



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Protocol for Military Clearance

April 2004

Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

I. Introduction

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) develops regulatory policy, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) oversees the entry of cargo, personnel, equipment, personal property, mail, and their means of conveyance into the United States. Civil penalties may be issued for noncompliance with agricultural laws.

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Riverdale, MD 20737

II. Purpose of Protocol

To prevent the introduction or dissemination of exotic plant pests and animal disease agents into the United States, by establishing and implementing guidelines, regulations, and policies that mitigate risks associated with military movement of troops, vehicles, equipment, and vessels of conveyance. Also, to provide guidance to standardize activities carried out by DHS-CBP personnel or designees (e.g., Customs Border Clearance Agents, military cooperators) in support of the APHIS mission.

III. Scope

U.S. military forces are deployed throughout the world. Associated with the movement of troops are risks of introduction of exotic agricultural pests and animal disease agents through soil contamination and transporting regulated items such as fruits, vegetables, meat and dairy products, other food items, and animal products (e.g., trophies).

Precautionary measures to prevent introduction and dissemination include inspection of equipment, vehicles, means of conveyance, personnel, personal effects, and cargo. If, upon inspection, restricted and/or prohibited materials are found, action will be taken to mitigate risk. The actions vary according to pest and/or animal disease risk.

Military preclearance expedites the movement for troops, while mitigating risk. In the European Command (EUCOM), the U.S. military has a cadre of trained and experienced military personnel that carry out preclearance activities in support of the APHIS mission. Oversight is provided by a USDA/APHIS Advisor on-site. Military preclearance can be arranged through HQ USDA-APHIS-PPQ for other OCONUS locations.



APHIS Protecting American Agriculture

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All large-scale military activities require prior notification to APHIS (See Section VII). For small-scale operations, if the military is unable to conduct cleaning overseas, the DHS-CBP Port Director at the first port-of-arrival must be notified at least 7 days in advance and will determine if appropriate cleaning facilities are available. All items will be held at the first U.S. port of arrival for inspection. In the absence of appropriate cleaning facilities, dirty equipment will be refused entry. If equipment is contaminated to an extent that precludes remedial cleaning, then it will also be refused entry.

IV. Military Equipment

All military rolling stock (e.g., humvees, trucks, tanks, APCs, weapon systems) and other used military gear (e.g., canvas tents and pegs) must be thoroughly cleaned. Pallets, wooden crates, and other military equipment must be free from soil, manure, and organic debris. Military equipment used in OCONUS eradication programs for animal diseases, such as Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD), will NOT be allowed entry into the United States. Physical removal of debris may be accomplished through washdown or other means, as appropriate (e.g., sweeping of cockpit area, vacuuming and disposal of debris).

A. Washdown - Refer to Technical Guide (TG) 31, a military document entitled "Contingency Retrograde Washdowns: Cleaning and Inspection Procedures," which is available from the Armed Forces Pest Management Board at www.afpmb.org/pubs/tims/tim31.htm.

B. Location

1. **OCONUS** -- All rolling stock and equipment must be thoroughly cleaned prior to shipment to the United States. If proper cleaning cannot be accomplished at point of origin, consideration should be given to off-loading the equipment at an OCONUS location equipped with adequate cleaning facilities for washdown. USDA offers preclearance in OCONUS for military exercises and contingencies. Preclearance is recommended for large-scale military activities.

2. **CONUS** -- If remedial cleaning is required upon arrival in the U.S., it must be conducted at locations with appropriate cleaning facilities. The DHS-CBP-Agriculture Port Director at the port-of-arrival will determine whether or not the cleaning facilities are appropriate for remedial cleaning of vehicles/equipment. His/her decision will take into consideration the cleaning facilities at the port, number of pieces to be cleaned, personnel available, etc.

C. Cleaning facilities:

1. **Surface** - a hardstand surface (e.g., concrete, asphalt) that will not allow soil contamination of clean vehicles, even if surface is wet. Hardstand areas for washing, staging, and loading are to be inter-connected, in order to prevent contamination of clean tires, undercarriages, or any accessory of vehicle/rolling stock or container. Alternatives, such as a hardstand lined with a soft-walled containment apparatus (e.g., rubber

bladder) for collection of wash and rinse effluent will be considered based on the effectiveness of containment and means of disposal of effluent.

2. **Structure** - hardstand area must be enclosed by a structure (e.g., temporary or permanent sides) which allows for containment of the soil being removed, as well the wash and rinse effluent.

3. **Effluent** - all effluent must drain, or be collected for disposal, into a municipal sewage system. If state and local laws allow, drainage into saltwater may be an acceptable method of disposal.

4. **Lighting/Ventilation** - cleaning facilities must have adequate lighting and ventilation for cleaning and inspections.

