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Export Live Animals to Canada

Last Modified:

Electronic Signature and Digital Endorsement ACCEPTED

For Accredited Veterinarians: Electronic signature ACCEPTED

For APHIS VMO: Digital endorsement ACCEPTED

USDA-accredited veterinarians can electronically issue health certificates and use VEHCS (Veterinary Export Health Certification System) to submit them to USDA for digital endorsement.

USDA can digitally endorse the health certificate and return it electronically.

What This Means for You

Accredited Veterinarians: Use the links below to access or get help with VEHCS. Learn more about [how to issue export health certificates](#).

Animal Owners/Shippers: The endorsed health certificate can be printed out directly from VEHCS and does **not** have to be mailed back to you. The printed, endorsed health certificate must accompany the animal(s) during shipment or

travel.

[VEHCS Help](#) | [VEHCS Guide](#) (7.58 MB) | [VEHCS Login](#)

Live Animal Export Country Requirements [View Requirements](#)

Summary of Requirements

For all live animals (terrestrial and aquaculture/ aquatic), USDA-accredited veterinarians may issue health certificates electronically through [VEHCS](#). These certificates will be digitally endorsed by APHIS once received in the system and available for printing by the USDA-accredited veterinarian once the endorsement is completed by APHIS. An APHIS-endorsed, printed paper copy **must** accompany the shipment.

*****NEW: Effective March 20, 2025: For aquaculture/aquatic animals to Canada: Accredited veterinarians must access certificates through VEHCS.** Health certificates may be downloaded from VEHCS and submitted to APHIS outside of VEHCS, but transitioning to VEHCS is highly encouraged.

[Expand All](#)

Equine

USDA Health Certificate options:

- **Paper Certificate (Mail-In)** - See links below.
- **Create and Submit Certificate Online** - [Use VEHCS for electronic submission.](#)

Note: When submitting certificates for live horses (non-slaughter) to Canada through VEHCS, please select the intended use of **breeding/rearing OR competition/racing**. The breeding/rearing option includes all horses traveling as personal pets, for recreation, etc., regardless of intention for use as a breeding animal.

Note: There are only **two** classifications of U.S. origin live horses destined for Canada:

Breeding/Rearing/Competition/Racing

This option includes all horses entering Canada for purposes other than slaughter. All horses traveling as personal pets, for recreation, etc. are included in this option, regardless of intention for use as a breeding animal.

[Horses - Breeding/Rearing/Competition/Racing - Protocol and Health Certificate](#)
- December 2019

[Horses - Breeding/Rearing/Competition/Racing - Additional Animal Identification Table Page](#) (if needed) - November 2016

[Horses - Breeding/Rearing/Competition/Racing - Additional Animal Photo Page](#)
(if needed) - November 2016

Note: In addition to the fillable form and online submission, Canada will also accept both the [VS Form 17-145](#) and VS Form 17-140 (these forms require an [addendum](#) to include all necessary statements for Canada) for shipments.

Note: For horses that have been in Texas or New Mexico during the 21 days prior to export to Canada, the animals must test negative to equine piroplasmiasis (**both T. equi and B. caballi**) using cELISA during the 15 days prior to export.

Note: For Canadian horses returning to Canada on a Canadian health certificate, a supplemental certification document will be provided by the CFIA endorsing office when advised of intended return. The supplemental certification will need to be attached to the Canadian health certificate after completion and endorsed by USDA before return of the horse(s) to Canada. Canadian horses returning to Canada exported to the United States for exhibition or pleasure purposes require an Owner's Declaration included in the supplemental certification. The Owner's Declaration does not need to be endorsed by USDA.

Note: [Information about U.S. horses transiting to/from Alaska from the lower 48, including horses transiting through Canada.](#) **CAUTION: Before you depart** the United States and enter Canada, please make sure that your certificate will still be valid upon entry into Alaska or reentry into the lower 48 states. The certificate is valid 30 days **after the date of inspection (Box. 14 on Page 1**

of the model certificate for export) for export by the accredited veterinarian.

