

State of Alaska

**DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



18 AAC 36
Animal Health

JU2015200861

Frequently Asked Questions
Last Updated August 25, 2016 12:30pm

1. Are the importation permits new?

No. Importation permits for horses, cattle, bison, yak, goats, sheep, pigs, dogs and cats from a quarantine area, and poultry and hatching eggs have been required since at least 1982 when the first version of 18 AAC 36 (Animal Health) was adopted.

Only the importation permits for cervids (reindeer) and camelids (llamas) have been codified in the proposed regulations.

Many of the sections have been re-numbered in an effort to clarify which animals are subject to importation permits. For example, for Poultry and Hatching Eggs, the old section (18 AAC 36.065) was repealed, and the same requirements were added in a new section at 18 AAC 36.165. This is the case for many of the “new sections”. A crosswalk spreadsheet showing the

changes, and areas where one section was repealed and then added under a different number is found [here](#).

2. How does an animal importer obtain an importation permit?

Import permits must be obtained by the veterinarian who issues the health certificate (this is not a change from current procedure). It can now be done via our online system, or by phone during regular office hours.

3. How much are importation permits? Permits for importing medical biologics? Intrastate cervid movement permits?

There is no charge for these permits.

4. Why are the importation regulations being amended?

DEC proposes to revise these regulations to include federal standards for diseases that are not already addressed, such as scrapies and chronic wasting disease. These standards need to be adopted so that animals in Alaska can continue to cross interstate and international borders for import, sales, shows, etc.

If the State of Alaska does not adopt these requirements, it will lose its status as a consistent state with the USDA. If this were to occur, other states would not allow import of animals from Alaska.

5. If federal rules already exist, why is there a need to duplicate them on the state level?

The federal regulations apply to interstate movement of animals. State regulations may be more lenient or restrictive for animals residing in the boundaries or the state. But to move animals in commerce as food products or to move animals interstate within the United States you have to meet these federal standards.

Some states may have additional regulations over the federal requirements prior to allowing animals to reside that state.

6. Why was the length of time for testing for Equine Infectious Anemia lengthened from 60 days to 180 days?

In the rest of the United States, an equine must test negative for EIA within 180 days of import, unlike the current regulation of 60 days in Alaska. This change will make Alaska consistent with other states, as well as the USDA and international regulations. This change will also lessen the financial burden for people importing horses into Alaska, and will not result in any increased disease risk to horses in the state.

7. Does this require that I take my pet goat in for testing?

No.

8. What is the purpose of the animal care standards in Article 6?

Peace officers, veterinarians, and others dealing with reports of animal cruelty need clear objective criteria to determine whether a person's conduct meets the "minimum standards of care for animals" as required in A.S. 03.55.100. DEC proposes to address this in regulation by providing general minimum care standards for all animals, and specific criteria for horses, livestock (cattle and other ruminants), pigs, and dogs. Providing objective criteria through regulation will also allow animal producers in the state to certify or otherwise represent to their customers that their farms meet a minimum accepted standard of care. This will not only help in marketing their animals and animal products, but also help inform the public that the state has criteria for proper care of animals.

9. Can a village, city, or borough create more stringent animal care standards?

Yes. Nothing in the proposed regulations would prevent a local government from developing more stringent animal care standards for their community.

10. What is "humanely euthanized"? Will farmers still be able to put down animals by gun?

Humanely euthanized means to end the life of the animal without causing undue pain and suffering. The proposed regulations allow owners to euthanize an animal, and a gunshot to the head with an appropriate caliber gun is acceptable. Other acceptable methods are listed in the AVMA publication [linked here](#).

11. What is the reportable disease list in Article 3? I think I've seen this list somewhere before - is it a federal list?

This list is currently on the website of the Office of the State Veterinarian, and was originally issued as an order of the State Veterinarian many years ago, but not codified in regulations. The list has been published for years in the State of Alaska veterinary handbook. The main requirement is for veterinarians and laboratories to report the disease to the State. This allows the state to take action if needed to control an outbreak.

12. Why do I need a permit to have chickens?

The proposed regulations do not require you to have a permit to own chickens.

Importation of poultry and hatching eggs is currently regulated by the current version of the regulations (dated 1982) at 18 AAC 36.065, and requires an importation permit and health certificate before shipping poultry and hatching eggs in from out of state. The health certificate must include a certification that the flock from which the poultry or eggs originate have been tested negative for Pullorum and Typhoid disease and that they were produced in compliance with the National Poultry Improvement Plan.

When re-organizing the current regulations into the proposed regulations, this section (and many others) were re-numbered, and the requirements pertaining to poultry are now found at 18 AAC 36.165 (the old number - 18 AAC 36.065 - was repealed).

When you order chicks for import to Alaska, the hatcheries obtain the (free) permit.

13. How much will this cost the State? How many people will the State have to hire?

From the public notice:

Fiscal information: The proposed regulation changes are not expected to require an increased appropriation.

Cost of implementation to the state agency and available funding (in thousands of dollars):

	Initial Year FY 17	Subsequent Years
Operating Cost	\$ 0	\$ 0
Capital Cost	\$ 0	\$ 0
1002 Federal receipts	\$ 0	\$ 0
1003 General fund match	\$ 0	\$ 0
1004 General fund	\$ 0	\$ 0
1005 General fund/ program	\$ 0	\$ 0
Other (identify)	\$ 0	\$ 0

No additional staff are proposed to be hired.

14. What is a veterinary biologic? Does this include semen?

The proposed definition of veterinary biologic is found at 18 AAC 36.990(49) which states:

(49) “veterinary biologic” or “veterinary biological” or “veterinary biological product” mean all viruses, serums, toxins and analogous products of natural or synthetic origin, or products prepared from any type of genetic engineering, such as diagnostics, antitoxins, vaccines, live microorganisms, killed microorganisms, and the antigenic or immunizing components of microorganisms intended for use in the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of diseases in animals.

This definition updates the existing definition from 1982 which states:

"biological products," sometimes referred to as a biologicals, biologics, viruses, or vaccines, means those products used in the treatment or immunization of animals which have as their components live, modified live, or attenuated virus, bacteria, or pathogens capable of transmission and spread of transmissible diseases of animals;

Semen is not considered a veterinary biological.

15. Is the permit for importation of veterinary biologics new?

No. The existing regulations at 18 AAC 36.200 and 18 AAC 36.210 currently state:

18 AAC 36.200. Manufacture and importation restrictions. A person may not manufacture in the state, or transport or introduce into the state biological products without first obtaining a permit from the state veterinarian. (Eff. 9/1/82, Register 83)

Authority: AS 03.05.010

18 AAC 36.210. Use Restrictions. A person who is not a licensed veterinarian may not use biological products for veterinary purposes without a permit from the state veterinarian. (Eff. 9/1/82, Register 83)

Authority: AS 03.05.010

The proposed regulations repeal both 18 AAC 36.200 and 18 AAC 36.210, and moves the permit requirement to a newly numbered section at 18 AAC 36.410, which also specifies the type of information that the permit application has to have, the conditions by which the State Vet will approve the application, and a clause that the State Vet could revoke an issued permit if it serves the interest of animal or public health.

16. Can I vaccinate my own animals?

Yes. Providing medical care to your own animals, including administering vaccines, is allowed and no changes to this are proposed. While certain

vaccines have always been restricted for use by veterinarians only, there is no change proposed for the vaccines that animal owners currently administer to their animals. As stated in Question 15, the same restrictions and procedures regarding importation of veterinary biologics, including vaccines, remains the same as it is now.