



Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

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Veterinary Services
Strategy and Policy
Live Animal Imports

**Notice Regarding APHIS Import Permits for Equine Imports from CEM
Affected Regions**

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USDA APHIS would like to bring to your attention the following issue regarding import permits for horses imported from regions APHIS considers to be Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) affected.

Effective January 1, 2021, the following will apply at all ports of entry for all horses imported from CEM affected regions.

In accordance with Title 9 Code of Federal Regulations part 93.304 (9 CFR 93.304), horses entering the United States from (CEM) affected regions must obtain an APHIS import permit prior to arrival. This includes intact mares and stallions, geldings and yearlings.

USDA has not enforced this permit requirement for geldings and yearlings when quarantined at a federal facility. However, we recognize the concerns and issues this inconsistency causes for port personnel preparing for and processing each shipment and for importers which use both federal and approved private quarantine facilities.

APHIS is committed to providing efficient customer service and consistent practices and procedures at all ports of entry.

Beginning January 1, 2021, an APHIS import permit must be obtained for all horses imported from CEM affected regions including intact mares and stallions, geldings and yearlings regardless of where import quarantine is completed. Permit applications may be submitted through the electronic ePermit System, or by email to VS.Live.Animals.Import.Permits@usda.gov. Standard processing times for routine permit applications is 7-10 business days. Permit applications for more complex imports not managed by the ports of entry will take longer to process.

USDA encourages you to share this notice of information with your equine import customers and shipping agents in exporting countries.

For further information about import permit requirements please visit the [USDA APHIS VS Live Animal Imports](#) website or contact Live Animal Imports at (301) 851-3300.