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Import Horses from Venezuela

Last Modified:

0-Day Quarantine



3-Day Quarantine



7-Day Quarantine



60-Day Quarantine



Follow African Horse Sickness Protocols



No African Horse Sickness Present



Follow Screwworm Protocols



No Screwworm Present



Follow Contagious Equine Metritis Protocols



No Contagious Equine Metritis Present



Follow Foot-and-Mouth Disease Protocols



No Foot-and-Mouth Disease Present



Horses imported to the United States from screwworm-free regions transiting screwworm-affected regions via air, land, or sea will require a minimum of 7 days in quarantine at an APHIS-approved equine import quarantine facility.

Expand All

Import a Horse

Expand All

African Horse Sickness (AHS) Protocols

Horses Importing into the United States From Countries Affected With AHS

APHIS considers certain countries to be affected with African horse sickness (AHS). If you are seeing this message, you are seeking information about the requirements to import a horse from a country considered affected with African horse sickness.

Horses traveling from AHS-affected countries have specific restrictions and requirements that must be adhered to, or fulfilled, during the importation process to prevent the introduction of AHS into the United States. All horses entering the United

States from AHS-affected countries must undergo a **60-day post-arrival quarantine in a specially designed USDA Animal Import Center**. Horses will be kept inside and under strict biosecurity measures for the entire 60-day quarantine procedure. Currently, the only approved facility to handle these horses is the New York Animal Import Center (NYAIC). Advanced notice is required for the importation of horses from AHS-affected countries as modifications to the NYAIC facility may be necessary to house these horses.

Besides the extended quarantine period, there are no other AHS-specific quarantine restrictions beyond those required for the other diseases of concern, if any, when importing a horse into the United States (see below).

Screwworm Protocols

Horses from screwworm-affected countries must complete pre-export treatment and other requirements as part of established import protocols. For more information, see the protocols below and view APHIS-approved products.

Horses Importing into the United States From Countries Affected With Screwworm

The fly species that lay screwworm larvae in living tissue has been eradicated from the United States but is found in **Mexico,** Central America, South America, the Caribbean, Southeast Asia, India, and Africa.

1. Any horse importing from screwworm-affected regions must have a veterinarian treat the horse with ivermectin or an APHIS-approved systemic product 3 to 5 days prior to the date of import into the United States according to the recommended dose prescribed on the product's label.
2. Horses must be examined for screwworm by a full-time salaried veterinary official of the exporting country within 24 hours prior to shipment to the United States. The official must fully examine the horses, including their external genitalia. If horses are found to be infested with screwworm, they must be treated until free from infestation.

3. At the time horses are loaded onto a means of conveyance for export, a veterinarian must treat any visible wounds on the animals with a solution of coumaphos dust at a concentration of 5% active ingredient or or an APHIS-approved topical product.
4. Horses must be accompanied to the United States by a certificate signed by a full-time salaried veterinary official of the exporting country. The certificate must state that the horses, including their external genitalia, have been thoroughly examined and found free of screwworm.
5. Horses must be quarantined upon arrival in the United States at an APHIS animal import center for at least 7 days.
6. Horses must be examined for screwworm by a veterinarian within 24 hours after arrival at an APHIS animal import center in the United States. The examining veterinarian must examine horses, including their external genitalia, to determine whether the horse is infested with screwworm.
7. Horses must be held at the animal import center for a minimum of 7 days. On day 7, prior to the horses' release, the horses must be examined by a veterinarian at the expense of the owner or broker. For this examination, male horses must be tranquilized or sedated so that the external genitalia of the horses can be thoroughly examined. If screwworm is found during this examination, the horses must be held in quarantine and treated until free of infestation.

Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) Protocols

Horses Importing into the United States From Countries Affected With FMD

The official health certificate should document that the horse is importing form a country affected with foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). The health certificate accompanying the horse must be endorsed by a full-time salaried veterinarian of the agency responsible for animal health of the national government of the exporting country (the competent veterinary authority).

