



## DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDER NAVY REGION SOUTHWEST  
937 NO. HARBOR DR.  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92132-5100

IN REPLY REFER TO:

COMNAVREGSWINST 6200.1F

N3P1

10-6-99

### COMNAVREGSW INSTRUCTION 6200.1F

Subj: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) INSPECTION OF SHIPS  
ARRIVING IN SAN DIEGO

Ref: (a) SECNAVINST 6210.2A  
(b) CINCPACFLTINST 6250.1

Encl: (1) Sample Letter of Certification of Agriculture  
Clearance to be completed by Ships  
(2) USDA Form 288

1. Purpose. To provide procedures for agriculture quarantine inspections of ships, submarines and aircraft by specially trained and certified shipboard personnel, or in their absence, USDA Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) Officers, San Diego, and to emphasize the need for compliance with reference (a). This instruction has been revised in its entirety.

2. Cancellation. COMNAVBASESANDIEGOINST 6200.1E.

3. Background

a. Plant and animal pests cost U.S. citizens billions of dollars annually in damage done to crops, herds, and forests. Many of these destructive pests entered the U.S. from abroad prior to establishment of quarantines. Prohibitive and restrictive legislation found in CFR Title 9, the Plant Quarantine Act of 1912 and Federal Plant Pest Act of 1957 were promulgated to prevent the entry, re-entry or spread of foreign or Hawaiian pests and diseases of plants and animals. Quarantine and/or regulations apply to plants, livestock, plant and animal by-products, and related materials capable of introducing pests and diseases and specifically apply to vessels, including Navy ships and planes and crew members, returning from foreign ports and Hawaii.

b. The State of California defines garbage the same as USDA except that California considers garbage from all sources beyond state borders as foreign garbage. Regulated garbage, includes the waste material as defined from all foreign countries, plus Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the United States, Guam and all other insular possessions of the United States. Garbage from Canada is treated as domestic garbage from the continental United States.

4. Policy

a. Cooperator Plant Protection and Quarantine Officers (CPPQO) (reference (b)) will conduct a thorough agricultural inspection of the ship ensuring full compliance with USDA APHIS-PPQ regulations.

b. USDA Plant Protection and Quarantine Officers (PPQO) will board on arrival:

(1) All ships that arrive direct from foreign ports.

(2) All ships that arrive direct from or transit via Hawaii. (Ships are boarded in Hawaii because of their foreign origin. Ships from Hawaii are boarded in CONUS because of their Hawaiian origin.)

c. The PPQO will be met at the gangway by the CPPQO. Ships without their own CPPQO may borrow from ships in company or have one flown out to them. The borrowed inspector must ride the ship in to make final clearance pierside. This procedure does not close the quarterdeck unless USDA violations are noted. In the absence of a CPPQO, the Supply Officer will meet the PPQO at the quarterdeck and escort the inspector on an inspection tour of the galley and food storage facilities. No one will be allowed on or off the ship until the inspection has been completed. Ships not ready to receive inspectors will be quarantined until they are ready.

5. Action. Addressees are requested to disseminate the information contained in this instruction to all ships under their command for guidance when entering CONUS through San Diego from foreign ports and Hawaii. In addition, the provisions of reference (a) should be emphasized to preclude the possibility of inadvertent violations. The inspection of all ships spaces will be concluded prior to preparing the Letter of Certification of Agricultural Clearance (enclosure (1)). The letter should be typed in advance and presented to the PPQO at the time of boarding, preferably at the gangway. CPPQOs will prepare USDA Form-288, enclosure (2), in lieu of the certification letter.

a. Ships arriving from foreign ports:

(1) Prohibited Agricultural Products. The following, either as provisions or as private purchases, are prohibited and should be utilized before arrival at U. S. or Hawaiian ports.

(a) All foreign grown fruits and pulpy type

vegetables such as cucumbers, eggplant, melons, peppers, and tomatoes.

(b) Meat and meat products, dairy and dairy products, and eggs originating in or transiting any foreign country, except Australia, Canada, Iceland, Ireland or New Zealand, and have maintained their identity of origins.

(c) Rice straw rope and rice straw packing material is prohibited. Other hay and straw is prohibited from all countries infected with foot-and-mouth disease, rinderpest or fever ticks.

(2) Agricultural Products. The following agricultural products may be used aboard ship, but must not be off-loaded without inspection and specific permission from a PPQO.

(a) Root type crops (potatoes, carrots, beets, turnips, etc.), allium crops (onions, leeks, shallots, scallions, etc.) and leafy vegetables (lettuce, cabbage, cauliflower, rhubarb, etc.).

(b) Dressed poultry, and hermetically sealed, canned, boneless, shelf-stable meats. (Fish is not a USDA regulated item.)

(c) U.S. mainland grown fruits and vegetables laden in CONUS ports that are still in unbroken or unopened cases with identity labels intact.

(d) Meat products, dairy products, and eggs originating/obtained from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Iceland or Ireland.

(3) Living Plants, Birds and Animals. The entry of all living plants (including bonsai trees), and animals and birds which are carried as mascots or pets, are subject to various regulations of different government agencies. These items cannot be permitted ashore in the U.S. prior to release by a PPQO. The entry of insects is regulated by PPQ. Report the presence of honey bees (swarms or individual bees) or any bee activity to the nearest USDA office.

(4) Garbage. Garbage, as defined by USDA, means all waste material derived in whole or in part from fruits, vegetables, meats, or other plant or animal (including poultry) material, and other refuse including food wrappers or packaging. While in U.S. waters, ship's garbage will be retained on board in leak proof,

covered containers, kept inside the railings, and will not be discharged without authorization by a PPQO. Navy procedures for collection and disposal of garbage within San Diego harbor are approved by USDA and constitute all the authorization needed for such discharge. Wet garbage and dry trash will be segregated and kept in separate containers for disposal. All wet garbage will be picked up daily for steam sterilization. Port Operations will provide a portable sterilizer to transport wet garbage or prohibited foods.

b. Ships arriving from Hawaii. Ships arriving from Hawaii will be boarded in CONUS as if arriving from a foreign port. Plant products grown or purchased in Hawaii are subject to the same regulations as foreign-grown or purchased products. The exception is pineapple which may be used without restriction. Meat products, dairy products and eggs from Hawaii are unrestricted.

c. Inspection and Letter of Certification. Ships without CPPQOs will present a Letter of Certification of Agricultural Clearance similar to the example in enclosure (1). Prior to signing this letter, the Commanding Officer shall ensure a thorough inspection of the ship has been made, including pantries, refrigeration spaces, storerooms, galleys, crew's lockers and military passenger and tiger cruise participant's bags loaded in foreign ports or Hawaii to determine whether any

prohibited material should be destroyed. Questionable material should be safeguarded and the PPQO notified upon arrival.



L. R. HERINE

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Port Operations

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All Ships Homeported San Diego Region

COMNAVREGSWINST 6200.1F  
6200

SAMPLE LETTER

From: Commanding Officer, USS ALWAYS SAIL (AO-00)  
To: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Plant Protection and  
Quarantine, San Diego

Subj: AGRICULTURE CLEARANCE

1. This is to certify to the best of my knowledge and through inspection, the crew has no plants or prohibited agricultural material on board. A thorough inspection has been made of crew lockers, all pantries, galleys, refrigerators and reefer boxes, storerooms and military passenger and tiger cruise participant's baggage loaded in foreign ports or Hawaii.

2. No one will be allowed on or off the ship until the Plant Protection and Quarantine Officer has completed the agricultural inspection.

A. B. SEA

Enclosure (1)