Note: [Addendum to Health Certificate](#) for Temporary Export of Horses to the European Union Intended for Re-Export to Canada in Less Than 90 Days - May 2024

Note: For horses imported into the United States traveling to Canada (temporary U.S. stay), the following documents are required by CFIA:

- Health certificate for export from United States to Canada
- Health certificate for export from third country to United States
- USDA Quarantine and Test Result Certificate (Form VS 17-30)
 - Must indicate that the horses were tested with negative results in the USA for piroplasmiasis, equine infectious anemia and, where applicable, dourine and glanders.
 - Laboratory reports are **not** required to be presented
- CEM Procedure Declaration, if required

Slaughter

[Horses - Immediate Slaughter - Protocol and Health Certificate](#) - April 2016

[Horses - Immediate Slaughter - Additional Animal Identification Table Page](#) (if needed) - April 2016

[Horses - Immediate Slaughter - Additional Animal Photo Page](#) (if needed) - April 2016

Note: In addition to the fillable form, Canada will also accept both the [VS Form 17-145](#) and VS Form 17-140 (these forms require an [addendum](#) to include all necessary statements for Canada) for shipments.

Note: Effective January 31, 2010, Canada published new requirements and information for equine owners for equines intended to slaughter.

Note: An [Equine Certification Document](#) signed by a Veterinarian accredited in the USA must accompany live equine imported from the USA for slaughter.

Effective January 1, 2012, all shipments of feeder and slaughter horses entering Canada from the United States by ground transportation will be required to proceed through designated ports of entry. Shipments will only be accepted during the CFIA's regular hours of operation. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is implementing the new measures to verify that horses are being humanely transported in accordance with the Health of

Animals Regulation.

Note: Designated Border Ports of Entry for Feeder and Slaughter Horses Entering Canada from the United States can be found at:

<https://inspection.canada.ca/en/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/humane-transport/horses/designated-border-ports>

Other Equine Certificates

- [Horses - Embryos - Protocol](#) - January 2009
- [Horses - Semen - USA Origin - Health Certificate](#) - December 2016
- [Horses - Semen - Non-USA Origin - Health Certificate](#) - April 2017

Cattle

Germplasm

- [Bovine - Embryos - Health Certificate](#) - June 2011
- [Bovine - Embryos - In Vitro Fertilized - Health Certificate](#) - November 2014
- [Bovine - Oocyte - Health Certificate](#) - March 2020
- [Bovine-Semen- Health Certificate \(including Heterospermic semen\)](#)- December 2024

Feeder

- [Bovine - Feeder - Protocol and Health Certificate](#) - August 2018
 - [Bovine - Feeder - Guidance Document](#)

Breeding

Note: Prior to export movement, lactating dairy cattle are required to receive a negative test for influenza A virus at an approved National Animal Health Laboratory Network laboratory. The negative testing of milk or mammary samples via PCR must be documented on the required addendum posted below.

Note: The brucellosis screening test for breeding cattle to Canada is the FPA or BAPA. Any animal with a non-negative test result on the FPA or BAPA is not eligible for

export to Canada, irrespective of the results of any confirmatory test that is subsequently performed. To clear the rest of the cohort for export: the animal with the non-negative result must have a negative result to a cELISA or iELISA test. The cELISA is not available in the United States. Therefore, the iELISA test must be done, which is only available at NVSL.

- [Bovine including Bison - Breeding - Protocol and Health Certificate](#) - August 2020

- [Bovine-lactating dairy cattle-Addendum Influenza A testing](#) - April 2024

Note: In VEHCS, the current defined certificate for breeding cattle to Canada does not include this addendum and therefore cannot be used for lactating dairy cattle. Instead, when creating the certificate in VEHCS for lactating dairy cattle to Canada, please select “commodity not listed” and upload the breeding cattle health certificate and the influenza A addendum as a PDF upload.