The health certificate should state:

- **Within 5 days prior to export**, the horse has not been on any premises or quarantined area identified to be affected with FMD, nor has the horse been in contact with animals that have been in a FMD region or on an FMD affected or quarantined premise. **The horse will not have direct or indirect contact with domestic or wild ruminants or swine for a minimum of 5 days before entering the USDA quarantine facility.**

Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) Protocols

Horses Importing into the United States From Countries Affected With CEM

APHIS considers certain countries to be affected with contagious equine metritis (CEM), a venereal disease of equine. These conditions apply to the country that you have selected.

All stallions and mares over 731 days of age, and stallions and mare less than 731 days of age if ever used for breeding, must undergo CEM isolation and testing after completing the initial Federal import quarantine. Horses will be sent directly to an approved State CEM quarantine of the importer's choice for this testing. States Approved for Conducting CEM Testing

Geldings of any age and non-domesticated zoo equine species, if captured in the wild or from a zoo facility that have not had contact with domestic horses, are exempt from CEM requirements.

CEM Testing for Permanent Entry

Testing of mares consists of an initial complement fixation (CF) blood test for CEM, and 3 sets of culture swabs over a 12-day period, followed by 5 days of scrubbing and coating with an antibacterial ointment of the external genitalia. Culture swabs and CF results must be negative for the mare to be released from CEM quarantine. If any tests are positive, the test and treatment procedure must be repeated until negative results are obtained.

Testing of stallions consists of one set of culture swabs from the external genitalia, followed by live cover breeding to 2 test mares. The stallion's external genitalia will be scrubbed and coated with an antibiotic ointment for 5 days following test breeding. Beginning on day 3 after breeding, culture swabs are collected from the test mare on 3 separate occasions over a 12-day period. Test mares are tested by CF between days 21-28 after breeding. All cultures and CF results from the stallion and test mares must be negative in order for the stallion to be released from quarantine. If any tests are positive, the cultures, test breeding and treatment procedures are repeated until negative results are obtained.

Requirements and Approval Procedures for Labs to Conduct CEM Testing

Horses Participating in Competitions Staying in the United States Under 90 Days

A CEM Waiver for competition is available only for horses participating in specific competitions. These horses are limited to a stay under 90 days. APHIS VS will monitor these horses while in the United States throughout their travels and at venues to restrict their access to domestic horses. Temporary CEM-isolation facilities are arranged in advance of an event. APHIS VS monitors movements of these horses. A signed compliance agreement is made between VS and the facility operator prior to APHIS VS issuing permits for import. The entire travel itinerary within the United States is listed on the import permit. Deviations from this preplanned travel are only allowed if approved and amended to the import permit or in emergency situations.

An import permit is required for CEM Waiver, CEM Exempt horses, and for any horse that will undergo CEM post-arrival testing. Horses being imported under any of these conditions will undergo standard import quarantine upon arrival in the United States, including testing for dourine, glanders, equine infectious anemia, and equine piroplasmosis.

U.S.-Origin Horses Returning to the United States After Temporary Travel Abroad

Some U.S.-origin horses may qualify for a waiver from CEM testing and quarantine upon arrival to the United States, if they meet specific conditions and a full-time

salaried government veterinarian endorses the certification statements in each country the horse visits. These specific conditions include:

1. **You must obtain an APHIS import permit before the horse leaves the United States.** The permit includes the departure date, date of return, and countries to be visited. If the horse takes any deviation from the declared itinerary, you must apply for and receive an amendment to your permit before the horse arrives at the U.S. port of entry. For more information, view the Notice Regarding APHIS Live Animal Import and Third-Country Import Transit Permits.
2. The total time elapsed between the departure of the horse from the United States and its reentry to the United States cannot exceed 90 calendar days.
3. The horse must be accompanied by the original, or certified true copy, of the U.S. export health certificate.
4. The returning horse must be accompanied by an official health certificate with all required certification statements for each country visited. Information about health certificate requirements can be found in the notice mentioned in #6.
5. For the entire duration of temporary travel, all returning horses must be:
    - Held separate and apart from all other horses except when actually participating in an event or exercised by its trainer.
    - Not be on a premises used for any equine breeding.
    - Not bred to or bred by any animal, nor have any other sexual contact or genital examination while in a CEM-affected country.
    - Transported in cleaned and disinfected vehicles that were not used by any other horses after the cleaning and disinfection.
6. For further details, view the notice on Equine Import Requirements for U.S. Returning Mares and Stallions.

