

the entry of unauthorized persons into the facility and prevents animals outside the facility from having contact with ruminants in quarantine. If an electronic security system is used, we would require that the system be coordinated through or with the local police so that monitoring of the facility is maintained whenever APHIS representatives are not at the facility. The electronic security system would have to be of the "silent type," approved by Underwriter's Laboratories, and triggered to ring at the monitoring site and, if the operator chooses, at the facility. The operator would have to provide written instructions to the monitoring agency that specify that the police and an APHIS representative designated by APHIS would have to be notified by the monitoring agency if the alarm is triggered. The operator would have to provide a copy of those instructions to the Administrator. The operator would also have to notify the designated APHIS representative whenever a break in security occurs or is suspected of occurring.

#### *Operating Procedures*

Proposed § 93.412(d)(4) would set forth the operating procedures that medium and minimum security facilities would have to observe with respect to APHIS oversight, personnel, authorized access, sanitary practices, handling of quarantined ruminants, and recordkeeping. We would require that these procedures be followed at all times in order to ensure the overall biological security of the quarantine operation, as well as to maintain the health of the animals in quarantine.

#### *APHIS Oversight*

In proposed § 93.412(d)(4)(i), we would make clear that while the facility would be owned, operated, and maintained by the operator, the quarantine of ruminants at the facility would be subject to the strict oversight of APHIS representatives. The deployment of APHIS representatives to oversee and provide other professional, technical, and support services at a facility would be determined solely by the Administrator.

APHIS representatives would retain ultimate authority over the quarantine of ruminants at the facility. If, for any reason, the operator fails to properly care for, feed, or handle the quarantined ruminants as required in § 93.412(a), or in accordance with animal health and husbandry standards provided elsewhere in 9 CFR chapter 1, or fails to maintain and operate the facility as provided in proposed § 93.412(d), APHIS representatives would be

authorized to furnish such neglected services or make arrangements for the sale or disposal of quarantined ruminants at the operator's expense, as authorized in § 93.412(a).

#### *Personnel*

Under proposed § 93.412(d)(4)(ii), the operator of a medium or minimum security facility would be responsible for hiring personnel to attend to the animals and otherwise maintain, operate, and administer the facility. We would require that the operator provide us with an updated list of all personnel who have access to the facility. The list would have to include the names, current residential addresses, and identification numbers of each person, and must be updated with any changes or additions in advance of such person having access to the quarantine facility. We also would require that the operator provide us with signed statements from all personnel having access to the facility in which the person agrees to comply with proposed § 93.412(d) and other provisions of part 93, all terms of the compliance agreement, and any related instructions from APHIS representatives pertaining to quarantine operations, including contact with animals both inside and outside the facility. We would require these signed statements so that personnel are made aware of their responsibilities and obligations while working with the animals in quarantine.

#### *Authorized Access*

To ensure the biological security of medium and minimum security facilities, proposed § 93.412(d)(4)(iii) would restrict facility access to APHIS representatives and other persons specifically authorized to work at the facility. All others would be prohibited from the premises unless specifically granted access by an APHIS representative. We would also require that an APHIS representative accompany at all times any visitors granted access to the facility.

In addition, we would require that all visitors, except veterinary practitioners who enter the facility to provide emergency care, would have to sign an affidavit before entering the quarantine area, if determined necessary by the overseeing APHIS representative, declaring that they will not have contact with any susceptible animals outside the facility for at least 7 days after contact with the ruminants in quarantine, or for a period of time determined by the overseeing APHIS representative as necessary to prevent the transmission of communicable livestock diseases of ruminants.

#### *Sanitary Practices*

Proposed § 93.412(d)(4)(iv) sets forth certain sanitary practices that would need to be followed by all those persons granted access to a medium or minimum security facility. We would require that everyone entering the quarantine area of the facility wear clean protective clothing and footwear. Disposable gloves would have to be worn when handling sick animals. Persons would have to wash their hands after removing the gloves. Persons also would have to change out of protective clothing, footwear, and gloves that have become soiled or contaminated.

If determined necessary by the overseeing APHIS representative, we also would prohibit persons having contact with quarantined ruminants from coming in contact with susceptible animals outside the facility for at least 7 days after their last contact with ruminants in quarantine, or, alternatively, for a longer period of time determined necessary by the overseeing APHIS representative. The period of time may vary, depending on the health status of the quarantined ruminants at the time the person had access to that lot of ruminants. The overseeing APHIS representative would be familiar with the health status of the ruminants under quarantine to determine whether there should be a prohibition against contact with animals outside the facility for a period of 7 days or longer.

We would require that any equipment (including tractors) to be used in the quarantine area of a medium or minimum security facility would first have to be cleaned and disinfected, and would then have to remain dedicated to the facility for the entire quarantine period. In addition, any equipment used with quarantined ruminants would have to remain dedicated to that particular lot of ruminants for the duration of the quarantine period or be cleaned and disinfected before coming in contact with ruminants from another lot. Prior to its use on another lot of ruminants or its removal from the quarantine area, such equipment would have to be cleaned and disinfected to the satisfaction of an APHIS representative.

Vehicles would also have to be cleaned and disinfected immediately prior to entering and leaving the quarantine area of the facility. If the facility utilizes a single loading dock, the loading dock would have to be immediately cleaned and disinfected after each use under the oversight of an APHIS representative. And upon the release of a lot of ruminants from quarantine, the operator would be required to clean and disinfect the lot-