- [Bovine - Breeding - Addendum \(if needed\)](#) - August 2020
- [Interferon Gamma Release Assay \(IGRA\) Guidance for Rodeo Cattle](#) - August 2020

Note: Any animal with a non-negative result on the Caudal Fold Tuberculin (CFT) Test is **not** eligible for export to Canada, irrespective of the results of any confirmatory / ancillary test that is performed.

The cohort animals are eligible for export subject to the following:

- To clear the cohort animals for export, a Comparative Cervical Tuberculin (CCT) Test must be done on the non-negative animal. If the CCT Test is negative, then the cohort animals are eligible for export providing the CFT Tests of all the cohort animals are negative.
- In the case of rodeo/roping type breeds, **both** the CFT Test **and** the Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) test in the cohort animals must be negative. The CFIA does **not** recognize the IGRA test as a confirmatory test to be performed subsequent to a non-negative CFT Test. Only the CCT Test is considered a confirmatory test to the CFT Test.

Slaughter

- [Bison - Slaughter - Health Certificate](#) - April 2020
- [Bovine - Lactating Dairy Cattle for Immediate Slaughter in Canada - Export Certification Statements](#) - May 2024
 - **Note:** The export certification statements must be attached to the VS Form 17-140.

Canadian Origin Cattle

- [Canadian origin cattle \(all breeds and end uses\) in the United States for less than 60 days returning to Canada - Export Certification Statements](#) - August 2024
 - **Note:** The export certification statements must be attached to the VS Form 17-140.

Note: For Canadian origin cattle in the United States for 60 or more days, the animals are considered part of the U.S. national herd and must use the relevant health certificate for export of cattle from the United States to Canada.

Sheep and Goats

- [Sheep and Goats - Small Ruminants - Breeding, Domestic, or Captive Purposes](#) (363.67 KB) - April 2025
- [Sheep and Goats - Embryos - Protocol](#) (137.79 KB) - November 2019
- [Sheep and Goats - Feeding - Health Certificate](#) (297.19 KB) - October 2020

Other Ruminants

- [Captive Non-Domestic Ruminants - Protocol and Health Certificate](#) (133.56 KB) - May 2015
- [Cervid - Protocol](#) (31.73 KB) - October 2017
 - **Note:** Effective September 16, 2025, cervids that originate from the State of Texas do **not** meet the requirements for export to Canada.
- [Cervine - Semen - Protocol](#) (90.16 KB) - February 2018

Swine

Note: For Brucellosis, any animal with a non-negative test result on the Florescence Polarization Assay (FPA) is *not* eligible for export to Canada, irrespective of the results of any confirmatory test that is subsequently performed. The cohort animals are eligible for export, subject to negative results on confirmatory testing by **indirect ELISA (i-ELISA)**, conducted on the animals testing non-negative.

- [Swine - Health Certificate](#) (151.2 KB) - September 2016
- [Swine - Research - Health Certificate](#) (291.07 KB) - January 2020
- [Swine - Semen - Protocol](#) (97.49 KB) - April 2019
- [Swine - Slaughter - Protocol](#) (74.86 KB) - November 2018

Poultry

Note: The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) requires the [Veterinary Services Trade Route Mapping Tool](#) (646.62 KB) to be used. Exporters **MUST** use this mapping tool, not Google maps, not the USDA confirmed HPAI detections map, nor any other map. CFIA will start refusing shipments that do not meet these requirements. Please carefully read the details below.

CFIA prohibits the movement of all live birds (including pet birds), live poultry, and hatching eggs which originate from, or transit through trade restriction zones established due to detections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in poultry.

Exporters are advised to plan transit routes in advance of travel to avoid transit through restricted zones or otherwise risk delays or rejection of shipments.