Health Certificate

If available, information about APHIS-approved country-specific certificate(s) may be found at the top of the page. Equines importing from countries without an approved country-specific certificate may be able to export using the APHIS Model Health Certificate. See the Veterinary Health Certificate section of the USDA APHIS | Importing Live Equines and Equine Germplasm into the United States webpage for details.

Available Ports

The New York Animal Import Center is the **only** quarantine premises that accepts horses from AHS countries.

Federal Quarantine (New York, NY)

New York Animal Import Center (NYAIC)

Email: vspsnic@usda.gov

Phone: 845-838-5500

Fax: 845-838-5516

Mailing Address

474 International Blvd.

Rock Tavern, NY 12575

Website: New York Animal Import Center

New York, NY—Federal Quarantine for Horse Imports

APHIS Port Services

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

- Select a State - ▼

Loading...

All Contacts

Quarantine Information

No Quarantine Required

Horses coming from this country are considered to be free from screwworm, African horse sickness, and Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis. This means that they require an observation period in quarantine (minimum 42 hours) plus blood testing for dourine, glanders (Australia exempt from both dourine and glanders testing), equine piroplasmosis, and equine infectious anemia. If originating from a country APHIS considers to be free of contagious equine metritis, they will be released after completing the initial quarantine without any further testing.

To officially enter the United States, horses from this country will require:

- An official health certificate, issued by the exporting country.
- An import permit, issued by the National Import Export Services.
- A reservation at an animal import center and at an approved CEM quarantine facility, if applicable.

Horses coming from this country are at higher risk of harboring and spreading Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis (VEE) and require a minimum of 7 days in quarantine before entering the United States. Countries affected by VEE can be found at Animal Health Status of Regions.

Import requirements include a minimum 7-day observation period in an APHIS-approved permanent quarantine facility and blood tests for dourine, glanders, equine piroplasmosis, and equine infectious anemia. Horses must test negative for all these diseases and must show no signs of illness to be released from quarantine. If originating from a country APHIS considers to be free of contagious equine metritis, they will be released after completing the initial quarantine without any further testing.

To officially enter the United States, horses from this country will require:

- An official health certificate, issued by the exporting country.
- An import permit, issued by the National Import Export Services.
- A reservation at an animal import center and at an approved CEM quarantine facility, if applicable.

Import requirements include a minimum 7-day observation period in an APHIS-approved permanent quarantine facility and blood tests for dourine, glanders, equine piroplasmosis, and equine infectious anemia. Horses must test negative for all these diseases and must show no signs of illness in order to be released from quarantine. If originating from a country APHIS considers to be free of contagious equine metritis, they will be released after completing the initial quarantine without any further testing.

To officially enter the United States, horses from this country will require:

- An official health certificate, issued by the exporting country.
- An import permit, issued by the National Import Export Services.
- A reservation at an animal import center and at an approved CEM quarantine facility, if applicable.

Horses coming from this country are a high risk of harboring and spreading African horse sickness (AHS) and require a minimum of 60 days in quarantine before entering the United States.

The New York Animal Import Center is the only quarantine premises that accepts horses from AHS countries.

Blood tests for dourine, glanders, equine piroplasmosis, and equine infectious anemia will be performed on arrival at NYAIC. Horses must test negative for all of these diseases and must show no signs of illness in order to be released from quarantine. If originating from a country APHIS considers to be free of contagious equine metritis, they will be released after completing the initial quarantine without any further testing.

To officially enter the United States, horses from this country will require:

- An official health certificate, issued by the exporting country.
- An import permit, issued by the National Import Export Services.
- A reservation at NYAIC, as well as at an approved CEM quarantine facility, if applicable.

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

Any semen or embryos from countries affected with African horse sickness (AHS) are prohibited.

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.

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 considered by APHIS to be **free** of African horse sickness (AHS).

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

Permit

The importer must be based in the United States and must obtain the import permit from APHIS. The 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.

Health Certificate

An official hard copy 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.

