

disinfection. Chile indicated that, in Region V (the region with the largest volume of traffic crossing the Argentine border), any empty vehicle that enters Chile and was used to transport cargo must be cleaned and washed. SAG inspectors verify the condition of the vehicle by visual inspection. If the cleanliness of the vehicle is not satisfactory to the inspectors, the vehicle is turned back. Similar controls are also applied at other land border crossings.

This practice concerns us in view of the role of contaminated live-haul trucks in the serious CSF outbreaks that occurred in the Netherlands in 1997–1998. This severe outbreak was initiated by an empty contaminated live-haul truck that transited from a CSF-affected area in Germany. In fact, the truck had been cleaned and disinfected, but the procedure was not adequate. Without adequate cleaning and disinfection, trucks could introduce CSF from affected regions.

Therefore, to address the risk presented by empty live-haul trucks that enter Chile from Argentina and other potentially CSF-affected regions without thorough cleaning and disinfection, we are proposing that any live swine exported to the United States from Chile would have to be accompanied by certification that the conveyance or materials used to transport the swine, if previously used for transporting swine, had first been cleaned and disinfected in accordance with 9 CFR 93.502. This certification requirement would be in addition to the certifications regarding the origin of live swine discussed previously under the heading “Import Controls.”

Cargo from outside Chile is allowed to transit Chile to seaports such as Valparaiso or San Antonio for shipment to other countries. Currently, however, in-transit cargo must comply with all Chilean regulations, even if the ultimate destination is a different country. The team was informed that this policy may change in the future to accommodate in-transit shipping to the port of Valparaiso. This would require the use of in-bond sanitary and phytosanitary safeguarding procedures.

Livestock Demographics and Marketing Practices

In 1997, Chile had more than 1.7 million swine held by 105,665 swine producers. There were 289 commercial premises, which held 69 percent of all swine in Chile. Commercial swine populations are concentrated in Regions RM and VI. Family farm areas are mostly located in Regions VIII, IX, and X. At the time of the site visit, there

were 100 commercial swine operations in Chile, many with multiple premises. Agrosuper is one of the largest commercial operations. While Agrosuper imports its own swine, most facilities purchase any imported swine they use from the Pig Improvement Company (PIC) in Chile. PIC has purchased swine from Belgium, France, and the United States. The number of small family farms has dramatically decreased in the last 5 years, due mostly to companies purchasing the land to plant fruit trees. Another factor in this decline is a law requiring that all swine be slaughtered at a slaughterhouse, rather than on the premises. The owners would have to pay for transportation to the slaughterhouse and for the slaughter of the swine. In addition, swine producers on family farms can no longer simply collect food waste to feed to the swine; processed feed or other feed must be purchased instead, increasing the cost of maintaining the swine.

There are currently no detailed data on the distribution of the population of wild boar known as javelins (*Sus scropha*). These animals moved into Chile sometime between 1975 and 1978 over the mountains from Argentina. They are mainly located in the southern part of the country, high in the mountains. Their range and the domestic swine production areas are separated by forests. The wild boar normally do not enter these forests because their food is not located there. There are no hunting restrictions for wild boars, and Chileans in the south hunt and eat them. As noted earlier, it is unknown whether the wild boar population is infected with CSF.

Because all swine operations that wish to participate in the interregional and international export markets must operate under the PABCO quality assurance program, the level of compliance with the national government's efforts to maintain Chile's CSF-free status is high.

Detection and Eradication of Disease

CSF has been effectively controlled in and eradicated from Chile in the past and is not known to exist in Chile at this time. The Government of Chile maintains a surveillance system capable of detecting CSF should the disease be reintroduced to the country. The Government of Chile has laws, policies, and infrastructure to detect, respond to, and eliminate any occurrence of CSF.

These findings are described in further detail in a qualitative evaluation that may be obtained from the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. The evaluation may also be viewed on the Internet at <http://>

www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie/request.html by following the link for “Information previously submitted by Regions requesting export approval and their supporting documentation” and then clicking on the triangle beside “Chile/Swine/Classical Swine Fever” and selecting “Response by APHIS.” The evaluation documents the factors that have led us to conclude that Chile is free of CSF.

Therefore, we are proposing to recognize Chile as free of CSF and to add it to the lists in §§ 94.9 and 94.10 of regions where CSF is not known to exist. We are also proposing to revise § 94.24, which currently contains additional CSF-related certification requirements for four Mexican States that we consider to be free of CSF. Because the proposed certification requirements for Chile described previously in this document are essentially the same as the certification requirements for the four Mexican States presently named in § 94.24, apart from specific references to the national government of the region in question, we are proposing to add a list of regions to which the certification requirements in § 94.24 apply and to amend the certification requirements so that they refer generically to the national government of the region of export of the swine, pork, or pork products.

Executive Order 12866 and Regulatory Flexibility Act

This proposed rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12866. The rule has been determined to be not significant for the purposes of Executive Order 12866 and, therefore, has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget.

Under the regulations in 9 CFR part 94, the importation into the United States of live swine, pork, pork products, and swine semen that originates in or transits any region where CSF exists is generally prohibited, except for certain pork products processed in accordance with the regulations. Furthermore, even if a region is considered free of CSF, the importation of pork and pork products from that region may be restricted, depending on the region's proximity to or trading relationships with countries or regions where CSF exists. CSF is a transmissible animal disease with potentially serious consequences for international trade of animals and animal products.

The Agriculture and Livestock Service of the Government of Chile has asked APHIS to evaluate Chile's CSF status. APHIS conducted a site visit in Chile and, using data from this site visit and