Exporters **MUST** provide documentation to demonstrate the route of travel to Canadian border/port officials. This documentation must accompany the health certificate but is **NOT** endorsed by APHIS. The documentation must include:

- a map of the intended route of transit – **must** use the [Veterinary Services Trade Route Mapping Tool](#) (646.62 KB)(not Google maps)

- a statement attesting that the consignment has not traveled a route that transited any control zone for HPAI. Example: [Insert Commodity Type, e.g. Hatching eggs] covered by certificate(s) [Insert health certificate number] will travel in a closed conveyance via the following route. To the best of my knowledge, this route does not transit any restriction areas established due to detections of High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) in poultry.
- commodity being exported and certificate numbers associated with the shipment
- signature of the accredited veterinarian and date of signature

For live birds, live poultry, and hatching eggs **traveling by air** from the United States to Canada, in addition to the guidance above:

- The exporter should provide a map of their route from the place of origin to the first airport, to demonstrate that the first part of their travel does not transit through any restricted zones.
- For any layovers, rather than provide a map of the layover airport, the exporter can include a comment that the travel includes a second airport in the United States and this second airport is not located in a restricted zone.

Follow the steps in the document entitled "Veterinary Services Trade Route Mapping Tool Access Guide" below to access the Trade Route Mapping Tool.

[Veterinary Services Trade Route Mapping Tool Access Guide](#) (646.62 KB) - March 2025

[Ducks - Protocol](#) (82.93 KB) - September 2018

[Parrots, Song birds, Ratites - Protocol](#) (61.44 KB) - May 2018

[Poultry - Adult, Exhibition, Pigeons, and Hatching Eggs - Protocol](#) (244.21 KB) - February 2019

[Poultry - Day-old Chicks - Health Certificate](#) (129.11 KB) - July 2020

Note: Includes fowls of the species *Gallus domesticus*, ducks, geese, turkeys and guinea fowls

[Poultry - Hatching Eggs - Health Certificate](#) (161.73 KB) - July 2020

Note: Includes fowls of the species *Gallus domesticus*, ducks, geese, turkeys and guinea fowls

[Poultry - Immediate Slaughter - Health Certificate](#) (107.01 KB) - May 2018

Note: If required, use [Certificate for Poultry or Hatching Eggs for Export - APHIS VS Form 17-6](#) (937.87 KB),

Birds (non-Poultry)

Note: The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) requires the [Veterinary Services Trade Route Mapping Tool](#) (646.62 KB) to be used. Exporters MUST use this mapping tool, not Google maps, not the USDA confirmed HPAI detections map, nor any other map. CFIA will start refusing shipments that do not meet these requirements. Please carefully read the details below.

CFIA prohibits the movement of all live birds (including pet birds), live poultry, and hatching eggs which originate from, or transit through trade restriction zones established due to detections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in poultry.

Exporters are advised to plan transit routes in advance of travel to avoid transit through restricted zones or otherwise risk delays or rejection of shipments.

Exporters MUST provide documentation to demonstrate the route of travel to Canadian border/port officials. This documentation must accompany the health certificate but is NOT endorsed by APHIS. The documentation must include:

- a map of the intended route of transit – **must** use the [Veterinary Services Trade Route Mapping Tool](#) (646.62 KB)(not Google maps)
- a statement attesting that the consignment has not traveled a route that transited any control zone for HPAI. Example: [Insert Commodity Type, e.g. Hatching eggs] covered by certificate(s) [Insert health certificate number] will travel in a closed conveyance via the following route. To the best of my knowledge, this route does not transit any restriction areas established due to detections of High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) in poultry.
- commodity being exported and certificate numbers associated with the shipment
- signature of the accredited veterinarian and date of signature

For live birds, live poultry, and hatching eggs **traveling by air** from the United States to Canada, in addition to the guidance above:

- The exporter should provide a map of their route from the place of origin to the first airport, to demonstrate that the first part of their travel does not transit through any restricted zones.
- For any layovers, rather than provide a map of the layover airport, the exporter can include a comment that the travel includes a second airport in the United States and this second airport is not located in a restricted zone.

