Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Code Book

The regulations in this Code Book are hereby adopted by the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission under authority of Amendment 35 to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas. All laws, rules, regulations, or orders in conflict with the regulations in this Code Book are hereby repealed by the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission.
Requirements:

A. A Fish Farm Health Inspection Permit will only be issued to persons holding a valid fish farmer, fish dealer, or independent hauler permit who submit on forms supplied by the Commission satisfactory documentary proof including the following information:
   1. Proof an appropriate fish sample has been collected by a qualified independent party during the appropriate season and submitted to a fish health inspection laboratory for analysis; and
   2. Inspection reports from a qualified testing laboratory asserting the sample tested negative for VHSV by appropriate testing methods, and
   3. Written documentation from a qualified independent party asserting the fish are farm-raised, the farm or facility uses a VHSV-free water source, and fish or eggs to be shipped to Arkansas have not been mixed with, or potentially contaminated by, fish or water not meeting standards specified for a Fish Farm Health Inspection Permit. To be eligible for a Fish Farm Health Inspection Permit, a farm or facility must provide written documentation from a qualified independent party verifying the farm or facility has a biosecurity plan sufficient to prevent contamination of permit-eligible fish by ineligible fish or by water not from a VHSV-free source, and the farm or facility follows the biosecurity plan without exception. The fish health inspection report must be no more than 60 days old from the date of reported test results at time of application for Fish Farm Health Inspection Permit from Commission.

B. The Fish Farm Health Inspection Permit is an annual non-transferrable permit issued in 2 six-month intervals in compliance with Addendum D1.01. The first interval is January 1 - June 30, and the second interval is July 1 - December 31. The second interval of the permit will be issued only after new semi-annual testing results are submitted to the Commission. Annual renewal
may be granted based upon submission to the
Commission of new documents as described
above that include new semi-annual testing
results. Failure to conduct a semi-annual
inspection will result in a 1-year suspension of
the Fish Farm Health Inspection Permit.
C. EXCEPTIONS: A Fish Farm Health Inspection
Permit shall not be required for import of live
fish from a VHSV-positive state if any of the
following three exceptions apply:
1. The species are moving to a state-
inspected slaughter facility meeting the
following criteria:
   i. The slaughter facility must
discharge wastewater into a
municipal sewage system that
includes wastewater
disinfection; and
   ii. The slaughter facility must
either render or compost offal,
including carcasses.
2. The species are moving to a qualified
diagnostic facility for disease testing.
3. The species are marine or tropical
aquarium trade fish species that meet
the following criteria:
   i. The species are moving
directly to a home aquarium;
or
   ii. The species are moving to
wholesale or retail distributors
of marine and tropical
aquarium fish and will be
permanently confined in a
closed system (aquaria, tanks,
or lined pools).