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Aquatic Animals: Disease Sampling and Testing Information

Last Modified:

Export disease testing of live aquatic animals may be required before shipping to some countries. The Laboratory Export Testing Guidance clarifies definitions and provides a decision tree outlining which laboratories must be used, in order to meet the specific requirements of importing countries.

[View Laboratory Export Testing Guidance](#)

APHIS-Approved Laboratories

For quick reference, see the APHIS-Approved Laboratories lists below.

[Approved Laboratories](#)

[\(PDF, 115.11 KB\)](#)

[Find laboratories approved to conduct diagnostic testing in support of export health certification of aquaculture species.](#)

[National Animal Health Laboratory Network](#)

[The National Animal Health Laboratory Network \(NAHLN\) is a network of animal disease diagnostic laboratories that provides ongoing disease surveillance, responds](#)

[quickly to disease events, communicates diagnostic outcomes to decision makers, and has the capability and capacity to meet diagnostic needs during animal disease outbreaks.](#)

Export Disease Testing

The level of export disease testing of live aquatic animals may differ based on the importing country.

- Some countries allow for pre-export testing of the population intended for export within a specified timeframe prior to shipping, commonly referred to as “test-and-ship.”
 - Check the country’s IRegs web page using the drop-down menu on the APHIS [International Regulations \(IRegs\) for Animal Exports](#) page to see if there are country-specific criteria for testing (e.g., testing within 60 days of export for spring viremia of carp virus).
 - If there are no negotiated requirements posted to the country’s IRegs web page, then exporters must follow the [APHIS Criteria for Test Negative Status](#) (111.43 KB).
- Some countries require the facility/premises to be free from pathogens of concern for a minimum of 2 consecutive years prior to shipping, commonly referred to as “premises freedom.”
 - Check the country’s IRegs web page using the drop-down menu on the APHIS [International Regulations \(IRegs\) for Animal Exports](#) page to see if there are country-specific criteria for testing (e.g., testing within 60 days of export for spring viremia of carp virus).
 - If there are no negotiated requirements posted to the country’s IRegs web page, then exporters must follow the [APHIS Criteria for Establishing Premises Freedom](#) (258.61 KB) which includes testing to meet 95% confidence of detecting the pathogen at an assumed prevalence of 2%, as well as biosecurity, for a minimum of 2 consecutive years.

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