

**USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services,
National Center for Import and Export:
PROTOCOL FOR THE IMPORTATION OF
FARMED CERVIDS FROM CANADA**

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1.1 No import permit is required if the cervids are offered for entry at a Canadian land border port.

In any other cases, the importer must obtain an import permit from:

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
Veterinary Services (VS)
National Center for Import and Export (NCIE), Unit 39
4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD 20737-1231

Telephone: (301) 851-3300, Menu option 2.

The application (VS Form 17-129, *Application for Import or In-Transit Permit*.) can be obtained by writing or telephoning NCIE, or by downloading it from the APHIS web site:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/permits/

1.2 An official health certificate is required. The official health certificate must be issued by an accredited veterinarian designated by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), and must be endorsed by a CFIA veterinarian.

1.3 Cervids described on the health certificate must be captive farmed animals. Animals born in the wild are ineligible for entry under this protocol. Properly identified cervids under 6 months of age, traveling at the side of their dam, are exempted from the test requirements in Section 3.

1.4 All cervids must be identified with an official unique individual eartag or tattoo, and must also have a large readable bangle eartag which allows the bangle numbers to be checked without offloading the animals. Bangle tag numbers and corresponding official tag or tattoo numbers must be recorded on the health certificate.

1.5 The health certificate must contain the certification statements as listed in the

**USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services,
National Center for Import and Export:
PROTOCOL FOR THE IMPORTATION OF
FARMED CERVIDS FROM CANADA**

following section. The dates and results of testing for bovine tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*, referred to hereafter as TB) and brucellosis (*Brucella abortus*) required under Section 3 must be recorded on the health certificate.

2. CERTIFICATION STATEMENTS

2.1 Canada is free of foot-and-mouth disease, rinderpest, contagious pleuropneumonia, and surra.

2.2 The cervids offered for entry at a Canadian land border port must meet one of the following conditions: (a) were born in the U.S. or Canada and have been in no other region, or (b) were legally imported into Canada from another region and have been unconditionally released and eligible to move freely within Canada for at least 60 days after such release.

2.3 Continuous records (from the time of birth until export) of animal identification and herds of residence of the animal(s) being exported were verified on the export health certificate by the issuing accredited veterinarian.

2.4 Herd of origin status:

- (a) The herd is enrolled in the Canadian Chronic Wasting Disease Voluntary Herd Certification Program and has achieved Fully Certified status.
- (b) Chronic wasting disease has never been diagnosed in the enrolled herd and/or the herd of origin (if different).
- (c) The herd of origin is a herd officially recognized as free of TB and brucellosis according to the provisions of the CFIA captive ungulate program, and there has been no direct or indirect contact between the herd of origin and any known bovine tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*) and bovine brucellosis (*Brucella abortus*) infected source.
- (d) The herd of origin is not known to have been exposed to any wild population infected with *Mycobacterium bovis*, *Brucella abortus* or chronic wasting disease.

**USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services,
National Center for Import and Export:
PROTOCOL FOR THE IMPORTATION OF
FARMED CERVIDS FROM CANADA**

- (e) The herd of origin does not contain animals from any herd where tuberculosis or brucellosis (*Brucella abortus*) has ever been diagnosed.
- (f) Neither tuberculosis nor brucellosis has been diagnosed on the premises of origin during the five (5) years preceding the start of testing for export.
- (g) On the premises of origin, all *M. bovis* or *Brucella abortus* susceptible ruminants have either attained the status of a herd officially recognized free by CFIA of TB and brucellosis; or are from a herd of negative status for tuberculosis and brucellosis under the Canadian Animal Health Program for Farmed Cervids.
- (h) For farmed cervids originating from Manitoba (or Manitoba farmed cervids which are added to a herd in another province): prior to the individual cervid TB test required under in Section 3, the animals must be isolated as a group for at least 60 days without addition.

2.5 The animal(s) intended for export is/are not the direct offspring of an animal that has been diagnosed with chronic wasting disease; and has/have not resided at any time in a herd in which the disease has been diagnosed.

2.6 If less than one year of age, any animals intended for export were natural additions to the herd of origin.

2.7 During the 60 days prior to export to the United States, the cervids selected for export and the herd of origin remained free from symptoms of infectious or contagious disease, and free of any known exposure to such disease.

2.8 Animals intended for export which were added to the herd of origin, except natural additions or animals from other herds officially recognized as free of TB (or from U.S. Accredited Free herds), have been included in a TB recertification test conducted every 5 years.

2.9 Animals intended for export which were added to the herd of origin, except natural additions or animals from other herds of negative brucellosis status have been included in a brucellosis recertification test within 5 years immediately preceding export.

**USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services,
National Center for Import and Export:
PROTOCOL FOR THE IMPORTATION OF
FARMED CERVIDS FROM CANADA**

3. TESTING REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Tuberculosis - Within 60 days prior to export, each cervid must be tested with negative results for bovine tuberculosis (TB) using the Canadian Mid-Cervical Test (MCT). Any cervid classified as a responder to the MCT is permanently ineligible for entry. However, if the TB-negative status of all responders can be established by comparative cervical testing (CCT) or by post-mortem examination and tissue culture, negative contact animals may be considered for entry.

NOTE: APHIS' TB program testing protocols for cervids require CCT testing of SCT responders within 10 days or more than 90 days after CFT injection, whereas the Canadian TB Program requires CCT testing at least 60 but not more than 100 days after a response. For the purposes of this import protocol, APHIS will accept CCT result performed in accordance with CFIA protocols to determine the status of MCT responders.

3.2 Brucellosis - Within 30 days prior to export, cervids must test negative to a fluorescence polarization assay (FPA) for *Brucella abortus*; or to another primary test for brucellosis if it is OIE approved and acknowledged by APHIS for domestic program use. Animals that test positive for brucellosis by the primary approved test are permanently ineligible for entry. Any primary test-positive contact/cohort animals must be removed from the group and must subsequently test negative to an ELISA test in order for the remaining animals to be considered for entry. All contact animals must test negative by an ELISA test to be considered for export.

4. PORT OF ENTRY INSPECTION

Importers must contact the VS port veterinarian, at least 72 hrs. in advance of intended importation, to make an appointment for presentation for entry and to arrange for payment of inspection fees. The port veterinarian shall conduct a visual health examination of the cervids without offloading, and verify individual identification and the accuracy and validity of the health certificate. Individual animals or the entire load may be refused entry at the discretion of VS port personnel.

**USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services,
National Center for Import and Export:
PROTOCOL FOR THE IMPORTATION OF
FARMED CERVIDS FROM CANADA**

5. ADDITIONS TO U.S. TB ACCREDITED HERDS

U.S. importers adding farmed cervids from Canada that do not meet the TB testing requirements listed under 9 CFR 77.35 (c) applicable to US TB accredited captive cervid herds could jeopardize the accredited herd's status. Importers should consult with their VS area office regarding accreditation or movement questions relating to additions to TB accredited herds.