

Import Alert: Revised APHIS Identification Requirements for Pet and Performing Birds of United States Origin

NOTE: This alert only applies to U.S. origin birds subject to quarantine upon U.S. arrival. This does not apply to pet or performing birds returning from Canada, or non-U.S. origin birds

Effective February 19, 2018

U.S. returning pet and performing birds, weighing more than 100 grams (less than 100 grams are exempt from identification requirement) that leave the United States **after February 19, 2018**, must be identified by one of three approved means (microchip, leg band or tattoo) in order to qualify for home quarantine in lieu of federal quarantine upon returning to the U.S. The identification must be documented on the accompanying U.S. origin health certificate. If a microchip is the chosen form of identification, please note that International Organization for Standardization (ISO) compliant Radio-frequency Identification (RFID) microchips are recommended. Birds leaving the United States prior to February 19, 2018 are exempt from the identification requirement.

Pet and performing birds weighing more than 100 grams that do not have required identification on their accompanying U.S. origin health certificate issued prior to departure from the U.S. **must** go to a federally approved Animal Import Center quarantine facility for a minimum of 30 days, at the owner's expense.

The U.S. veterinarian issuing the U.S. origin health certificate must confirm the presence of identification prior to issuance of the health certificate for export, and that information must be recorded on the health certificate. As noted, APHIS recommends the use of ISO compliant RFID microchips, and for the chip to be placed in the thickest portion of the pectoral muscle. If the bird owner chooses to use a microchip that is not ISO compliant, a handheld reader capable of reading the microchip implanted in the bird must be provided to APHIS at the intended port of entry. The form of identification used (i.e. microchip, leg band or tattoo) must be listed on the health certificate.

Additional information is attached and may also be found on the [APHIS Pet Travel Website's web page for importing five or less pet birds into the U.S.](#) Any questions concerning this import alert should be directed to the APHIS Veterinary Services Avian Import Specialist at (301) 851-3300, option 2.