

USDA, APHIS, VETERINARY SERVICES
STRATEGY & POLICY
PROTOCOL FOR THE IMPORTATION OF
BREEDING CATTLE AND WATER BUFFALO FROM AUSTRALIA

November 2007, Update May 2018

This protocol describes the conditions required to import live breeding cattle and water buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*) according to regulations found in 9 CFR Part 93.

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1.1. The importer must obtain an import permit from the:

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
Veterinary Services (VS)
Strategy & Policy (S&P)
4700 River Road, Unit 39
Riverdale, MD 20737-1231

Telephone: **(301) 851-3300, Option 2**
Fax: **(301) 734-4704**

Web Site: [APHIS Imports](#)

The application, **VS Form 17-129, “Application for Import or in Transit Permit,”** may be obtained by writing or telephoning S&P, or by downloading it from the APHIS web site: [Animal Health Permits](#)

1.2. The importer must also reserve quarantine space at the following USDA quarantine center:

New York Animal Import Center
(NYAIC)
Rock Tavern, New York
Telephone: (845) 564-2950

1.3. Alternatively, the quarantine may be completed at a USDA-approved privately owned minimum security quarantine facility for ruminants that is in compliance with title 9, *Code of Federal Regulations*, part 93.412. The importer may contact S&P for further information.

1.4. An official **health certificate** is required on entry. The official health certificate must be issued by a veterinarian designated by the Australia Department of Agriculture, and must be endorsed by the Australia Department of Agriculture attesting to the certifications and tests required in this protocol. Results and dates of all required official tests must be included in the certification.

1.5. The official health certificate must include:

1.5.1. Name and address of the importer;

1.5.2. Species, breed, and number of the animals to be imported;

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- 1.5.3. Purpose of the importation;
- 1.5.4. Individual identification, which includes the eartag number or other approved forms of individual identification, and any other identification present on the animal, including registration number and brands;
- 1.5.5. Description of the animals, including age in months, sex, breed, and markings (if any);
- 1.5.6. Region/country of origin;
- 1.5.7. Address or other means of identifying the premises of origin and any other premises where the animals resided immediately prior to export;
- 1.5.8. Name and address of the exporter;
- 1.5.9. Port of embarkation, the mode of transportation, route of travel, and port of entry in the United States.

2. CERTIFICATIONS BY THE AUSTRALIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

- 2.1. Australia is free of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), surra, and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia.
- 2.2. The animals for export were born, raised, and continuously resident in Australia or were part of Australia's national herd for a minimum period of time. Paragraphs 2.6.1 and 2.6.2 describe how the United States defines "part of the national herd" and the length of time the animals must be part of the national herd.
 - 2.2.1. If the animals for export were imported from countries recognized by USDA as free of FMD, then these animals must have been free of any import quarantine restrictions and able to move freely within Australia's national herd for a minimum of 60 days prior to entering the pre-embarkation facility.
 - 2.2.2. If the animals were imported from a country not recognized by USDA as free of FMD, then the animals for export must have been free of any import quarantine restrictions and able to move freely within Australia's national herd for a minimum of 90 days prior to export.
- 2.3. During the 12 months preceding export to the United States, there was no evidence of vibriosis or trichomonas (based on official declaration by the owner) found in these animals or other animals associated with these animals for export.
- 2.4. There were no reports of Johne's disease among the animals offered for import during the previous 5 years.
- 2.5. No cases of disease caused by Schmallenberg virus have been detected or reported.

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3. PRE-EMBARKATION REQUIREMENTS

3.1. EITHER:

3.1.1. For a minimum of 60 consecutive days immediately preceding exportation, the cattle were kept under the supervision of Australia Department of Agriculture in a facility approved by the Australia Department of Agriculture, located in a vector-free region. The dates of quarantine shall be recorded on the health certificate. For this protocol, the “vector-free region” is defined as:

3.1.1.1. Free from tick vectors capable of transmitting *Babesia*; and

3.1.1.2. Certified free from bluetongue, bovine ephemeral fever, Akabane, and Aino viruses.

OR:

3.1.2. The animals for export must be inspected for ticks and dipped prior to being placed in the tick-free and arbovirus vector-free facility certified by the Australia Department of Agriculture as vector-free (as defined above) during the 60 days prior to export to the United States (see Addendum I: Guidelines to Establish a Tick-Free and Vector-Free Facility in an FMD-Free Country”).

3.2. Within 10 days prior to export, the animals must be examined for external parasites and treated for ectoparasites using a product registered for that purpose in Australia and used according to the product’s specifications. The product, concentration, dose and date of treatment must be on the health certificate.

3.3. Permanent identification that shows the cattle to be of Australian origin shall be placed on each animal prior to entering the embarkation quarantine facility.

