

State Regulations for Imports to Puerto Rico

Last Modified April 1, 2019

Health Requirements Governing the Admission of Animals into Puerto Rico

For More Information on Current Regulations Please Contact:

Dr. Alejandro Perez
State Animal Health Officer (SAHO)
Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture (PRDA)
Dorado Diagnostic Lab.
#9 Road 693, Dorado, PR 00646-3445
787-796-0138 / 787-796-1650
Fax: 787-796-5873
Email: aperez@agricultura.pr.gov

Contact email address:
caolivo@agricultura.pr.gov
a_rivera@agricultura.pr.gov

Website:
<https://www.agricultura.pr>

Whenever the laws and regulations concerning the movement and health of livestock, poultry, birds, and other animals in the territory of Puerto Rico are more restrictive than those of the U.S. Federal Government, the laws and regulations of Puerto Rico shall apply in addition to those of the U.S. Federal Government.

No livestock, poultry, birds, or other animals that are affected with, or have been exposed to any infectious, contagious, communicable disease, or ectoparasites, or which originate from an area quarantined by a Territory, State, or the Federal Government because of such disease or parasites, shall be permitted entry to Puerto Rico, except with a permit issued by the Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture (PRDA), State Animal Health Official (SAHO).

Each animal or bird that applies for entry to Puerto Rico must be accompanied by an official interstate health certificate signed by a USDA-accredited veterinarian in the U.S. state of origin, and will be valid for 30 days from the inspection date. An import permit is required prior to shipment of the animals or birds, one permit number for each species to be imported.

All applications for an import permit must be directed to the PRDA SAHO, Dorado Diagnostic Lab, #9 Rd. 693, Dorado, PR 00646-3445, and the following information must be included:

1. Name and address of consignor and consignee

2. Species and number of animals
3. Exact description of the animals or birds including an official individual identification (microchip for horses, dogs, cats, and pet birds), wing or leg bands for pet birds, RFID for livestock (cattle, sheep, goats, other), age, sex and race. Poultry are exempt from official individual identification.
4. Point of origin
5. The date and results (provide copies) of any laboratory or other tests performed (if applicable)
6. Dates of vaccinations, and name of vaccines administered
7. Proposed date of shipment
8. Destination of animals and local address in Puerto Rico
9. Means of transportation
10. Reason for shipment and use of animals
11. Copy of the approved interstate health certificate stating that the animals are free of clinical signs of infectious or contagious diseases, or any exposure thereto
12. And any other requirement for a specific species of animal, see below

Import permit processing fee varies by species. Please contact the PRDA office for additional information on weekdays, Monday thru Friday, between the hours of 7:30 am to 4:00 pm ET, and no less than 5 business days before the date of shipment.

All livestock, poultry, birds, and other animals entering Puerto Rico under import permit shall be consigned to an individual who is a resident of Puerto Rico, or to a legal entity authorized by law to do business within Puerto Rico.

The consignee shall hold the animals upon arrival until all the provisions of the permit have been met. All import permits shall be void 2 months (60 days) after issuance. All livestock, poultry, birds, and other animals entering Puerto Rico shall, upon arrival, remain in the custody of the carrier pending an inspection and release by an authorized veterinarian or a designated agent of the Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture. Inspection fees apply and vary on hours of operation. Please contact the PRDA office for additional information.

All livestock must be isolated (quarantined) immediately after entering Puerto Rico at the destination facility, to allow for further testing by the PRDA (see below).

Any livestock, poultry, birds, or other animals that enter the territory of Puerto Rico that are found to be diseased, or exposed to, or a carrier of any infectious, contagious, or communicable disease, shall be returned to the point of origin, or destroyed and disposed of as directed by the office of Veterinary Services of PRDA, or an authorized representative, at the expense of the owner or importer. The Government of Puerto Rico in no way shall render any compensation for any animals so destroyed.

For animals that originate from outside of the United States or its territories, the U.S. Federal Import Regulations apply. For more information please go to:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel>

*****DOGS AND CATS*****

- **Dogs and cats do not need a PRDA import permit for interstate movement.**
- All dogs and cats entering Puerto Rico shall be accompanied by an official interstate health certificate, stating that the animal did not originate from an area quarantined for rabies.
- All dogs and cats over four (4) months of age must be current on rabies vaccines. A valid rabies vaccination certification must accompany the shipment.
- All dogs and cats must be microchipped as their official individual identification.
- For information on importing dogs into the United States for resale, whether through commercial sale or adoption, please visit:
https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalwelfare/sa_awa/ct_awa_import_live_dogs_regulation

*****PSITTACINE BIRDS*****

- For all psittacine birds, an import permit issued by the PRDA SAHO is required upon entry into Puerto Rico.
- The birds must also be accompanied by an official interstate health certificate stating that the birds are free of clinical signs of psittacosis, Avian Influenza, Newcastle disease, and did not originate from an area under quarantine for any infectious or contagious disease reasons affecting the species.
- REQUIRED TESTS: The birds must be subjected to individual tests with negative results prior to shipment for:
 - **Avian Influenza:** (AGID or HI)
 - ***Salmonella pullorum, S. gallinarum and S. typhimurium:*** (rapid plate test, agglutination test, or identification of agent)
 - ***Chlamydia psittaci:*** (complement fixation or ELISA)

Exotic bird species must meet any requirements stipulated by the Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources. For more information contact DRNA at 787-999-2200 ext. 2750 or fax 787-999-2268.

