)

DSAT IPP phone 404-718-2077

DGMQ Animal Imports email: [cdcanimalimports@cdc.gov](mailto:cdcanimalimports@cdc.gov)

DGMQ Nonhuman Primates Imports email: [NHPimporters@cdc.gov](mailto:NHPimporters@cdc.gov)

For more information, contact CDC  
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)  
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

