

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Agriculture Programs and Trade Liaison

Concerns Regarding the Importation of Vectors of Human and Animal Disease into the United States

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Field Operations



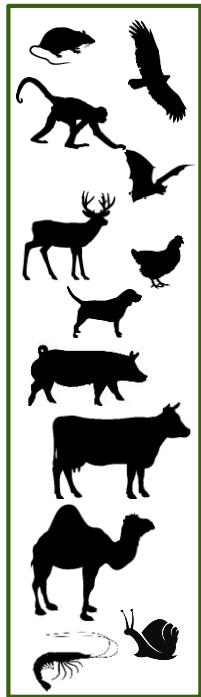
Agenda

- Zoonoses and disease transmission pathways
- Causal organisms of human and animal disease
- Introduction of vectors
- Import process
- Additional regulatory considerations
- Case examples
- Summary
- Additional information



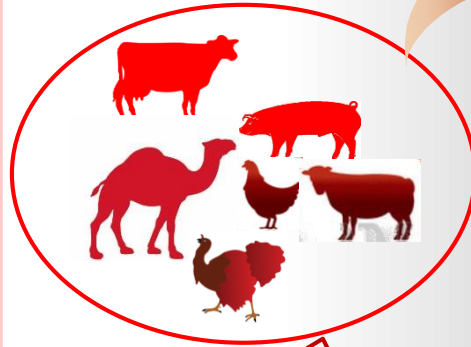
Bioagents and Patterns of Disease Spread

Source - • Natural • Introduced	Bioagents with high host plasticity	Animal-animal spillover of pathogens	Animal-human spillover of pathogens	Amplification by human-to-human transmission
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366,132 pathogens

Vector-borne



HPAI, H1N1, EBOv,
MERS, FMD, CSF,
RVE, Nipah, etc.

