

Bird import regs reviewed

WASHINGTON — A U.S. Department of Agriculture proposal would change federal import regulations to allow the offspring of birds originating in the United States to enter this country without undergoing quarantine if they come from an approved closed breeding facility.

Bert W. Hawkins, administrator of the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said this import rule revision was requested by segments of the commercial bird industry.

Closed breeding facilities are facilities outside the United States where U.S. breeding birds and

their offspring are kept isolated under disease-free conditions.

As proposed, potential operators of closed breeding facilities would need to receive prior approval from USDA and bear all costs associated with USDA inspection and approval, and the construction, maintenance and

operation of their facilities.

Hawkins said closed breeding facilities would have to be supervised by both a USDA veterinarian and an official of the national veterinary services of the country in which the facility is located. The latter would inspect the facility on a weekly basis to insure that operational procedures

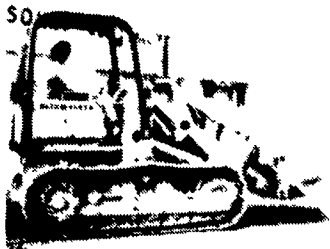
comply with prescribed standards. Other provisions of the proposal are as follows: For shipment to approved closed breeding facilities—

- Birds must be accompanied by a health certificate issued by an accredited veterinarian in the U.S. state of origin.

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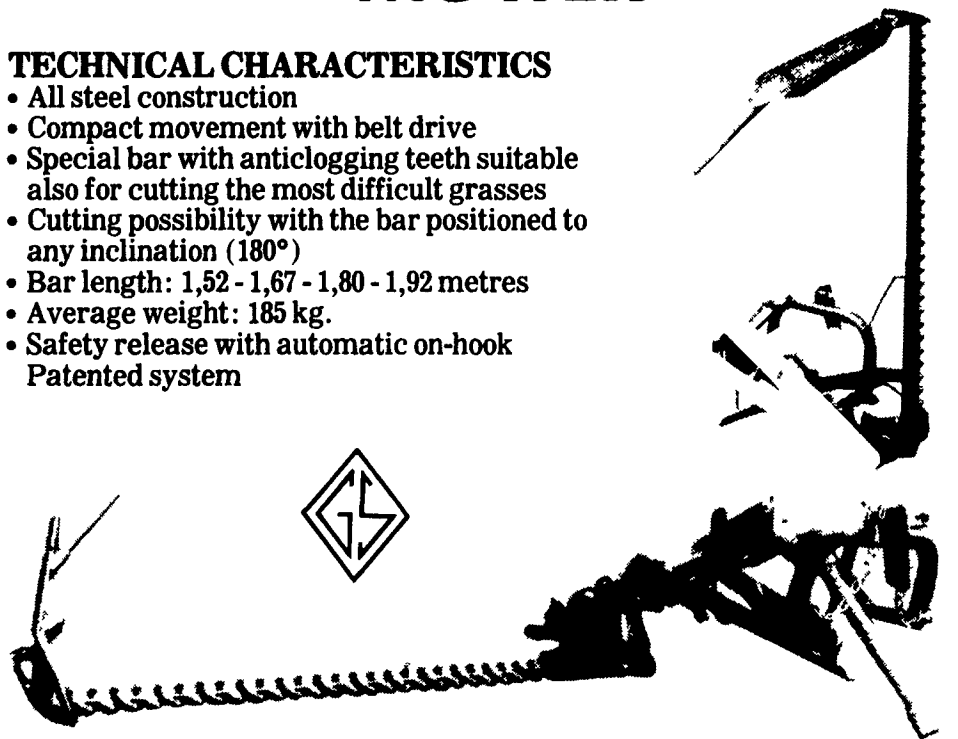
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