5. **Water** - large quantities of water and adequate water pressure (minimum 90 psi) are required. Acceptable cleaning methods include:

a. High pressure (minimum 90 psi) cleaning

b. Steam cleaning

OR

c. Combination of the above two methods

6. **Equipment** - wash racks or other hoist equipment (e.g., forklift, tug) must be available to ensure cleaning procedures in hard-to-reach areas, such as undercarriages, can be performed. Extraordinary measures MUST be taken to carry out cleaning of tracked vehicles (e.g., tanks) to remove soil contamination in hard-to-reach areas. This may include, but is not limited to, removal of engine packs from M1A1 Abrams tanks.

7. **Safety**

a. Safety precautions must be observed when using means to sustain heavy pieces of equipment, such as mil-vans, in order to prevent accidents.

b. Personal protection equipment must also be available.

V. Military Aircraft and Vessels

Military must provide advance notification for arrivals at the port-of-entry. Cargo and passenger areas must be free from soil. Garbage from aircraft and vessels must be kept in tight, leak-proof containers. Garbage removal must be under DHS-CBP-Agriculture compliance agreement or direct DHS-CBP-Agriculture supervision.

VI. Military Personnel

Military personnel will be cleared in the United States upon arrival. All personnel must declare agricultural items, such as fruits, vegetables, meat

or dairy products, plants, and soil, and must declare whether or not they visited a farm while abroad. Agricultural items found will be inspected, and may be seized. Regulatory and quarantine action will depend on quarantine items found and facilities available for proper disposition. Footwear must be thoroughly cleaned and free of any dirt, manure, or particulate matter before entering the United States. It is recommended that dirty clothes be laundered before shipping or, if not possible, placed into tight plastic bags for immediate laundering when feasible.

POVs - Privately owned vehicles must be free from dirt, soil, and particulate matter, inside and outside. Cleaning must be performed prior to shipping to the United States. If a POV is found contaminated with soil, cleaning will be done at appropriate facilities at the port of arrival. Household goods, personal effects, and outdoor equipment/items such as garden tools, bicycles, etc., should be carefully examined and cleaned prior to packing and shipping.

U.S. Mail - No restricted or prohibited agricultural items should be sent by mail. Check with the APO and FPO personnel about mailing restrictions. Agricultural civil penalties are issued for mailed packages found to contain non-admissible items.

VII. Special Military Operations

Any large-scale movement of military (U.S. and/or foreign) personnel and/or equipment to the United States requires 30-days advance written or electronic notification of, and approval by DHS-CBP-Agriculture. The following are guidelines for determining a large-scale movement into a single port:

- 500 troops or more in 24 hours without equipment
- 100 troops or more with rolling stock
- Any tracked vehicle

The above guidelines are subject to modification based on the OCONUS origin of the movement. Contact HQ USDA-APHIS-PPQ for clarification.

Notification must include: estimated date, time, place of OCONUS departure, estimated date, time, place of CONUS arrival; number and type of aircraft or sea vessels; number personnel involved; type of exercise; duration and location of exercise/contingency; type and quantity of military equipment involved; listing of all en route stops between OCONUS departure point and CONUS port of entry; unit POC name, rank, telephone, fax and email.

Notification must be provided to DHS-CBP-Agriculture at port of arrival, as follows:

Courtesy notification should be provided to the applicable APHIS-PPQ State Plant Health Director. For an on-line directory of APHIS-PPQ State Plant Health Directors, refer to:

<http://www.aphis.usda/gov/travel/aqi/html>

The U.S. military will provide confirmation to DHS-CBP-Agriculture at the port of arrival if any military equipment was precleared by APHIS-PPQ. Arrival at a U.S. port or installation that does not have appropriate

cleaning facilities may result in refusing entry of equipment found contaminated with soil/manure/particulate matter.

VIII. USDA-APHIS-PPQ Contacts -- Headquarters

Preclearance Requests

Stanley Cornelius (email: <Stanley.Cornelius@usda.gov>)

U.S. Port of Arrival Policy Questions

Candace Funk (email: <Candace.G.Funk@usda.gov>)

USDA-APHIS-PPQ Headquarters Address and Telephone Information:

USDA-APHIS-PPQ
4700 River Road Unit 60
Riverdale, Maryland 20737
Telephone number: (301) 734-8295
Fax: (301) 734-8318

Foot and Mouth Disease and other Foreign Animal Disease-related Questions/Issues

Bob Weir, DVM (email: <Robert.D.Weir@usda.gov>)
Telephone: (301) 734-7633
Fax: (301) 734-8538

IX. DHS-CBP Contacts

Headquarters

Colonel Locklear (email: Colonel.r.Locklear@dhs.gov)
Telephone: (202) 927-1089
Agricultural Inspections: 202-927-3298
Staff Veterinarian (VACANT)

DHS-CBP Regional Field Offices can be located by accessing the Internet -
<http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/toolbox/contacts/cmcs/>