

United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

WS Directive

2.601 4/15/98

SAFETY

1. PURPOSE

To establish general WS safety guidelines and responsibilities

2. REPLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

This directive replaces ADC Directive 2.601 dated 03/26/93.

3. POLICY

WS supervisors will promote a safe working attitude among employees. Supervisors will identify hazards, including wildlife-borne diseases, in advance of work assignments. Also, supervisors will provide employees with adequate information, training, and personal protective equipment to enhance employee safety.

WS employees will adhere to safety requirements and use appropriate personal protective equipment provided for the job. Employees are required to immediately report unsafe working conditions to their supervisors and work cooperatively to minimize hazards on the job.

WS personnel are encouraged to obtain medically approved inoculations or desensitizing agents to protect themselves from wildlife-borne diseases they may be exposed to while working. These inoculations or medical monitoring tests may be obtained at government expense. Employees are encouraged to use available Government health facilities. However, employees may use private physicians where Government health units do not exist or when their use is not practical.

Employees may decline in writing participation in pre-exposure inoculations, but refusal may be justification for reassignment or other action. Necessary inoculations may be made a condition of employment.

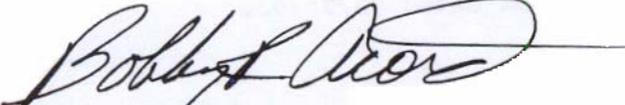
All accidents will be reported by WS employees to their supervisors in a timely manner. Accidents involving aircraft or a human fatality must be reported immediately to the Director.

WS personnel are advised to alert their physician that they may be exposed to wildlife-borne diseases. Serious diseases such as rabies, hantavirus, plague, Lyme disease, ornithosis, or histoplasmosis may be misdiagnosed unless the physician is aware of the possibility for exposure. For additional information, contact the National Wildlife Health Lab, 6006 Schroeder Road, Madison, Wisconsin 53711-6223, telephone number 608/271-4640; the National Veterinary Services Laboratories, 1800 Dayton Road, P.O. Box 844, Ames, Iowa 50010, telephone number 515/239-8200; the Center For disease Control; 1600 Clifton Road N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30333, telephone number 404/639- 3311; or the Poison Control Center, Children's Memorial Hospital, 8303 Dodge St., Omaha, NE 68114, 1-800-843-0505.

The APHIS Safety & Health Manual provides additional safety and health regulations and procedures to assist managers and supervisors in accomplishing their program responsibilities. Information from this manual, pertinent to a particular safety or health situation, will be made available to WS employees upon request.

4. REFERENCE

APHIS Safety and Health Manual (Manual 203)



Deputy Administrator