Equine-Equine Semen-United Kingdom-Health Certificate

Equine - Equine Semen - European Union - Health Certificate (397.03 KB) | February 2024

Equine - Equine Embryos - European Union - Health Certificate (343.9 KB) | October 2024

Equine - Equine Semen - European Union - Health Certificate (397.03 KB) | February 2024

Equine - Equine Embryos - Belgium - Health Certificate (745.92 KB) | March 2026

Equine - Equine Semen - European Union - Health Certificate (397.03 KB) | February 2024

Equine - Equine Semen - Sexed Semen - Italy - Addendum | July 2026

Equine - Equine Embryos - European Union - Health Certificate (343.9 KB) | October 2024

Equine - Equine Semen - Switzerland - Health Certificate (966.81 KB) | January 2024

Equine - Equine Semen - Netherlands - Health Certificate (164.15 KB) | September 2024

Equine - Equine Semen - European Union - Health Certificate (397.03 KB) | February 2024

Equine Embryos - Health Certificate - Denmark (787.67 KB) | March 2025

Sample Health Certificate for Export of Micromanipulated Equine Embryos into the United States From Countries Affected With CEM (187.87 KB)

A phantom teaser is preferred over a live teaser mare, if using a live teaser the mare has not been used for natural or artificial breeding prior to entrance into the semen collection center.

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 for dourine must be conducted at 180-day intervals if the stallions and mares remain in the semen collection unit.

Sample Health Certificate for Export of Non-Micromanipulated Equine Embryos into the United States From Countries Affected With CEM (56.24 KB)

Stallions must not be used for natural breeding for a period of time starting 15 days prior to the initial tests for CEM, while the stallion is in the collection unit and while semen is being collected for export to the United States. Before semen is collected, the stallions must be cleaned and then cultured negative for CEM.

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 APHIS to be free of Newcastle disease or reportable avian influenza.

Collection should follow the regulations of the respective country's approved artificial collection centers for export of equine semen to the United States. The veterinarian issuing the health certificate should directly oversee collection, processing, and storage, including placement of semen into individual containers or in straws permanently marked with the identification of the stallion, date of collection, and the collection unit. The certifying veterinarian will maintain custody of the semen until it is placed in the shipping container and sealed with official seals of the government of the country of origin.

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 considered by APHIS to be **free** of African horse sickness (AHS).

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

Permit

The importer must be based in the United States and must obtain the import permit from the APHIS. The 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.

Health Certificate

An official hard copy 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.

Sample Health Certificate for Equine Semen (192.5 KB)

Sample Health Certificate for Equine Embryos (269.61 KB)

Equine - Equine Semen - Argentina - Health Certificate (484.35 KB) | May 2024

Sample Health Certificate for Equine Embryos

Equine - Equine Semen - Brazil - Health Certificate (262.65 KB) | September 2025

Equine - Equine Embryos - Brazil - Health Certificate (1.14 MB) | August 2026

Equine - Equine Semen - European Union - Health Certificate (397.03 KB) | February 2024

Equine - Equine Embryos - European Union - Health Certificate (343.9 KB) | October 2024

Equine - Equine Semen - European Union - Health Certificate (397.03 KB) | February 2024

Equine Embryos - Health Certificate - Denmark (787.67 KB) | March 2025

A phantom teaser is preferred over a live teaser mare, if using a live teaser the mare has not been used for natural or artificial breeding prior to entrance into the semen

collection center.

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 for dourine 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 of time starting 15 days prior to the initial tests for CEM, while the stallion is in the collection unit and while semen is being collected for export to the United States. Before semen is collected, the stallions must be cleaned and then cultured negative for CEM.

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 (FMD) at the time of collection or with egg originating from a country recognized by APHIS to be free of Newcastle disease or reportable avian influenza.

Collection should follow the regulations of the respective country’s approved artificial collection centers for export of equine semen to the United States. The veterinarian issuing the health certificate should directly oversee collection, processing, and storage, including placement of semen into individual containers or in straws permanently marked with the identification of the stallion, date of collection, and the collection unit. The certifying veterinarian will maintain custody of the semen until it is placed in the shipping container and sealed with official seals of the government of the country of origin.

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

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.

Print