

USDA, APHIS, VETERINARY SERVICES
NATIONAL CENTER FOR IMPORT AND EXPORT
PROTOCOL FOR THE IMPORTATION OF DOMESTIC
CAMELIDS FROM CANADA

September 2009

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- 1.1 This protocol covers the importation from Canada of domestic or New World camelids, which are animals in the family Camelidae, genus *Lama* or *Vicugna*. Farm-raised Old World camelids (genus *Camelus*) that do not originate from or reside in Canadian zoos may also be imported from under this protocol. (For Old World camelids from Canadian zoos, see Protocol for the Importation of Zoo Ruminants from Canada).
- 1.2 No import permit is required if the domestic camelids are offered for entry to the United States at a Canadian land border port.

For 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-Export (NCIE),
4700 River Road, Unit 39,
Riverdale, Maryland 20737-1231
301-851-3300
301-734-4704 (fax)

An application (VS form 17-129) for the import permit may be downloaded from:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/forms.shtml

and submitted to the fax number above. A processing fee must be submitted along with the application. Please view the following website for more information on processing fees:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/animal_import/animal_imports.shtml

- 1.3 Ports of entry: Domestic camelids must be imported to the U.S. through the ports listed in 9 CFR 93.403. That information may be found at the following link:
<http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=9363a398df22c03776f7d9234602d7b3&rgn=div8&view=text&node=9:1.0.1.4.34.4.63.4&idno=9>
- 1.4 Two copies of VS form 17-29 (Declaration of Importation) must accompany the shipment for presentation to the U.S. Collector of Customs.

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- 1.5 An official health certificate is required. The official health certificate must be issued by a veterinarian accredited by Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), and must be endorsed by a veterinarian employed by CFIA certifying the attestations and tests required in this protocol.
- 1.6 All domestic camelids must be permanently and individually identified. If a microchip transponder is used, an electronic reader that is capable of reading the microchip must accompany the animal(s) to the United States port of entry.
- 1.7 All domestic camelids to be imported from Canada must be at least six (6) months of age and fully weaned prior to shipping, unless traveling at the foot of their dam.
 - 1.7.1 Domestic camelids less than six (6) months of age and traveling at the foot of their dam must be identified on the health certificate and have their health status certified but are not required to be tested for tuberculosis or brucellosis.

2. CERTIFICATION STATEMENTS

- 2.1 Animal Residency: The domestic camelids intended for importation to the United States have resided in Canada or the United States from birth or, if imported from a country other than the United States, have been part of Canada's national herd for a minimum period of time. Paragraphs 2.1.1 describes how USDA, APHIS defines "part of the national herd" and for what length of time the animals must be part of the national herd.
 - 2.1.1 If the domestic camelids intended for importation to the U.S. were imported to Canada from another country, or are the offspring of any such animals, they must be free of any import quarantine or health related restrictions imposed by CFIA and have been able to move freely within Canada's national herd for a minimum of (60) days prior to export to the United States.
- 2.2 *Mycobacterium bovis* (*M. bovis*), *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (*M. tuberculosis*) and *Brucella abortus* (*B. abortus*) have not been diagnosed clinically, by diagnostic test, or by post mortem examination in a camelid, ruminant and/or swine on the premises of origin within the three (3) years preceding the issuance of the export health certificate.
- 2.3 The domestic camelids have been resident in a herd of origin in Canada for minimum period of (60) days prior to export and do not originate from premises containing ruminant or swine species that are not part of a herd recognized by CFIA to be free of Tuberculosis and Brucellosis and either

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All ruminants or swine that have commingled with the domestic camelids intended for importation to the U.S. have been tested at the same time and for the same diseases mentioned in part 3 of this protocol as the domestic camelids intended for importation to the United States;

Or:

During the 60-days immediately prior to export, the domestic camelids intended for importation to the U.S. were isolated from other animals and tested as per part 3 of this protocol.

- 2.4 Upon inspection within 30 days prior to departure for export to the United States, the domestic camelids showed no clinical signs of communicable disease.

3. TESTING REQUIREMENTS

- 3.1 Tuberculosis – within 60 days of export each domestic camelid intended for export must be tested with an intradermal tuberculin test (ITT) with CFIA approved methodology with negative results.
- 3.2 Testing for *M. bovis* in Canada must be conducted by a veterinarian specifically approved by CFIA for the testing of Camelidae, or by a Federal veterinarian trained in the testing of Camelidae for *M. bovis*.
- 3.3 Brucellosis – Within 30 days of export, each domestic camelid intended for importation to the U.S. must be subjected to a standard test for brucellosis, as prescribed for international trade by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), with negative results.

4. DEATHS IN CANADA DURING PRE-EXPORT

- 4.1 Any domestic camelid over the age of six (6) months that dies in the Canadian herd of origin within the 60 day pre-export/isolation period must be subjected to a post-mortem examination supervised by CFIA.
 - 4.1.1 In cases where the cause of death is not conclusively confirmed, appropriate lymph nodes and any suspected lesions found on other organs/tissues must be submitted

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to a Canadian federal veterinary diagnostic laboratory for histological examination and culture for *Mycobacteria spp.* or other suspected diseases.

5. TRANSPORTATION TO THE UNITED STATES

Domestic camelids being exported from Canada to the United States must be transported in cleaned and disinfected trucks directly from the premises of origin (or the isolation facility as per 2.3) to the U.S. port of entry.

6. INSPECTION AT THE PORT OF ENTRY

- 6.1 **Domestic** camelids for U.S. entry must be presented at the port of entry by appointment. Confirmation should be provided to the VS port veterinarian 72 hrs prior to arrival.
- 6.2 **All** domestic camelids will be offloaded for inspection. The port veterinarian shall conduct a visual health examination of the camelids to verify identification and the accuracy of the health certificate. Any animals that are determined to be ill, not fit for further travel, or otherwise to not meet APHIS' import requirements or the requirements of this protocol shall be refused entry and returned to Canada.