3.92(a)(1) Handling.
The ambient temperature around 336 cynomolgus macaques contained in transport enclosures while sitting on pallet trailers on the ATL tarmac, under direct sunlight, awaiting transfer from Ethiopian Airlines (Flight ET518) AWB 645-00126534 onto ground transportation trailers on July 16, 2023, was greater than 85 degrees for a period of 95 minutes. The animals were offloaded from the plane at 10:30 AM onto a pallet trailer and then completely loaded onto the ground transportation trailers by 12:05 PM without any shade provided. The ambient temperature was 86 degrees Fahrenheit at 10:30 AM and rose to 87 degrees Fahrenheit by the time they were fully loaded onto the ground transport at 12:05 PM. In fact, during the loading process, one of the employees suffered from the effects of the heat and had to take breaks to continue loading the enclosures.

Failure to provide protection from the direct rays of the sun as well as exposure to temperatures above 85 degrees Fahrenheit for more than 45 minutes could cause the nonhuman primates to become overheated, which could have a detrimental impact on their health and well-being.

The registrant must ensure that all nonhuman primates have sufficient shade as protection from the direct rays of the sun and not to expose them to ambient temperatures above 85 degrees Fahrenheit for a period of more than 45 minutes while being moved to or from a primary conveyance to a terminal facility in order to support their health and well-being.

3.92(b)(2) Handling.
On July 16, 2023, a shipment of 336 nonhuman primates arrived on Ethiopian Airlines (Flight ET518) AWB 645-00126534 at ATL and were handled incorrectly upon transfer to their ground transport conveyance trailer. The transport enclosures were wooden crates, individually housing 4 nonhuman primates per crate, with handles located on each end. In the beginning of the transfer, two employees utilized both ends of the transport enclosure to simultaneously lift each end of the enclosure together (one employee at each end), keeping the enclosure level to load them onto the ground transport trailer. During the course of transferring the transport enclosures from the pallet trailer to the ground transport conveyance trailer, the attendants began to work individually to grab only one end of the transport enclosure and drag it across the pallet trailer. The pallet trailer was lower in height by approximately 10-12 inches than the ground transportation trailer’s floor, so then, when working individually, the handlers began dragging and tilting the transport enclosures from the lower
pallet trailer up into the ground transport trailer, and dropping the end being dragged onto the floor of the ground transport trailer.

Any person handling a primary enclosure containing a nonhuman primate must use care and avoid excessively tilting or dragging their enclosures which may cause physical harm or distress to the nonhuman primates.

Proper handling procedures must be followed when handling primary enclosures containing nonhuman primates so they must not be dropped or needlessly tilted and must not be stacked in a manner that may reasonably be expected to result in its falling. It must also be handled and positioned in the manner that written instructions and arrows on the outside of the primary enclosure indicate.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with a facility representative.

Additional Inspectors:

CHAD MOORE, Transportation Field Specialist
GWENDALYN MAGINNIS, Nonhuman Primate Field Specialist
TANESHA WILKINS, SACS
United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Customer: 331674
Inspection Date: 16-Jul-2023

Species Inspected

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