Follow the steps in the document entitled "Veterinary Services Trade Route Mapping Tool Access Guide" below to access the Trade Route Mapping Tool.

[Veterinary Services Trade Route Mapping Tool Access Guide](#) (646.62 KB) - March 2025

[Falcons - Health Certificate](#) (297.37 KB) - October 2019

[Parrots, Song birds, Ratites - Protocol](#) (61.44 KB) - May 2018

Note: If required, use [APHIS VS Form 17-6](#) (937.87 KB).

Taking a Pet to Another Country?

[Visit Pet Travel](#)

Aquaculture/Aquatic Animals

*****NEW: Effective March 20, 2025 there are 2 health certification options*****

USDA Health Certificate options:

- **Paper Certificate (Mail-In)** - See links below.
- **Create and Submit Certificate Online** - [Use VEHCS for electronic submission.](#)

Note: When submitting certificates through VEHCS, please select whether the disease freedom/ negative health status is being certified via “premises freedom”, “test-and-ship”, or both. Once the Accredited Veterinarian makes this selection in VEHCS, the lineouts will be automatically applied to the certificate in VEHCS. This step does not apply to those certificates that do not have disease freedom/ negative health status statements.

Export Restrictions for New Mexico, California, Florida, and Texas

Note: Effective December 2019, Canada has placed a ban on all shipments of whiteleg shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) from the state of New Mexico which are susceptible to Infectious Hypodermal and Haematopoietic Necrosis Virus (IHHNV).

Note: Effective November 2019, Canada has placed a ban on all shipments of whiteleg shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) from the state of California which are susceptible to Infectious Hypodermal and Haematopoietic Necrosis Virus (IHHNV).

Note: Effective June 2019, Canada has placed a ban on all shipments of live crustaceans from the states of Florida and Texas which are susceptible to Infectious Hypodermal and Haematopoietic Necrosis Virus (IHHNV). This includes, but is not limited to: blue shrimp (*Litopenaeus stylirostris*), brown shrimp (*Farfantepenaeus aztecus*), brown tiger prawn (*Penaeus esculentus*), giant tiger prawn (*Penaeus monodon*), greasyback shrimp (*Metapenaeus ensis*), northern white shrimp (*Litopenaeus setiferus*), whiteleg shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*), and yellowleg shrimp (*Farfantepenaeus californiensis*). To verify if crustaceans originating from Florida and Texas are susceptible to IHHNV, and are impacted by this ban, please check [CFIA regulated species and the diseases they are susceptible to](#).

Guidance Documents

[How to Meet the Requirements for Export of Aquatic Animals from the United States to Canada](#) (349.54 KB)

Disease and Testing Information:

- [USDA-APHIS approved laboratories](#) for export health certification of aquaculture species
- Annex 1: [Diagnostic Methods for Exports to Canada](#) (16.41 KB) - for mollusks and finfish - December 2012
- Annex 2: [Sample Collection](#) (162.62 KB) - for determining the sample size needed for disease testing - March 2019
- [Aquatic Animals - Import Regulations - Guidance Document](#) (41.17 KB) - December 2012
- [CFIA regulated species and the diseases they are susceptible to.](#)
- [Update for EUS Susceptible Species](#) (11.75 KB)

Aquatic Animals and Germplasm - Culture

- [Aquatic Animals and Germplasm - Culture - Health Certificate](#) (243.51 KB) - March 2025
- Note:** [Instructions for Aquatic Animals and Germplasm for Culture Health Certificate](#) (385.92 KB) - December 2012

Aquatic Animals and Germplasm - Research and Education

- [Aquatic Animals and Germplasm - Research and Education - Health Certificate](#) (541.95 KB) - March 2025

Aquatic Animals Intended for Zoo/Aquarium

- [Aquatic Animals - Display in a Zoo or Aquarium - Health Certificate](#) (115.11 KB) - March 2025

Aquatic Animals Intended for Food Service, Retail, or Further Processing

*****NEW: Effective March 20, 2025: Food Service, Retail, or Further Processing certificates will be processed as product certificates outside of VEHCS.** Refer to the links below to be redirected to the appropriate certificate on the International Regulations (Iregs) Products >Canada> [Aquaculture Commodities](#) page.

