



## Inspection Report

Transportes Aereos Portugueses S.A. (TAP Air Portugal)  
One Riverfront Plaza, 1037 Raymond Blvd., Suite 1510  
Newark, NJ 07102

Customer ID: **6009985**

Certificate: **22-T-0064**

Site: JFK

John F. Kennedy International  
Airport- JFK

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

Date: 18-JAN-2024

### 3.162(a)(2)

#### Primary enclosures used to transport live birds.

On October 31st, 2023, approximately 2250 African passerine birds (finches, canaries, waxbills, and mannikins) arrived at John F. Kennedy International Airport (Queens, New York) from Maputo International Airport (Maputo, Mozambique) on TAP Air Portugal (AWB# 047-3072-2156).

In several crates metal staples protruded into crate space that housed birds during transport. These protrusions ripped the gloves of the individuals removing the birds from the transport crates. Sharp points can lead to harm of animals held inside of the primary enclosure. The interior of transport enclosures for birds must not have sharp points or edges and no protrusions that could injure the birds.

### 3.162(a)(8)

#### Critical

#### Primary enclosures used to transport live birds.

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These species of African passerines are innately stress-prone and will fly into hard surfaces in times of stress. On examination and necropsy by the quarantine facility veterinarian, several birds had defects consistent with trauma. Two deceased birds had skull defects and one live bird had an eye lesion consistent with traumatic injury. No protective padding or adequate substrate was present in any of the transport enclosures. Birds that are fractious or stress-prone in nature must be contained in an enclosure that is padded on the top and sides and has protective substrate on the bottom to prevent injury during transport.

### 3.162(e)

#### Critical

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Prepared By: MYRA BROOKS

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:

19-JAN-2024

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL  
OFFICER

Received by Title: Airline/Airline Representative

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The birds in this shipment experienced over-crowding. The shipment contained approximately 30 crates. The crates were either 27 inches by 18 inches by 7 inches in height or 26.5 inches by 16 inches by 6 inches in height. On average each crate contained 75 birds. Based on the average size of the species within this shipment the number per crate should have been lower to allow for normal postural adjustments. Sustained levels of stress can weaken the immune system, which can predispose animals to disease and death. In this shipment approximately 278 birds arrived dead. Primary enclosures used to transport live birds must be large enough to ensure that each bird contained therein has sufficient space to turn about freely and to make normal postural adjustments.

This inspection was conducted with USDA officials and airline representatives. The exit interview was conducted with an airline representative on 1/18/2024.

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**Species Inspected**

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
6009985	22-T-0064	JFK	John F. Kennedy International Airport- JFK	18-JAN-2024

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
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000000	NONE	NONE
000000	Total	