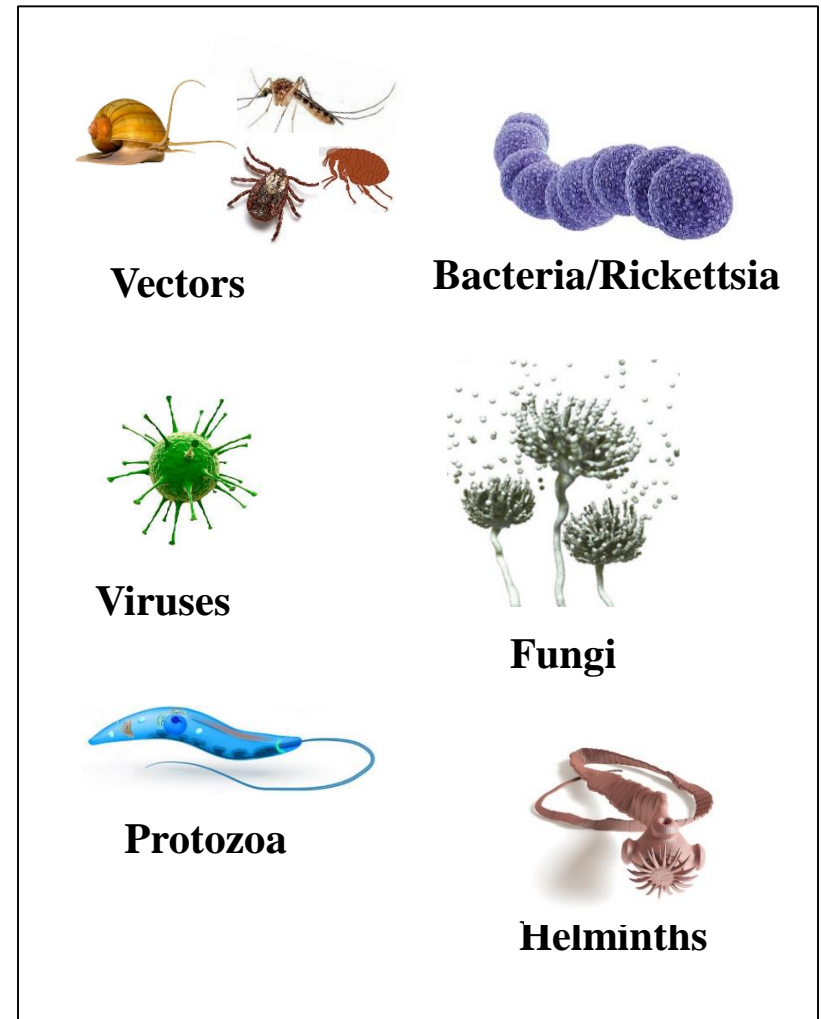
75% Zoonotic



SARS, MERS, EBOv,
Lassa, CHKv, Zika,
H5N1, H1N1 etc.

Biological Threats

- Causal organisms of animal and human disease
 - 538 sp. bacteria/Rickettsia
 - 320,000 viruses
 - 307 sp. fungi
 - 45,000 sp. Protozoa
 - 287 sp. helminths



Photos shown with permission



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Examples of disease vectors

- Animal body fluids, tissues, body parts, blood / blood products, and feces
- Bacterial, viral, and fungal isolates; prions and toxins
- Diagnostic or clinical samples (patient samples that will be tested for specific etiologic agents)
- Genomic material (DNA, RNA, genomic vectors)
- Hosts or vectors (flies, mosquitoes, snails, ticks, etc.)
- Vaccines / drugs / reagents / test kits
- Live animals: bats, nonhuman primates, all other live animals



Pathways of Introduction

- Cargo (air, rail, sea, truck, Express Cargo Consignment [ECC])
- Mail (U.S. Postal Service)
- Passenger (air, sea)
- Land border (vehicle, pedestrian, animal movement)




Import Process

CBP Form 6059B – Customs Declaration

- All travelers entering the United States are required to declare all agricultural and biological products they may be carrying
- The declaration must cover all items carried in checked baggage, carry-on luggage, anything on their person, or in a vehicle
- When in doubt, declare

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Customs Declaration FORM APPROVED
OMB NO. 1651-0009

19 CFR 122.27, 148.12, 148.13, 148.110, 148.111, 19 USC 1498; 31 CFR 53.16

Each arriving traveler or responsible family member must provide the following information (only ONE written declaration per family is required). The term "family" is defined as "members of a family residing in the same household who are related by blood, marriage, domestic relationship, or adoption."

1	Family Name		
	First (Given)	Middle	
2	Birth date	Month	Day Year
3	Number of Family members traveling with you		
4	(a) U.S. Street Address (hotel name/destination)		
	(b) City	(c) State	
5	Passport issued by (country)		
6	Passport number		
7	Country of Residence		
8	Countries visited on this trip prior to U.S. arrival		
9	Airline/Flight No. or Vessel Name		
10	The primary purpose of this trip is business:	Yes	No
11	I am (We are) bringing		
	(a) fruits, vegetables, plants, seeds, food, insects:	Yes	No
	(b) meats, animals, animal/wildlife products:	Yes	No
	(c) disease agents, cell cultures, snails:	Yes	No
	(d) soil or have been on a farm/ranch/pasture:	Yes	No

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Welcomes You to the United States
U.S. Customs and Border Protection is responsible for protecting the United States against the illegal importation of prohibited items. CBP officers have the authority to question you and to examine you and your personal property. If you are one of the travelers selected for an examination, you will be treated in a courteous, professional, and dignified manner. CBP Supervisors and Passenger Service Representatives are available to answer your questions. Comment cards are available to compliment or provide feedback.

