

Aquatic Animal Testing Requirements for EXPORT

Export disease testing of live aquatic animals may be required before shipping to some countries. This guidance clarifies definitions and provides a decision tree outlining which laboratories must be used, in order to meet the specific requirements of destination countries. Effective immediately, all exports must follow this guidance, before USDA can endorse the health certificate.

Is testing required prior to export?

Testing requirements will depend on the destination country.

- Visit the [USDA APHIS International Regulations \(IRegs\) for Animal Exports](#) home page, and select the destination country from the “IRegs for LIVE Animals” drop down menu.
- Each country page lists the requirements for export by species. For species not listed, the requirements are not known. However, exporters wanting to ship animals whose requirements are not listed, should have the interested party (importer/buyer) in the country of destination apply for an Import Permit at the appropriate ministry. This Import Permit will most likely outline the specific requirements.

When must testing be done at a certain type of laboratory?

- Review the health certificate or instructions listed under the “Aquatic Animals” section on the destination country’s IRegs page. If the species is not listed, review the Import Permit.
- If testing is required, look for any language regarding the laboratory, then read the “Which Laboratory Type Should be Used and When?” instructions below.

What is the difference between laboratory types?

- After the laboratory type is determined (i.e., “APHIS-approved,” “Approved” or “Non-specified”), read the “Definitions of Laboratory Types” instructions below to find out which kinds of laboratories meet each laboratory type.

What happens if testing was not done at the correct type of laboratory?

- Effective immediately, all shipments must follow this guidance before USDA can endorse the health certificate.
 - If testing is done **after September 28, 2020** → then all testing must be done at the correct laboratory according to this guidance.
 - If testing was done **before September 28, 2020** → then USDA will accept those results (as long as they are also valid for the destination country) until September 28, 2021.

For all questions, please contact the [USDA APHIS VS Endorsement Office](#) serving your state.

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Definitions of Laboratory Types

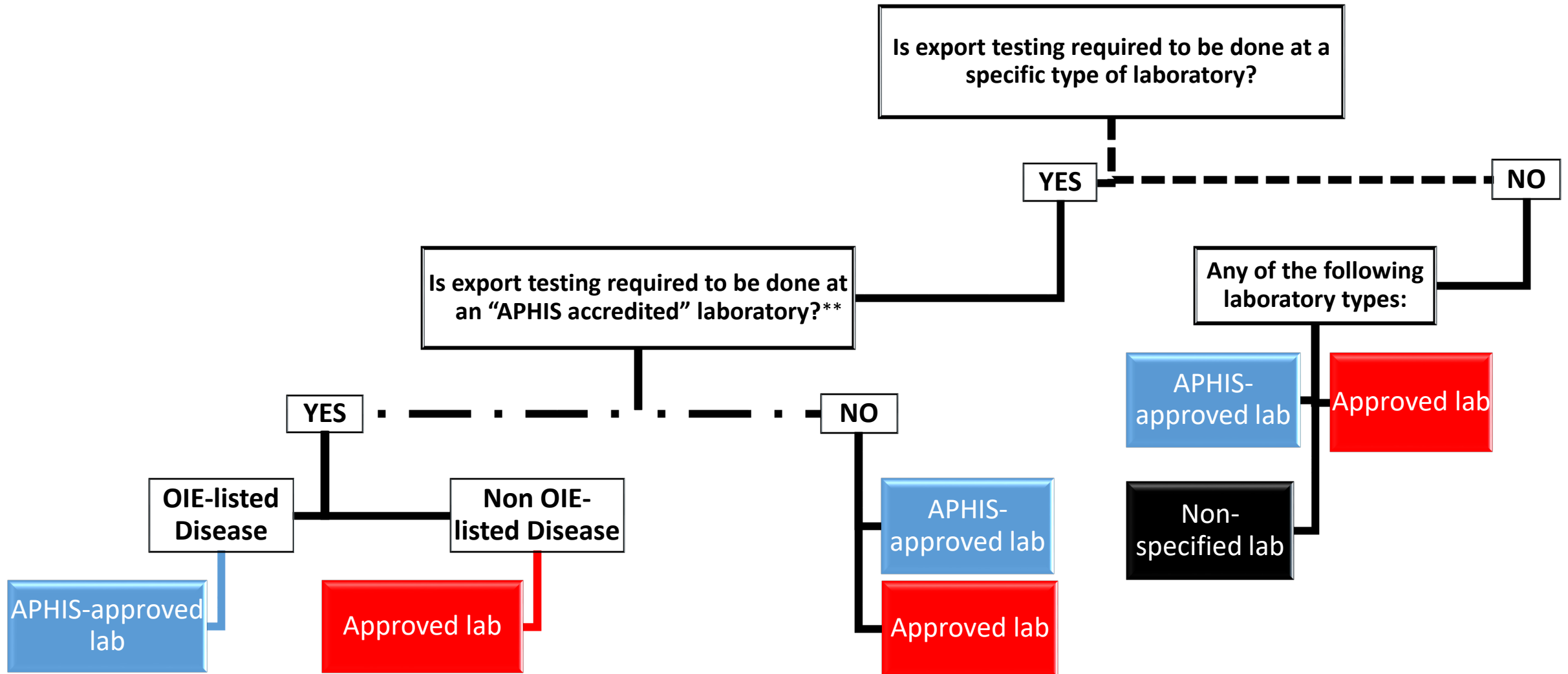
For the specific purposes of live aquatic animal export testing (based on negotiated export protocol(s) language), the following laboratory definitions apply:

- **APHIS-Approved Laboratory** – laboratories which are under APHIS oversight for specific OIE-listed pathogen(s):
 - a. [Laboratories Approved to Conduct Diagnostic Testing in Support of Export Health Certification of Aquaculture Species](#)
 - b. National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN)
 - i. [Infectious Salmon Anemia](#)
 - ii. [Spring Viremia of Carp](#)
 - iii. [Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia](#)
- **Approved Laboratory** – laboratories which meet the following criteria, including Federal, State, and university laboratories:
 - a. Documentation of a laboratory quality management system to standards acceptable to APHIS [e.g., International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 17025, American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD)]
- **Non-specified Laboratory** – Any company in business and paying taxes as a testing laboratory, which does not meet the “APHIS-Approved” or “Approved” criteria

Which Laboratory Type Should be Used and When?

For the specific purposes of live aquatic animal export testing (based on negotiated export protocol(s) language), the following laboratories must be used:

- I. If export testing is **required by the destination country to be performed at a laboratory described as “APHIS accredited,” “APHIS Approved,” “Designated by the competent authority,” “Approved by the Competent Authority,”** or equivalent, then the following applies:
 1. All **OIE-listed** aquatic animal pathogens must be tested at an **APHIS-approved Laboratory** (*definition above*). [OIE-listed aquatic pathogens – <http://www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/oie-listed-diseases-2019/>]
 2. All **Non-OIE listed** aquatic animal pathogens must be tested at an **Approved Laboratory** (*definition above*).
- II. If export testing is **required to be performed at an “Approved Laboratory”** (*including labs that are “acceptable to” or “recognized by” APHIS*), **but the type of approval is not specified by the destination country**, then testing at any of the following types of laboratories is permitted (*definitions above*):
 - **APHIS-approved Laboratory for OIE-listed aquatic animal pathogens only, OR**
 - **Approved Laboratory for either OIE-listed OR Non-OIE listed aquatic animal pathogens**
- III. If export testing is **NOT required to be performed at a specific type of laboratory by the destination country**, then testing at any of the following types of laboratories is permitted (*definitions above*):
 - **APHIS-approved Laboratory for OIE-listed aquatic animal pathogens only, OR**
 - **Approved Laboratory for either OIE-listed OR Non-OIE listed aquatic animal pathogens, OR**
 - **Non-specified Laboratory for either OIE-listed OR Non-OIE listed aquatic animal pathogens**



**See page 1 for equivalent terms regarding live aquatic animal export testing