*****POULTRY & HATCHING EGGS*****

- “Poultry” is defined as chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, guinea fowl, pea fowl, pigeons, doves, quail, partridges, and pheasants.
- Hatching eggs, newly hatched chicks, and poultry less than five (5) months of age, must be accompanied by a VS Form 9-3, “Report of Sales of Hatching Eggs, Chicks, and Poults” certificate issued by the U.S. National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP), indicating that the birds come from flocks classified as “**U.S. Pullorum-Typhoid Clean and U.S. Mycoplasma Gallisepticum Clean**”.

HORSES

- All equidae entering Puerto Rico must be vaccinated against *Equine Encephalomyelitis* (eastern and western) vaccine, Equine Influenza and Equine Herpes Virus, within six (6) months prior to the date of shipment to Puerto Rico.
- All equidae must have a negative *Equine Infectious Anemia* (Coggins) test within six (6) months prior to the date of shipment to Puerto Rico.
 - The AGID (Coggins) test must be performed by a USDA Approved Laboratory, with samples being collected by a USDA-Accredited Veterinarian or State or Federal regulatory personnel.
 - The results of the AGID (Coggins) test shall be indicated on the official interstate health certificate, stating the name and address of the laboratory performing the test, the date, and the results of the test.

HOGS

- The entry of live hogs to Puerto Rico is prohibited until further notice. For special import permit requests contact the PRDA SAHO office.

SMALL RUMINANTS

- “Small ruminants” are defined as sheep and goats. All sheep and goats entering Puerto Rico shall be accompanied by an official interstate health certificate stating, the animals:
 1. Originate from a state or territory officially determined to be “Consistent” with the U.S. Federal requirements of the APHIS scrapie control program.
 2. Originate from herds that are not quarantined for any contagious or communicable disease reasons.
 3. Are not the progeny of scrapie positive animals.
 4. Were found negative for tuberculosis within 60 days, and brucellosis within 30 days prior to date of shipment.
 5. Were found negative for *caprine arthritis encephalitis* (CAE) (goats only) and for *ovine progressive pneumonia* (a.k.a. Maedi-visna) (sheep only).
 6. Were treated for external parasites within 15 days prior to date of shipment.

NOTE: All small ruminants will be quarantine at the destination of the consignee until one brucellosis test (performed within thirty (30) days of arrival) and one tuberculosis test (at least 60 days since the most recent test and within ninety (90) days of their arrival) are performed, and both test results are negative. All tests will be performed at the expense of the owner/importer.

CATTLE

- All cattle (dairy or beef breeds) entering Puerto Rico must be permanently identified by an official U.S. RFID ear tag.

Brucellosis

- All cattle more than thirteen (13) months of age must have a negative brucellosis test (either a serum agglutination tube test, or card test, or equivalent test) within thirty (30) days prior to the date of shipment.
- Cattle must originate from certified brucellosis free herds. Exception can be allowed if they are calves less than 6 months of age, or animals officially brucellosis vaccinated dairy heifers under 20 months and beef heifers under 24 months of age.
- Cattle which originate from states/territories that are classified as “Class A” brucellosis status must have an additional negative laboratory test within twelve months prior to the date of shipment, without showing reactors.

Tuberculosis

- All cattle must be negative to a tuberculosis test within 60 days prior to the date of shipment.
- All cattle must either originate from a tuberculosis Accredited Free states/territory, or if they originate from Modified Accredited states/territories the whole herd must be test negative within twelve (12) months prior to the date of shipment.
- The date and results of the tuberculin test must be recorded on the health certificate.

NOTE: All cattle will be quarantine at the destination of the consignee until one brucellosis test (performed within thirty (30) days of arrival) and one tuberculosis test (at least 60 days since the most recent test and within ninety (90) days of their arrival) are performed, and both test results are negative. All tests will be performed at the expense of the owner/importer.

*****ZOO, FUR-BEARING, & OTHER WILD ANIMALS*****

- Contact the PRDA SAHO for requirements and import permit instructions.

*****SEMEN & FROZEN EMBRYOS*****

- Contact the PRDA SAHO for requirements and import permit instructions.

*****BIOLOGICS, MICROORGANISMS, & PARASITES*****

- No microorganism, parasite specimens or samples shall be permitted entry into Puerto Rico without the written approval of the State or Federal Veterinarian in Charge.

*****RABBITS*****

- Contact the PRDA SAHO for requirements and import permit instructions.