Important Information
U.S. Residents—Declare all articles that you have acquired abroad and are bringing into the United States.
Visitors (Non-Residents)—Declare the value of all articles that will remain in the United States.
Declare all articles on this declaration form and show the value in U.S. dollars. For gifts, please indicate the retail value.
Duty—CBP officers will determine duty. U.S. residents are normally entitled to a duty-free exemption of \$800 on items accompanying them. Visitors (non-residents) are normally entitled to an exemption of \$100. Duty will be assessed at the current rate on the first \$1,000 above the exemption.
Agricultural and Wildlife Products—To prevent the entry of dangerous agricultural pests and prohibited wildlife, the following are restricted: Fruits, vegetables, plants, plant products, soil, meat, meat products, birds, snails, and other live animals or animal products. Failure to declare such items to a Customs and Border Protection Officer/ Customs and Border Protection Agriculture Specialist/Fish and Wildlife Inspector can result in penalties and the items may be subject to seizure.
Controlled substances, obscene articles, and toxic substances are generally prohibited entry. The importation of merchandise into the U.S. that infringes intellectual property rights may subject travelers to civil or criminal penalties and may pose serious risk to safety or health.

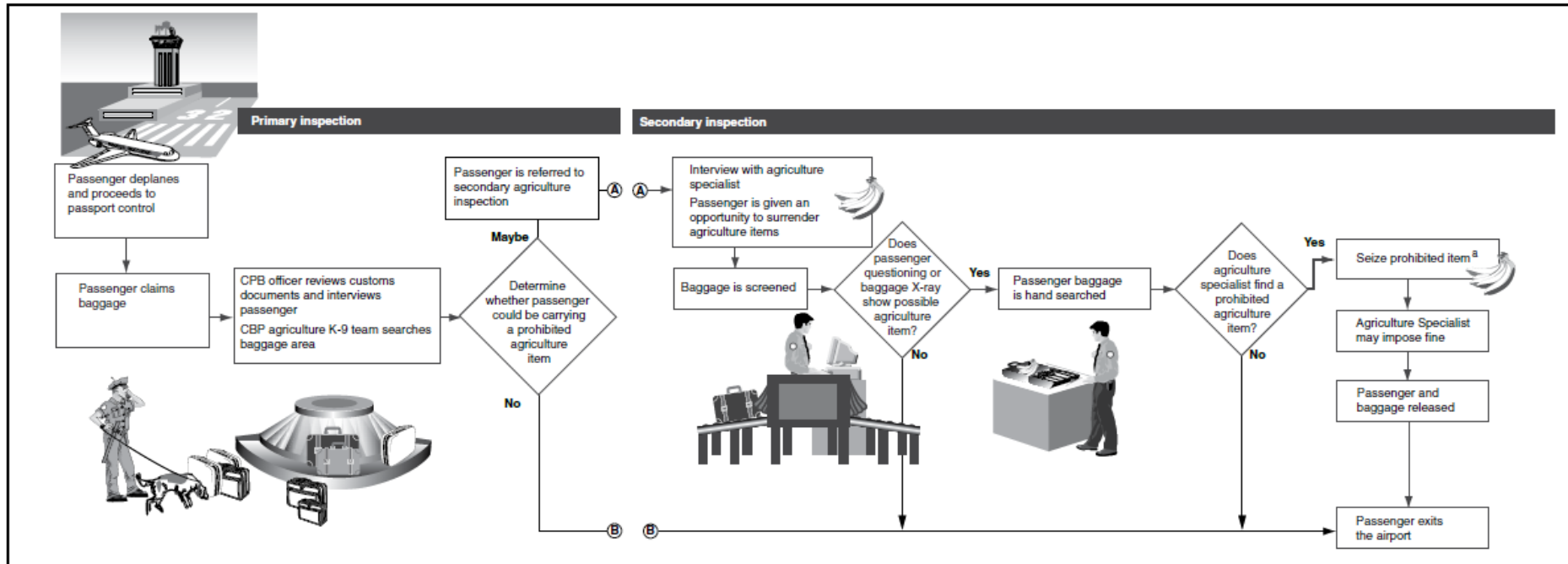
The transportation of currency or monetary instruments, regardless of the amount, is legal. However, if you bring into or take out of the United States more than \$10,000 (U.S. or foreign equivalent, or a combination of both), you are required by law to file a report on FinCEN 105 (formerly Customs Form 4790) with U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Monetary instruments include coin, currency, travelers checks and bearer instruments such as personal or cashiers checks and stocks and bonds. If you have someone else carry the currency or monetary instrument for you, you must also file a report on FinCEN 105. Failure to file the required report or failure to report the total amount that you are carrying may lead to the seizure of all the currency or monetary instruments, and may subject you to civil penalties and/or criminal



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The Agriculture Inspection Process



Source: GAO with CBP update

^a Prohibited items are destroyed according to government regulations. Unknown detected pests are sent to an APHIS identifier.



