



NOTICE TO THE WILDLIFE IMPORT/EXPORT COMMUNITY



December 21, 2012

Subject: Chinese Hamster Ovary Cell Specimens

Background: It has come to our attention that there is a question of whether or not Chinese hamster (*Cricetulus griseus*) ovary (CHO) cell specimens require a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) declaration and clearance. Hamsters are considered wildlife and are not a domesticated species and are therefore regulated by the FWS. However, if the CHO specimens have been processed to the extent that animal material no longer remains in the specimen, then a FWS declaration and clearance is not required. We have developed some guidelines to go by to determine what information the trade has to provide to the FWS in order for us to make that decision.

Action: In order for a shipment to be exempted from FWS requirements, the trade must submit documents that specifically describe the process that the CHO specimens have gone through. If any statement on the documents indicates that the product such as antibodies or recombinant proteins was extracted from CHO "cells", "cell cultures", or "cell lines", and was purified to remove all cell material, DNA, or animal material, then it is not considered wildlife and FWS clearance is not required. However, if the CHO specimens are the actual cells, cell cultures, or cell lines, then a FWS declaration, import/export license, user fees, and clearance are required.

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