Note: [Information for Live Marine Molluscan Shellfish](#) (15.49 KB) - April 2014

Finfish

- [Finfish - Bait and Feed - Health Certificate](#) (150.32 KB) - March 2025
- [Finfish - Stocking and Enhancement - Health Certificate](#) (212.62 KB) - March 2025

Koi Carp

- [Koi Carp - Aquarium and Outdoor Holding Unit - Health Certificate](#) (1009.7 KB) March 2025

Note: [Instructions for Koi Health Certificate](#) (120.28 KB) - March 2019

Note: [Testing Information for Koi Health Certificate](#) (140.83 KB) - March 2019

Ornamental Aquatic Animals

[Ornamental Aquatic Animals - Commercial Aquarium Use in CLOSED Premises in Canada - Health Certificate](#) (86.05 KB) - March 2025

Note: [Instructions for Live Ornamental Aquatic Animals Health Certificate](#) (79.93 KB) - December 2012

Note: [Veterinary Export Health Certification System \(VEHCS\) Instructions for Completing the Ornamental Aquatic Animal Health Certificate](#) (120.23 KB) - March 2025

Other Animals

- [Camelids - Protocol and Health Certificate](#) (70.06 KB) - May 2015
- [Commercial Dogs Less Than 8 Months Old - Breeding or Show/Exhibition - Health Certificate](#) (206.22 KB) - June 2021

Note: The health certificate for the export of Commercial Dogs intended for Breeding/Show/Exhibition must be signed/endorsed by a USDA accredited veterinarian and an APHIS Veterinary Services Veterinarian.

- [Commercial Dogs Less Than 8 Months Old - Resale/Adoption - Health Certificate](#) (450.73 KB) - July 2021

Note: The health certificate for the export of Commercial Dogs intended for Resale/Adoption must be signed by a USDA accredited veterinarian. Endorsement by APHIS Veterinary Services is **not** required. Please consult APHIS [Animal Care](#) for any questions regarding licensing and/or movement of these animals.

- [Honeybees - Protocol for Continental US](#) (39.78 KB) - April 2020
- [Honeybees - Health Certificate for Continental US](#) (120.5 KB) - April 2020
- [Honeybees - Protocol for Hawaii](#) (46.74 KB) - April 2011
- [Honeybees - Health Certificate for Hawaii](#) (200.76 KB) - May 2024

Taking a Pet to Another Country?

[Visit Pet Travel](#)

If your species is not listed, the requirements for that species are not known. Exporters who want to ship livestock or germplasm whose requirements are not listed above should have the importer or buyer in the destination country apply for an import permit at the appropriate ministry. This import permit will most likely outline the specific requirements.

Need Help?

USDA-Accredited Veterinarians

Contact a USDA-accredited veterinarian for questions about your destination country's entry requirements for animals (including any needed vaccinations, tests, or treatments) and for issuance of health certificates.

[Find a USDA-Accredited Veterinarian](#)

USDA Endorsement Offices

Contact your nearest APHIS Veterinary Export Trade Services Endorsement Office for questions about endorsing an export health certificate for live animals.

For VEHCS help see the [VEHCS help page](#). Routine APHIS VEHCS processing services are staffed Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM Central Time (CT) excluding federal holidays, the time listed in VEHCS reflects GMT.

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[All Contacts](#)

Related Resources

- [Frequently Asked Questions About Live Animal Exports](#)
- [VEHCS Login](#)
- [National Veterinary Accreditation Program: Information for Veterinarians](#)
- [Role of the Accredited Veterinarian in International Animal Exports](#)

[Print](#)