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Import Horses from Belarus

Last Modified:

No African Horse Sickness Present

No Screwworm Present

No Contagious Equine Metritis Present

No Foot-and-Mouth Disease Present

Expand All

Import a Horse

General Information

Generally, horse owners will enlist the services of a broker/shipping agent to bring a horse into the United States. While APHIS does not require the use of a broker/shipping agent for importing horses, experienced brokers can coordinate the efforts of airlines, customs brokers, APHIS, and other partner government agencies to ensure the safety of the animals, facilitate clearance of the shipment, and schedule a timely arrival. These agents are familiar with the documents and processing associated with import and export regulations. Learn more about using a broker/shipping agent.

Expand All

Health Certificate

An official hard copy of a valid health certificate, written in English, is required for entry. The official health certificate must be issued by an authorized veterinarian in the exporting country and endorsed by a full-time salaried veterinarian of the agency responsible for animal health of the national government of the exporting country of origin.

Certification and testing are described in the following health certificates.

Note: The original health certificate **must** accompany the shipment upon arrival.

Available Ports

APHIS Port Services

Use the dropdown below to locate airports that accept live equine shipments.

- Select a State - ▼

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All Contacts

Quarantine Information

Fees and Permitting

The processes and fees involved with importing horses and other equine, as well as equine germplasm (semen, embryos, and cloning tissue), depend on the conditions of entry.

Importers should apply for an import permit online using APHIS eFile. This will expedite the permitting process and enable users to track the status of their permits, confirm receipt, and easily renew or amend existing permits. Visit Animal Health Permits to learn more about applying for an import permit, including paper applications.

Costs are associated with providing services for importing and transiting horses at airports, ocean ports, rail ports, land border ports, and southern border port and animal import center quarantines.

The fees billed are per individual horse. Charges for combined shipments may be split between brokers.

Overtime rates apply for after-duty hours, weekends, and holidays for inspection services. (9 CFR 130.30)

There is a comprehensive fee for horses staying at a Federal quarantine center with a decreasing scale: days 1 to 3, days 4 to 7 and 8 through subsequent days. The daily rate includes all administrative costs conducted during normal business hours: examination on arrival, routine veterinary care, lodging costs for feed and bedding, obtaining test samples and processing them for shipping to the National Veterinary Services Laboratories, supervision of cleaning and disinfection of trailers and stalls, receiving and releasing horse shipments, identification of each horse on arrival and release, reviewing health certificates and issuing import permits to ensure compliance with import regulations, monitoring horses while they are in quarantine, release of paperwork in Veterinary Services Process Streamlining (VSPS), and oversight of horses shipping under APHIS seal to State CEM quarantine facilities. (9

CFR 130.2)

Private quarantine facilities will bill user fees directly to importers on a quarter-hour to hourly rate. APHIS factors cost in these instances by the time spent for each service, which includes travel time to ports and airports for veterinary inspections.

Hourly rates also cover the costs of monitoring in-bond or transiting horses passing through the United States and exporting to other countries.

Import Semen and Embryos

Animal semen, embryos, and cloning tissue may not be imported into the United States from a region other than where it was collected.

Any semen and embryo shipments should be routed directly to the United States with no stops other than those designated on the import permit.

Requirements for Importation of Equine Semen, Embryos, and Cloning Tissue into the United States

An **import permit** is necessary for import of equine semen, embryos, and cloning tissue into the United States. Animal semen, embryos, and cloning tissue may not be imported into the United States from a region other than where it was collected.

An **official health certificate,** written in English, is required for the importation of semen, embryos, and cloning tissue. Collection should follow the regulations of the respective country’s approved artificial collection centers for export of equine semen to the United States. The official health certification must be endorsed by a full-time salaried veterinarian of the agency responsible for animal health of the national government of the exporting country of origin.

The donor stallion must also be free from any quarantine or movement restriction for not less than 60 days prior to semen collection.

Generally, importers will use a broker/shipping agent to bring equine semen and embryos into the United States. Learn more about using a broker/shipping agent.

Importing Semen, Embryos, and Cloning Tissue From Non-CEM-Affected Countries

Animal semen, embryos, and cloning tissue may not be imported into the United States from a region other than where it was collected. The certified semen must be collected in a country free of African horse sickness. It should be routed directly to the United States with no stops other than those designated on the import permit.

Collection should follow the regulations of the respective country's approved artificial collection centers for export of equine semen to the United States.

An import permit will accompany the shipment. Importers should apply for an import permit online using APHIS eFile. This will expedite the permitting process and enable users to track the status of their permits, confirm receipt, and easily renew or amend existing permits. Visit Animal Health Permits to learn more about applying for an import permit, including paper applications.

An official health certificate, written in English, is required for entry. The official health certificate must be issued by a full-time salaried veterinarian of the agency responsible for animal health of the national government of the exporting country of origin.

Sample Health Certificate for Equine Semen (62.14 KB)

Certification and testing are described in the attached health certificate. A phantom teaser is preferred over a live teaser mare. All animals must be tested with negative results for dourine within 30 days of the date they enter into the semen collection unit. Subsequent testing must be conducted at 180-day intervals if the stallions and mares remain in the semen collection unit. Stallions must not be used for natural breeding for a period starting 15 days prior to the initial tests for dourine, while the stallion is in the collection unit and while semen is being collected for export to the United States.

All equipment used for collection, processing, and shipping semen must be new equipment or sanitized prior to use. Collected semen must be processed with a semen extender with milk from a country free of foot-and-mouth disease at the time of collection or with egg originating from a country recognized by USDA to be free of Newcastle disease or reportable avian influenza.

Available Ports

Ports listed have APHIS oversight for physical inspections and cleaning and disinfection of containers.

- Atlanta, GA
- Dallas, TX (DFW)
- Houston, TX
- Los Angeles, CA (LAX)
- Memphis, TN
- Miami, FL
- Minneapolis, MN
- Newark, NJ
- New York, NY (JFK)
- San Francisco, CA

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