USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services,
National Center For Import And Export:
Protocol For The Importation Of
Cattle, Bison, Sheep And Goats
For Immediate Slaughter From Canada

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1.1 For the purposes of this document, bovine is defined to include *Bos taurus* (domestic cattle), *Bos indicus* (Brahma or Zebu type cattle), and *Bison bison* (American buffalo).

1.2 No import permit is required if the ruminants are offered for entry at a land border port listed in 9 CFR 93.403(b) and meet one of the following conditions:

a) are born in the United States or Canada and have been in no other region, or
b) are legally imported into Canada from a bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)-free region and have been unconditionally released and eligible to move freely within Canada for at least 60 days prior to importation into the United States.

In any other case, 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

The web site to obtain the import permit application (VS 17-129) is:
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie.

1.3 An original and two copies of the official Canadian health certificate are required for <u>each</u> vehicle. The official health certificate must be issued by a veterinarian designated or accredited by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), and must be endorsed by a full-time salaried veterinarian employed by CFIA attesting to the certifications and tests required in this protocol. The health certificate is valid for 30 days from the issue date.

1.4 The official health certificate must include:

a) name and address of the importer;
b) species, breed, and number of bovines, sheep, or goats to be imported;
c) purpose of the importation;
d) individual identification, which includes the eartag number, and any other identification present on the animal, including registration number (if any);

e) description of the bovines, sheep, or goats, including name, age in months, color, and markings (if any);
f) region/country of origin (**Note:** this part should read Canada. If the animals originated in the United States, then the certificate can indicate "U.S." in this part);
g) address or other means of identifying the premises of origin and any other premises where the bovines, sheep, or goats resided immediately prior to export;
h) address of the slaughter establishment; including the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) establishment number;
i) name and address of the exporter;
j) the port of embarkation in Canada, the mode of transportation, route of travel, and port of entry in the United States; and
k) identification numbers of the Canadian seals that have been applied to the vehicle.

2. HEALTH CERTIFICATIONS

2.1 The bovines, sheep, or goats have been kept in Canada during the last 60 days immediately preceding the date of shipment to the United States, and during this time, Canada has been free from foot-and-mouth disease, rinderpest, and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia. [Ref: 9CFR 93.405(a)(1)]

2.2 The bovines, sheep, or goats are not in quarantine in Canada. [Ref: 9CFR 93.405(a)(2)]

2.3 The bovines, sheep, or goats have been inspected and found to be free from any evidence of communicable disease and that, as far as can be determined, they have not been exposed to any such disease during the preceding 60 days. [Ref: 9CFR 93.418(a)]

2.4 The bovines, sheep, or goats are not pregnant.

2.5 With regard to bovines (cattle or bison) imported for immediate slaughter, the following certifications must be made:

2.5(a) the cattle or bison are **less than 30 months** of age when imported into the United States [Ref: 9CFR 93.436];

2.5(b) the cattle or bison are subject to a ruminant feed ban equivalent to the requirements established by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [Ref: 9CFR 93.436] [Ref: 21CFR 589.2000];

2.6 With regard to sheep and goats imported for immediate slaughter the following certifications must be made:

2.6(a) the sheep or goats are subject to a ruminant feed ban equivalent to the requirements established by FDA [Ref: 9CFR 93.419] [Ref: 21CFR 589.2000];

2.6(b) the sheep or goats have not tested positive for, or are suspect for, a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy [Ref: 9CFR 93.419];

2.6(c) the sheep or goats have not resided in a flock or herd that has been diagnosed for BSE [Ref: 9CFR 93.419];

2.6(d) the movement of the sheep or goats is not restricted within Canada as a result of exposure to a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy [Ref: 9CFR 93.419]; and

2.6(e) the sheep or goats **are less than 12 months** of age [Ref: 9CFR 93.419].

3. TESTING

3.1 No tests are required for slaughter bovine, sheep, or goats.

4. PORT OF ENTRY INSPECTION

4.1 Animals must be presented by appointment to a U.S. port of entry listed in 9 CFR 93.403(b). The VS Form 17-29 "Declaration of Importation" must be completed by the customs broker and must be presented to the port veterinarian along with the official health certificate.

4.2 Animals must arrive at the port of entry in a vehicle that has been sealed in Canada with seals of the national government of Canada. (In the event that Customs and Border Protection [CBP] inspected the vehicle, CBP will reseal the vehicle with official seals.) The Canadian seal numbers must be included on the Canadian health certificate. If the seals are broken, missing, or do not match the seal numbers on the health certificate, the entire shipment will be refused entry. In the event that the shipment does not comply with protocol requirements, the port veterinarian will document the number of animals in the shipments that are rejected. The port veterinarian will also contact the appropriate officials with CBP and CFIA port authorities to inform them of the refusal of the shipment.

4.3 The port veterinarian shall inspect the animals and examine the health certificate and verify that the requirements of this protocol have been met. The port veterinarian will then issue VS Form 17-33 "Animals Imported for Immediate Slaughter" and VS Form 17-30, "Report of Animals, Poultry or Eggs offered for Importation."

4.4 If the Canadian seals are broken by the APHIS port veterinarian at the port of entry, official seals of the U.S. Government will be applied by the port veterinarian and noted on the VS Form 17-33, along with any Canadian or CBP seals that remain intact on the vehicle.

5. POST ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

5.1 The sealed shipment must be moved directly from the port of entry to the slaughter establishment identified on the VS Form 17-33.

5.2 The seals can only be broken at the slaughter establishment by a USDA representative. It is the responsibility of the USDA representative to complete VS Form 17-33 and return it to the port veterinarian within 14 days of receipt of the shipment. If the seals are broken, missing, or do not match the seal numbers listed on the VS Form 17-33, the slaughter establishment should not accept the shipment and should contact the Area Veterinarian in Charge of the State.

5.3 The cattle or bison must be less than 30 months of age when slaughtered; sheep and goats must be less than 12 months when slaughtered.