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VETERINARY ADVISORY

Indiana Importation Requirements for Fish

INDIANAPOLIS (7 Feb. 2007)—In October 2006, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued a federal order to restrict the movement of certain species of fish susceptible to viral hemorrhagic septicemia, or VHS, in the eight states bordering the Great Lakes. To comply with the federal rule, the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have implemented new requirements on the importation of fish species listed in the USDA Amended Federal Order. (Information available online: www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/hot_issues/vhs/vhs.shtml)

Among the new requirements is approval of a pre-entry permit by BOAH to verify the health status of the aquaculture source for the shipment of fish entering the state of Indiana from the affected states.

As part of the permit process, fish species listed in the Amended Federal Order on VHS being imported from other affected states must have:

- 1) a copy of a valid Fish Health Inspection Report or Fish Health Certification for the lot of fish intended for shipment; and
- 2) the following statement from the competent authority for aquatic animal health: **“Representative samples were collected in accordance with OIE / AFS Blue Book (specify one) specifications and laboratory testing of these samples for VHS was also performed in compliance with OIE / AFS Blue Book (specify one) specifications.”**

The statement may be in a separate letter, or it may be included on the Fish Health Document, if that document originates from that state's competent authority. These documents may be sent to BOAH by the competent authority or by the producer, accompanied by a BOAH Pre-Entry Permit Application, at least two weeks before the intended movement of fish. (Applications are available online at: <http://www.in.gov/boah/aquaculture/>)

Submit documents to BOAH at VHS Certification, Indiana State Board of Animal Health, 805 Beachway Drive, Suite 50, Indianapolis, IN 46224 or fax to *Attn: VHS Certification* at fax number: 317-227-0330. If you have questions please call the toll-free number, 877-747-3038, ext. 310.

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