



REGULATIONS FOR PUERTO RICO

GENERAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORT OF ANIMALS

Num. Law of 69 June 18, 1957, as amended and Regulations of the Department of State. No. 3437

Veterinary Services and Animal Health
Department of Agriculture
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1. When the laws and regulations of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Regarding to health requirements for livestock and poultry are more restrictive than the Federal Government, the laws and regulations of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico shall take precedence as the laws and regulations of the Federal Government are more restrictive, the Federal laws and regulations these shall take precedence.
2. No animals or infected with or has been exposed to an infectious , contagious or originated from a herd or area under quarantine for a territory, state or federally disease , poultry will be allowed to enter Puerto Rico .
3. Each animal or bird that comes to Puerto Rico must be accompanied by an official health certificate prepared by an accredited State it shall be valid for 30 days from the date of shipment veterinarian. The health certificate must contain:
 - a) The exact description of the animals or birds including an official individual identification (microchip - horses , cattle -RFID (electronic display special identification number) , sheep and goats - RFID and / or microchip) , age , sex and race .
 - b) The date and results of laboratory or other tests, the name of the accredited laboratory or the person who performed the test.
 - c) Date of vaccination and vaccine administered.

d) Name and address of the consignee and / or owner, consignor, origin and destination of animals.

e) A certification that the animals are free of symptoms or infectious, contagious or have been exposed to these diseases.

f) And any other certificate required for a specific species of animal

4. Each shipment of animals under these regulations and will require an import permit number, other dogs and cats. (See letter from Secretary (o) of Agriculture on procedures for granting import permit number).

5. All livestock and poultry must be preemptively isolated (quarantined) immediately after entering Puerto Rico and to allow for formal testing by the Department of Agriculture.

6. Livestock and poultry are in a bad health condition during arrival or while in quarantine should be slaughtered without compensation to the owner.

*** **CATTLE** ***

I. *Brucellosis*

All dairy cattle or beef that try to enter Puerto Rico must originate from:

- a) Herds officially certified as free of ***brucellosis***,
- b) Herds certified free of brucellosis in areas modified certified brucellosis-free, where the last test was made within twelve (12) months prior to the date of shipment without showing reactors. All dairy cattle breed meat or for more than thirteen (13) months of age, you must have gone through a negative brucellosis test within thirty (30) days prior to the date of shipment.

II. *Tuberculosis*

All dairy cattle or meat must originate from accredited ***tuberculosis*** -free where the last test has been made within twelve (12) months prior to the date of shipment herds. All dairy cattle beef cattle or for more than three (3) months shall have passed with negative ***tuberculosis*** test within thirty (30) days following the date of shipment.

III. *Quarantine*

Until it is built and operated by the government of Puerto Rico a quarantine station to be used compulsorily all cattle dairy or meat will be quarantined in the grounds of the consignee, until it has gone through loss or a brucellosis test within thirty (30) days of arrival day, and a second TB test within ninety (90) days of their arrival.

*** HORSES ***

Horses, mules, and asses shall be vaccinated against **Equine Encephalomyelitis** with bivalent vaccine, **Influenza** and **Herpes virus** within six (6) months prior to the date of shipment.

All equine animals must have passed a negative test for **Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA)** within six (6) months prior to arrival to Puerto Rico. This test shall be performed by a laboratory accredited by United State Department Agriculture (USDA).

Among other things, the certificate shall also indicate the outcome of the test, the date on which it took place, the name and address of the laboratory where it was made.

*** HOGS ***

The entry of live pigs Puerto Rico are prohibited until further notice , once released the prohibition are the following requirements and all those that are designated by administrative order.

All swine to enter Puerto Rico must be accompanied by an official health certificate stating that they came from a validated **Brucellosis** – free herd and **Pseudo-rabies** -free herd; happened with a negative blood test for brucellosis, swine Pseudo-rabies and **Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS)** thirty (30) days prior to arrival date days, coming directly from a State classified as IV or V of rated negative herds State Pseudo-rabies.

All hogs arriving Puerto Rico should be quarantine and completely isolated from other farms in pigs for a least thirty (30) days. They shall be retested for **Brucellosis** and **Pseudo Rabies** after 30 days following the date of arrival by a veterinarian employed by the Department of Agriculture of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or of the United State Department of Agriculture.

SMALL RUMINANTS

The small ruminants are defined as sheep and goats. They should come with test results **Tuberculosis** and **Brucellosis**, thirty (30) days, prior to the date of shipment.

The official health certificate must state that they are free from infectious, contagious, or communicable disease: they have not been exposed to “lumbago itching or pruritus” (**Scrapie**).

The health certificate must also contain negative tests **Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (CAE)** for goats **Ovine Progressive Pneumonia**, (Maedi-visna), for sheep results.

***** DOGS and CATS *****

The certificate should not be originated from an area quarantined for rabies.

All dogs and cats over four (4) months of age must be vaccinated against rabies within six (6) months prior to the date of shipment, shall be properly identified and accompanied by a certificate of vaccination against rabies.

All breeds of Staffordshire bull terrier, American Staffordshire terrier, American Pit Bull terrier and hybrids produced by crossbreeding with dogs of other breeds are prohibited from being introduced or imported to Puerto Rico.

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

Health certificate must indicate that birds are free of **Psittacosis (Ornithosis)**, disease, **Avian Influenza** and "**New Castle Disease**".

REQUIRED TESTS

The birds should be subjected to individuals test negative prior to shipment to:

Avian influenza: agar gel immunodiffusion (AGID) Haemagglutination Inhibition (HI).

S. pullorum, S. gallinarum and S. typhimurium: rapid plate test. Agglutination test (Agg) or identification or agent (Agent id).

Chlamydia psittaci: Complement Fixation test or ELISA.

Note: The results of the tests required for the introduction of exotic birds to Puerto Rico, should be sent to our office to obtain the permit number before the arrival of the birds.

Exotic bird species must meet any requirements stipulated by the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources of Puerto Rico (DRNA). (787-999-2200 ext. 2750, 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.

Shipping hatching eggs, newly hatched chicks and poultry any bird less than five (5) months of age must be accompanied by a certificate issued by the **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**".

All birds older than five (5) months that do not come under the NPIP flocks , must be accompanied by an official health certificate signed by the veterinarian of the state, territory or possession of the United States.

All birds must pass a blood test for *pullorum* disease and fowl typhoid , ***Mycoplasma Gallisepticum*** , and free of disease with negative **Avian Influenza** thirty (30) days prior to arrival date days to Puerto Rico and have not been exposed to any infectious , contagious and communicable disease for sixty (60) days preceding the date of movement.

REQUIRED TESTS

The birds should be subjected to individuals test negative prior to shipment to:

Avian influenza: agar gel immunodiffusion (AGID) Haemagglutination Inhibition (HI).

S. pullorum, S. gallinarum and S. typhimurium: rapid plate test. Agglutination test (Agg) or identification or agent (Agent id)

New Castle disease: Viral insolation and Haemagglutination (HI).

*** RABBITS ***

See General Requirements.

*** SEMEN & FROZEN EMBRYOS ***

See General Requirements.

*** ZOO, ANIMALS AND WILDLIFE ***

Exotic animals must meet the general requirements and any other stipulated by the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Resources Puerto Rico (DRNA). (787-999-2200 ext. 2750, fax 787-999-2268).

They come in a separate shipment of farm animals.

*** BISON AND LLAMAS ***

Refer to general and of cattle and other requirements stipulated by the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources of Puerto Rico (DRNA). (787-999-2200 fax 787-999-2268)

They come in a separate shipment of farm animals.

