

# **Import Requirements for Horses Entering the US from Canada**

## **1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

Horses enter the United States (US) from Canada for several different purposes. Generally, horses entering the US from Canada must be accompanied by an official veterinary health certificate and evidence of a negative test for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) within 180 days prior to export. The following types of entry into the US from Canada have been established. Import requirements for each type are slightly different, and are detailed below:

- Horses from Canada presented for permanent entry into the US
- Horses from Canada entering the US temporarily for 30 days or less
- US origin horses traveling into Canada for 30 days or less and returning to the US
- US origin horses traveling into Canada for publicly recognized exhibitions and returning to the US in 90 days or less

Horses may also be imported from Canada to the US for immediate slaughter. Slaughter horses must enter with a veterinary health certificate, and must also comply with the requirements of 9 CFR 88, Commercial Transportation of Equines for Slaughter. Horses not in compliance with both 9 CFR 93 Subpart C and 9 CFR 88 will be refused entry into the US. For additional information, see [Import Requirements for Horses from Canada Entering the US for Immediate Slaughter \[link\]](#)

## **2. HEALTH CERTIFICATIONS**

- A. Horses from Canada entering the US either permanently or temporarily must be accompanied by a health certificate endorsed by a salaried veterinarian of the Canadian government stating that the horses have:
  - i. Been in that country for 60 days immediately preceding importation.\*
  - ii. Been inspected and found free of contagious diseases and insofar as can be determined, exposure thereto during the 60 days immediately preceding exportation.

- iii. Not been vaccinated with a live, attenuated, or inactivated vaccine during the 14 days immediately preceding exportation.
- iv. Not been on premises where African horse sickness, dourine, glanders, surra, epizootic lymphangitis, ulcerative lymphangitis, equine piroplasmiasis, equine infectious anemia (EIA), contagious equine metritis (CEM), vesicular stomatitis, or Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis has occurred during the 60 days immediately preceding exportation, nor have these diseases occurred on any adjoining premises during this same period of time.
- v. Not been in a country where CEM is known to exist, nor have had any contact, breeding or otherwise, with horses from such a country, for the 12 months preceding exportation.
- vi. been found negative to Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) within 180 days prior to export on a sample tested by an approved laboratory.

\*Horses from Canada who have been in Canada less than 60 days must be accompanied by an original copy of export health certificate from country of origin. If original is not available, a copy endorsed by Canadian government veterinary officials is acceptable. In addition, they must be accompanied by certification from Canadian government veterinary officials that the horses have been tested for dourine, glanders equine infectious anemia, piroplasmiasis, and have been released from quarantine. Import testing requirements for Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) if required have been met in Canada, and the horse should be accompanied by documentation certifying to the testing. The official export health certificate statements in i. – v. above will certify the horses for the time period they have been in Canada.

For horses from Canada imported into the US for less than 30 days under Temporary Customs Authorization, the health certificate is valid for an unlimited number of importations for 30 days from the date on the health certificate.

- B. Horses of US origin exported to Canada with a US-issued export health certificate valid for a period of 30 days from the date of issue may reenter the United States an unlimited number of times during the 30-day period, without USDA veterinary port inspection, at any Custom land border port of entry designated for animals from Canada, if accompanied by the original export health certificate.
- C. Horses from the US which have been exhibited at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair at Toronto or other publicly recognized

expositions in Canada, including racing, horse shows, rodeo, circus, or stage exhibitions in Canada, and have not been in that region for more than 90 days are eligible for return to the US without Canadian health certificates, if they are accompanied by copies of the original US export health certificate, issued and endorsed in accordance with the export regulations for traveling to Canada. The health certificate shall also certify that the horse has been tested with negative results for EIA within 180 days prior to return to the United States.

### **3. PRE-EXPORTATION REQUIREMENTS**

All horses entering from Canada must be negative for Equine Infectious Anemia on a test taken within 180 days of entering the US.

### **4. PERMIT INFORMATION**

An import permit is not required for Canadian horses entering the US, or for US horses traveling into Canada and returning to the US.

### **5. PORTS OF ENTRY**

Horses from Canada which are subject to inspection must enter through one of the following designated ports of entry:

Eastport, Idaho; Houlton and Jackman, Maine; Detroit, Port Huron and Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan; Baudette and International Falls, Minnesota; Opheim, Raymond, and Sweetgrass, Montana; Alexandria Bay, Buffalo, and Champlain, New York; Dunseith, Pembina, and Portal, North Dakota; Derby Line and Highgate Springs, Vermont; Oroville and Sumas, Washington.

### **6. PORT INSPECTION**

Horses from Canada presented for permanent entry into the US will be inspected by a VS port veterinarian at the border. A fee will be charged for this inspection.

US origin horses traveling into Canada for publicly recognized exhibitions and returning to the US in 90 days or less will be inspected at the US port of entry and must be found free of communicable diseases. A fee will be charged for this inspection.

Horses from Canada entering the US temporarily for 30 days or less, and US origin horses traveling into Canada for 30 days or less are not subject to port inspection.