3.3.1. The permanent identification shall be any form of unique individual animal ID that is:

3.3.1.1. Officially recognized by the Australian government (with the exception of a rumen bolus);

3.3.1.2. Able to be traced to the farm of birth;

3.3.1.3. Capable of being retained for the life of the animal; and

3.3.1.4. Tamper-evident.

3.4. Each animal was examined within 48 hours of the scheduled date of shipment and found to be free of any signs of contagious and infectious diseases.

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4. TESTING REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1. Tuberculosis: The animals for export must originate from a herd of origin testing negative to a whole herd test for tuberculosis within 1 year prior to the date of exportation to the United States. The animals for export must also test negative to an additional intradermal tuberculin test for TB conducted no more than 6 months and no less than 60 days prior to export. A negative test means no detectable response using both visual examination and palpation when read 72 hours following injection with intradermal tuberculin. This test must be performed by a veterinarian designated by the Australia Department of Agriculture.
- 4.2. Trichomonas and Campylobacter: During the 60 day isolation period immediately before export, preputial/vaginal washings from each bull over 12 months of age and each female which may have been served naturally in its lifetime tested negative on culture and microscopic examination for *Trichomonas fetus* and *Campylobacter fetus*.

5. TRANSPORTATION

- 5.1. The animals for export must be loaded onto vehicles cleaned with a disinfectant and transported directly to the port of embarkation. During transit from the pre-embarkation quarantine premises to the port of embarkation and loading, the animals do not come into contact with any animals or equipment used with animals of a lesser health status (based on an official declaration by the transporter). These animals must be transported to a port of embarkation within the vector-free region of Australia, without transiting any region which is not certified vector-free.
- 5.2. At no time may there be contact with livestock that were not quarantined to at least the same standards.
- 5.3. All hay and straw provided for the cattle in the transporting aircraft or ocean vessel must be sourced from vector-free regions.
- 5.4. No animals other than those animals intended for export to the United States are permitted aboard the transporting aircraft or ocean vessel. The captain of the transporting carrier must be advised of the transportation requirements.
- 5.5. All required certifications relating to the health of the animals, tests conducted, cleaning, disinfecting, transportation, and hay and bedding shall accompany the qualifying animals for export to the United States port of entry.
- 5.6. No stops or ports of call are allowed except those provided in items 6 and 10 of the United States Import Permit.

6. U.S. PORT OF ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 6.1. All hay, straw, bedding, manure, and similar material accompanying the animals (except pelleted feed stored separate and apart from the animals) must be removed and incinerated on

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arrival at the first United States port of entry. The animal area and equipment must be cleaned with a disinfectant.

- 6.2. The United States import inspection, required tests, and quarantine will be accomplished at a USDA-operated animal import center located at the port described in paragraph 1.1. Transport must be arranged so that arrival at the port of entry will be accomplished with minimal transiting of other United States ports of entry. Any flight will be allowed to transit only United States ports authorized on the import permit. The import permit must accompany the shipment.
- 6.3. The cattle shall be quarantined a minimum of 30 days with the tuberculosis test repeated once during the quarantine period.
- 6.4. Various other tests or treatments may be required when the Deputy Administrator, Veterinary Services, determines that such tests or treatments are necessary.

7. ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES

Check the animal health regulations of the importing state of destination for possible additional regulations and requirements for the proposed import ([State Regulations and Import Requirements](#)). It is the responsibility of the importer to follow all guidelines for the importation of regulated live animal commodities to the destination state.

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Addendum I: Guideline to Establish a Tick-Free and Vector-Free Facility

1. The facility must be located so water from surrounding areas will not flow into or through the facility. The facility must have an adequate and sanitary water supply for the animals and for cleaning purposes.
2. The facility must have a properly equipped dipping vat or high pressure spray equipment. There must be a roof or covered section of pens of sufficient size to protect all animals treated for ticks from exposure to rain or hot sun. All alleys, chutes, pens, and feed storage areas must have impervious flooring (paving, blacktop).
3. The facility must have a walk-through shower with dressing areas located at both ends of the walk-through shower. Personnel working with the cattle or buffaloes in quarantine must change from their street clothing, shower, and change into clean clothing before handling the cattle or buffaloes.
4. The entire facility must be double-fenced with heavy gauge woven wire fencing at least 2.5 meters high (approximately 8 feet) in order to keep out all domestic and wild animals that may carry ticks. (No pets will be allowed inside the quarantine area.) The space between the fences must be at least 3 meters wide (approximately 10 feet) and kept free of all vegetation.
5. The quarantine area must be marked by a conspicuous sign bearing the words "Quarantine Area" written in the national language of the country of origin in letters not less than 25 centimeters high (10 inches). Only authorized personnel are allowed access to the facility.
6. All hay or other non-processed roughage must originate in the United States or other countries recognized by USDA as free of cattle fever ticks and Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD).
7. Processed feed or roughage may be used if it originates in a country free of FMD, and if it has been treated, packaged, shipped, and stored in a manner so that it is free of ticks.
8. All openings in the building must closed, or they must be double-screened with a mesh size preventing the entry of arbovirus vectors.