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Organisms / Vectors of disease importation

- Other Federal Agency oversight
- Regulations also include transportation and transfer
 - Public Health Service Act: 42 CFR Part 71.54, Import regulations for infectious biological agents, infectious substances and vectors
 - Some biological agents and toxins can only be imported using an official commercial carrier – cannot be carried in the cabin of a passenger plane
 - Department of Transportation: 49 CFR Parts 171 – 178, Hazardous Materials Regulations
 - If animal or animal product to be transported contains a poisonous, radioactive or infectious material
 - United States Postal Service: 39 CFR Part 111, Mailability of etiologic agents
 - Occupational Health and Safety Administration: 29 CFR Part 1910.1030, Occupational Exposure to Blood-borne pathogens
 - International Air Transport Association (IATA), Dangerous Goods Regulations



Additional considerations when importing vectors of human / animal disease

- Biosafety and biosecurity
- Container or crates used are also subject to regulatory oversight / requirements
 - Bedding and feed not permitted entry into U.S.
- Carrier and intermediate (secondary) handlers may also have specific requirements for transporting commodity
- State requirements
 - Regulate the entry of animals into their own state
 - Some species are prohibited



Case 1. Ticks

- Passenger from Ukraine arrived at Houston Intercontinental Airport in September 2018
- Live wild-caught ticks (*Ornithodoros* spp.) declared to CBP Officer; accompanied by a VS permit
 - Destination: University
- Referred to Agriculture Secondary
- No CDC permit
- Entry denied and ultimately destroyed



Case 2. Research slides

- Passenger A arrived from Canada into Toronto Pearson International airport, Preclearance
 - NEXUS member and cleared the primary inspection through the NEXUS lane
 - Marked 'no' to all agriculture questions
- Passenger A's colleague was interviewed by a CBP Agriculture Specialist and commented that Passenger A was carrying tissue samples
- Passenger A was returned to agriculture secondary from outbound gate
 - Now declared slides containing mouse brain tissue for research
 - Non-compliant Export Declaration letter provided



Summary

- Many different documents and approvals may be required to import vectors of human or animal disease into the U.S.
- Onus is on the importer to ensure compliance with all international, federal and state regulations
- Focused planning is critical well before shipment or transportation internationally
 - To ensure compliance, contact each Agency with regulatory oversight for their respective requirements
- Contact the CBP port of entry for specific requirements



Additional information

- CBP Information Center – Importing biological materials into the United States:

https://help.cbp.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/3681/kw/biological


Importing biological materials into the United States

Updated 11/28/2018
12:36 PM

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What you need to know before importing Biological Materials into the United States.

Federal, international, and state laws strictly regulate shipping, transport, and import of **biological** materials. Federal and international regulations pertaining to the shipment of dangerous goods or hazardous materials may also apply to **biological** materials. Import of **biological** materials must be clearly marked, labeled, packaged and/or placarded in accordance with the requirements of all international, Federal and state agencies.

Biological materials are categorized, permitted, and regulated according to a variety of factors. Factors to consider include the source of the **biological** material; method of production or synthesis; packaging (bulk or final dosage form); terminal use in humans, animals, or research; state of infectiousness; potential as a vector of human, animal, or plant disease; and status as an endangered species (if applicable).

Examples of **biological** materials include (but are not limited to):

CBP port of entry:

<https://www.cbp.gov/contact/ports>

Locate a Port of Entry

To find a Port of Entry in your state, please click on the map.



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Questions?

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