DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY
Department of Agriculture and Forestry
Office of Animal Health and Food Safety

LAC 7:XXI.1909 (Turtles)

In accordance with the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B), and pursuant to the authority set forth in R.S. 3:2358.2 and 3:2358.10, notice is hereby given that the Department of Agriculture and Forestry is extending an emergency rule amending LAC 7:XXI.1909 regarding requirements for international shipments of turtles. The emergency rule was initially published at LR 42:512 and was renewed at LR 42:1266.

Currently, LAC 7:XXI.1909 requires a health certificate and certified laboratory report accompany all international shipments, irrespective of whether the country of destination requires the same. Louisiana is the only state in the nation with these exit requirements in lieu of following the entry requirements for the country of destination. The current regulation is overly burdensome and adds additional cost to Louisiana turtle farmers attempting to ship their commodities internationally. By amending LAC 7:XXI.1909 to require a health certificate and certified laboratory report when required by the country of destination, instead of for every international shipment, Louisiana turtle farmers will no longer be subject to an unfair trade disadvantage.

This rule shall have the force and effect of law on November 28, 2016, and will remain in effect 120 days, unless renewed by the Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry, or until permanent rules are promulgated in accordance with law.

Title 7
AGRICULTURE AND ANIMALS
Part XXI. Animals and Animal Health
Chapter 19. Turtles (Formerly Chapter 23)

§1909. Movement of Turtle Eggs and Turtles
(Formerly §2307)

A. The department shall regulate the movement of turtles or turtle eggs by licensed pet turtle farmers and procedures shall include, but not be limited to, shipment into local and international commerce, as well as shipment to certified laboratories.

1. All turtles or eggs leaving a licensed turtle farm bound for a certified laboratory shall be accompanied by a certificate of inspection. A health certificate from a Louisiana licensed veterinarian stating that the turtles and/or eggs originated from a Louisiana licensed pet turtle farm shall accompany all shipments into international commerce if required by the country of destination. Each health certificate shall identify the final destination of the turtles or eggs they accompany.

A.2. - A.6. ...

7. Turtles or eggs intended for international commerce shall be conspicuously marked "For Export Only" on the outside of the shipping package. Turtles or eggs intended for international commerce shall be accompanied by a health certificate and/or a certified laboratory report if either is required by the country of destination.

A.8. – A.9. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 3:2358.2 and 3:2358.10.
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Animal Health Services, LR 17:351 (April 1991), amended by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of the Commissioner, LR 26:1569 (August 2000), repromulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Animal Health and Food Safety and the Board of Animal Health, LR 40:980 (May 2014); LR 42:

Mike Strain, D.V. M.
Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry