

A medium security facility could hold more than one lot of ruminants at the same time so long as the lots are separated by physical barriers so that ruminants in one lot would not have physical contact with ruminants in another lot, or with their excrement or discharges. A minimum security facility could not hold more than one lot of animals at the same time. These measures would help prevent ruminants infected with or exposed to a disease from spreading it to other ruminants in the facility.

Because of the need for APHIS representatives to examine ruminants and draw samples for testing, we would require that medium and minimum security facilities provide adequate space for such purposes, and that the space include appropriate animal restraining devices for the safe inspection of ruminants. The facility would have to provide sufficient storage space for necessary examination equipment and supplies, work space for preparing and packaging samples for mailing, and storage space for duplicate samples. The facility also would have to provide a secure, lockable office for APHIS use with enough room for a desk, chair, and filing cabinet.

Medium and minimum security facilities would also have to provide sufficient storage space for equipment and supplies used in quarantine operations, including separate, secure storage areas for pesticides and for medical and other biological supplies, as well as a separate storage area for feed and bedding, if feed and bedding are to be stored at the facility.

Medium and minimum security facilities would also have to include work areas for the repair of equipment and for cleaning and disinfecting equipment used in the facility.

Additional Construction Requirements for Medium Security Facilities

Proposed § 93.412(d)(3)(iii) would contain additional physical plant requirements that would apply to medium security facilities only. These additional requirements, which primarily relate to building design, windows and other openings, surfaces, and ventilation and climate control, would help ensure that a medium security facility is capable of providing an indoor environment for ruminants in quarantine that is free of vectors, biologically secure, and safe for the animals.

A medium security facility would have to be constructed so that the quarantine area is located in a secure, self-contained building that includes appropriate control measures against the

spread of livestock diseases biologically transmissible by vectors. All entryways into the nonquarantine area of the building would have to be equipped with a secure and lockable door. While ruminants are in quarantine, all access to the quarantine area would have to be from within the building. Each entryway to the quarantine area would have to be equipped with a solid, self-closing door. Separate access would have to be provided within the quarantine area to each lot-holding area so that it is not necessary to move through one lot-holding area to gain access to another lot-holding area. Entryways to each lot-holding area within the quarantine area would also have to be equipped with a solid lockable door. Emergency exits to the outside would be permitted in the quarantine area if required by local fire ordinances. Such emergency exits would have to be constructed so as to permit their opening from the inside of the facility only.

We would require that all windows and other openings in the quarantine area of a medium security facility be double-screened with screening (separated by at least 3 inches or 7.62 centimeters) of sufficient gauge and mesh to prevent the entry or exit of insects and other vectors of livestock diseases, as well as provide ventilation sufficient to ensure the comfort and safety of all ruminants in the facility. All screening would have to be easily removable for cleaning, yet otherwise remain locked and secure at all times in a manner satisfactory to APHIS representatives in order to ensure the biological security of the facility.

We would also require that the floor, wall, and ceiling surfaces in a medium security facility meet certain standards. The floor surfaces with which the ruminants have contact would have to be nonslip and wear-resistant. In addition, all floor surfaces with which the ruminants, their excrement, or discharges have contact would have to slope gradually to the center, where one or more drains of at least 8 inches in diameter are located for adequate drainage, or alternatively, be of slatted or other floor design that allows for adequate drainage. We are also proposing that any floor and wall surfaces in a medium security facility with which the ruminants, their excrement, or discharges have contact would have to be impervious to moisture and be able to withstand frequent cleaning and disinfection without deterioration. Other ceiling and wall surfaces with which the ruminants, their excrement, or discharges do not have contact would have to be able to

withstand cleaning and disinfection between shipments of ruminants. Since the animals would be housed in an enclosed building for the duration of the quarantine, the cleaning and disinfection of floor and wall surfaces would be necessary to help maintain the general health of the ruminants in quarantine, as well as reduce the risk of diseases spreading from one lot of ruminants to another. Finally, all floor and wall surfaces would also have to be free of sharp edges that could cause injury to ruminants.

We would also require that a medium security facility be equipped with a heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system that would be capable of controlling and maintaining the ambient temperature, air quality, moisture, and odor at levels not injurious or harmful to the health of ruminants in quarantine. Air supplied to lot-holding areas could not be recirculated or reused for other ventilation needs. The HVAC systems used for lot-holding areas would have to be separate from air handling systems for other operational and administrative areas of the facility. In addition, if a medium security facility is approved to handle more than one lot of ruminants at a time, each lot-holding area would have to be equipped with its own separate HVAC system in order to prevent cross-contamination between the separate lot-holding areas. Physical separation alone is not always an adequate safeguard against the transmission of diseases from one lot to another.

Medium security facilities would have to be adequately illuminated. This would include lighting in the lot-holding areas, as well as other areas where animals would be inspected or examined. We would also require that a medium security facility, including the lot-holding areas, be equipped with a fire alarm and voice communication system so that personnel working in those areas can be readily warned of any potential emergency and vice versa. A medium security facility would also have to provide a television monitoring system or other arrangement sufficient to provide a full view of the lot-holding areas. In addition, we are proposing that a medium security facility would have to be equipped with a communication system between the nonquarantine and quarantine areas of the facility so that persons inside the quarantine area can readily communicate with persons elsewhere in the facility in cases of emergency without necessarily leaving the quarantine area, and vice versa.

Each medium security facility would have to include an area that is of