

**USDA APHIS VETERINARY SERVICES,  
STRATEGY & POLICY  
PROTOCOL FOR THE IMPORTATION OF SHEEP AND GOAT SEMEN  
FROM AUSTRALIA**

**October 2008, Modified May 2018**

This protocol describes the conditions required to import semen from domestic sheep (*Ovis spp.*) and goats (*Capra spp.*) according to regulations found in 9 CFR Part 98.

**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. An official health certificate is required. This official health certificate must be issued by a veterinarian designated by the Australian Department of Agriculture, and must be endorsed by a Department of Agriculture veterinarian attesting to the certification and tests as required in this protocol.
- 1.3. The semen must originate from a semen collection center (SCC) approved by the Government of Australia.

**2. CERTIFICATIONS**

- 2.1. Australia is free of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), surra, scrapie, contagious pleuropneumonia, goat pox, *Brucella abortus* and *Brucella melitensis*.
- 2.2. Bovine tuberculosis is a notifiable disease in Australia.
- 2.3. No cases of disease caused by Schmallenberg virus have been detected or reported in Australia.
- 2.4. The animals for export were born, raised, and continuously resident in Australia or were

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part of Australia's national herd for a minimum period of time. Paragraphs 2.4.1 and 2.4.2 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.

- 2.4.1. If the donors 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 beginning the qualifications necessary for the collection of germplasm for export to the United States.
- 2.4.2. If the donors 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 beginning the qualifications necessary for the collection of germplasm for export to the United States..
- 2.5. During the 60 days prior to the collection of germplasm for export to the United States, the donors were not corralled, pastured, or held with animals that are not of equal health status or under any restrictions which would make them ineligible for export to the United States.
- 2.6. During the 12 months prior to the collection of germplasm for export to the United States, there has been no evidence to indicate that the donors have been affected with or exposed to bluetongue, Akabane, Aino, tuberculosis, or brucellosis.

**3. THE HEALTH CERTIFICATE MUST SHOW**

- 3.1. The identification of the donor by breed and registry number;
- 3.2. The dates on which semen was collected for export to the United States;
- 3.3. The dates and methods of testing and results of the tests on the donor;
- 3.4. The name and address of the consignor and consignee;
- 3.5. The name and address of the laboratory conducting the tests; and
- 3.6. The name and address of the SCC where the semen was collected and processed for this shipment.

**4. TESTING**

- 4.1. Arboviruses:

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- 4.1.1. **EITHER** the donor sires were kept continuously in a Department of Agriculture registered semen collection center located in a region certified free from bluetongue, Akabane, and Aino for a minimum of 60 consecutive days before commencement of, and during, collection of the semen. The dates of residence in the semen collection center will be included on the export health certificate;
- 4.1.2. **OR** were tested on two occasions, the first test at or near the time of collection (within 30 days prior to collection), and the second test between 30 and 180 days after collection of the semen, using the following tests:
  - 4.1.2.1. Akabane - Negative to a serum neutralization test at 1:4 serum dilution.
  - 4.1.2.2. Bluetongue – Negative to an agar gel immunodiffusion test or the competitive ELISA (cELISA) test.
  - 4.1.2.3. Aino - Negative to a serum neutralization test at a 1:10 serum dilution.
- 4.1.3. **OR** were tested negative for Akabane, Bluetongue, and Aino by a virus isolation test or PCR on blood samples collected at the start and conclusion of, and at least every 7 days during semen collection for this consignment.

**5. PROCESSING CERTIFICATION**

- 5.1. The semen must be collected and processed under the supervision of the veterinarian in charge of the approved SCC and placed in individual ampules or straws, which must be permanently marked with the name of the donor, his registration number, and the date of collection.
- 5.2. The semen shipping container must be examined by the veterinarian issuing the health certificate and found empty of semen and any other biological material before use for this shipment.
- 5.3. The semen must be maintained under lock and key or in the custody of the veterinarian issuing the certificate until it is placed in the shipping container and sealed with Government of Australia seals. The seal numbers must be recorded on the health certificate.
- 5.4. The shipment must be routed directly to the United States with no stops en route other than those provided for on the import permit.

**6. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

Importers are advised that individual states may additional import regulations. It is the importer's

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responsibility to verify these conditions and to meet them. The importer should contact the U.S. State veterinarian ([State Regulations and Import Requirements](#)) of the destination state to determine the requirements.

**6. ARRIVAL AND INSPECTION AT THE PORT OF ENTRY**

- 6.1. The shipment must be routed directly to the United States from Australia with no stops en route other than those provided on the USDA import permit. This shipment may not transit a region considered by USDA APHIS to have foot and mouth disease (FMD) as noted on the USDA APHIS webpage: [Animal Health Status of a Region](#)
- 6.2. Upon arrival at the port of entry, the importer or the importer's agent must present the original health certificate and the original import permit for the semen to an inspector at the port.
- 6.3. The shipping container and all straws or ampules containing semen must be made available for inspection at the port of entry and may not be removed from such port of entry until an inspector determines that the semen are eligible for importation in accordance with this protocol and releases the shipment.

**7. SEMEN SHIPMENTS REFUSED ENTRY**

If any semen shipments are determined to be ineligible for importation into the United States on arrival at the port of entry, the importer must remove such shipments from the United States within 30 days, or the shipment will be destroyed.