



For Immediate Release
October 13, 2021

TAHC Adopts Rules and Rule Reviews at Recent Commission Meeting

AUSTIN, TX - The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) held a regularly scheduled Commission meeting September 21, 2021, at its headquarters in Austin.

The following rule was adopted and will go into effect on October 14, 2021.

Chapter 40, Chronic Wasting Disease

The adopted amendments to each section of this chapter clarify, correct, and update information regarding Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) management. Among other changes, the adopted rules clarify the commingling definition, address minimum mortality rates for herds enrolled in the Herd Certification Program (HCP), increase fence height, shorten certain reporting and sample submission timeframes, clarify HCP inspection activities, and establish or modify Containment and Surveillance Zone boundaries in response to confirmed CWD cases. Non-substantive grammatical and editorial changes were also adopted throughout the chapter for improved readability. Additionally, the TAHC adopted a new section, "Enforcement and Penalties," to clarify applicable penalties for violations.

The following six rules were adopted and will go into effect on October 21, 2021.

Chapter 33, Fees

The adopted amendments update terms and recognize modern technologies for obtaining Certificates of Veterinary Inspection. Additionally, the TAHC adopted a new section, "Enforcement and Penalties," to clarify applicable penalties for violations.

Chapter 45, Reportable Diseases

The adopted amendments update the title of Chapter 45 to "Reportable and Actionable Diseases" pursuant to Senate Bill 705, which requires the TAHC to list, by rule, which diseases are reportable to and require control or eradication by the agency. Two new sections were adopted; "Reportable and Actionable Disease List," which improves the organization and transparency of the existing reportable disease list and updates all diseases and disease agents that require control and eradication, and "Enforcement and Penalties," which clarifies applicable penalties for violations. Additional amendments were adopted to update and clarify definitions and provide guidance on reporting diseases and agents of disease transmission.



Chapter 46, Export-Import Facilities

The adopted rules add a new Chapter 46, titled “Export-Import Facilities” to implement House Bill 1958 and Section 161.0445 of the Texas Agriculture Code. This chapter outlines reporting, recordkeeping, and movement requirements for an owner or person in charge of an export-import facility when an animal is refused from international trade. The chapter also clarifies the TAHC’s right of entry authority and applicable penalties for violations.

Chapter 53, Market Regulation

The adopted amendments to this chapter clarify, correct and update information, and remove specific brucellosis program references to address all relevant infectious, contagious, or communicable diseases. Non-substantive grammatical and editorial changes were also adopted throughout the chapter for improved readability and organization. Additionally, the TAHC adopted a new section, “Enforcement and Penalties,” to clarify applicable penalties for violations.

Chapter 55, Swine

The adopted amendments clarify, correct, and update information regarding swine diseases, programs, and regulations pertaining to livestock markets and slaughter plants. These amendments clarify and revise definitions, update section titles to reflect content, and make grammatical and editorial changes for improved readability and organization. Additionally, the TAHC adopted a new section, “Enforcement and Penalties,” to clarify applicable penalties for violations.

Chapter 59, General Practices and Procedures

The adopted amendments update the title of Section 59.5, “Open Records,” to “Public Information Act Requests.” The adoption also clarifies public information request procedures, and updates content pursuant to the Texas Public Information Act.

All rule updates will be reflected in the Texas Administrative Code under Title 4, Part 2 and the respective chapters.

Additionally, the following rules were under review: Chapters 33, 40, 41, 53, 54, 55 and 57. The TAHC found that the reasons for initially adopting the rules continue to exist and readopted the rules.

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The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) was established in 1893 as the Livestock Sanitary Commission and charged with protecting the state's domestic animals “from all contagious or infectious diseases of a malignant character.” TAHC remains true to this charge while evolving with the times to protect the health and marketability of all Texas livestock and poultry. Learn more about the TAHC by visiting www.tahc.texas.gov.