

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)  
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE (APHIS)  
VETERINARY SERVICES, NATIONAL IMPORT EXPORT SERVICES  
PROTOCOL FOR THE IMPORTATION OF LIVE SHEEP AND GOATS  
FROM AUSTRALIA**

**February 2006, Modified May 2018**

**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)  
National Center for Import and Export, (NCIE) Unit 39 4700 River Road  
Riverdale, MD 20737-1231

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)  
Veterinary Services (VS) National Import Export Services (NIES)  
Unit 39, 4700 River Road  
Riverdale, MD 20737-1231

Telephone: (301) 851-3300, option 2  
FAX: (301) 734-4704

Web Site: [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/import-live-animals/ct\\_import\\_live\\_animals](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/import-live-animals/ct_import_live_animals)

The application, **VS Form 17-129, “Application for Import or in Transit Permit,”** may be obtained by writing or telephoning NIES, or by downloading it from the APHIS web site [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/resources/forms/ct\\_vs\\_forms](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/resources/forms/ct_vs_forms)

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

New York Animal Import Center (NYAIC)  
230-59 Rockaway Blvd., Suite 101  
Jamaica, NY 11413

Telephone (845) 838-5500 [quarantine]  
Fax (718) 553-3572

Email: [VSPSNIC@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:VSPSNIC@aphis.usda.gov)

- 1.3. Alternatively, the quarantine may be completed at a USDA-approved privately owned minimum security quarantine facility for ruminants in compliance with title 9, *Code of Federal Regulations*, part 93, as amended on January 1, 2015. The importer may contact NIES for further information.

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- 1.4. An official health certificate is required. The official health certificate must be issued by a veterinarian designated by the Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (ADAWR), and must be endorsed by an ADAWR veterinarian attesting to the certifications and tests required in this protocol.
- 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;
  - 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**

- 2.1. Australia is free of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), surra, scrapie, contagious pleuropneumonia, sheep pox, goat pox, *Brucella abortus* and *Brucella melitensis*.
- 2.2. Bovine tuberculosis is a notifiable disease in Australia.
- 2.3. Within the previous 12 months prior to collection of animals for this consignment, no cases of bovine tuberculosis have been reported in the animal herd, or from any group of animals

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susceptible to bovine TB with which the animal commingled.

- 2.4. No cases of disease caused by Schmallenberg virus have been detected or reported in Australia.
- 2.5. Animals originated from farms where no cases of anthrax were officially reported during the last six months.
- 2.6. 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.
  - 2.6.1. 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.
  - 2.6.2. If the animals are offspring of animals 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 entering the pre-embarkation facility .
- 2.7. During the 12 months preceding the animal's qualification for export to the United States there was no evidence of tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*), Brucellosis (*Brucella abortus*, *Brucella melitensis* or *Brucella ovis*), leptospirosis, paratuberculosis (Johne's disease) vibriosis, or Maedi Visna found in these animals or other animals associated with the animals for export.
- 2.8. There have been no reports of Johne's disease among animals offered for import during the previous 5 years.

### **3. PRE-EMBARKATION REQUIREMENTS**

- 3.1. For a minimum of 60 consecutive days immediately preceding exportation, the animals were kept under ADAWR supervision in an ADAWR-approved facility, located in a vector-free region. The dates of quarantine shall be recorded on the health certificate.
- 3.2. For this protocol, the "vector-free region" is defined as:

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- 3.2.1. Free from tick vectors capable of transmitting Babesia; and
- 3.2.2. Certified free from bluetongue, bovine ephemeral fever, Akabane, and Aino viruses.
- 3.3. **OR** 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 ADAWR 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”).
- 3.4. 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.
- 3.5. Permanent identification that shows the animals to be of Australian origin shall be placed on each animal prior to entering the embarkation quarantine facility. The permanent identification shall be any form of unique individual animal ID that is:
  - 3.5.1. Officially recognized by the Australian government (with the exception of a rumen bolus;
  - 3.5.2. Able to be traced to the farm of birth;
  - 3.5.3. Capable of being retained for the life of the animal; and
  - 3.5.4. Tamper-evident.
- 3.6. 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.

**4. TRANSPORTATION**

- 4.1. The animals for export must be loaded onto vehicles thoroughly cleaned, and disinfected before being transported directly to the port of embarkation.

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- 4.2. During transit from the pre-embarkation quarantine facility to the port of embarkation and loading, the animals must 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).
- 4.3. At no time may there be contact with livestock that were not quarantined to at least the same standards.
- 4.4. 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.
- 4.5. All hay and straw provided for the animals must be sourced from vector-free regions.
- 4.6. No animals other than those animals intended for export to the United States are permitted aboard the transporting aircraft or vessel. The captain of the transporting carrier must be advised of the transportation requirements.
- 4.7. 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.
- 4.8. No stops or ports of call are allowed except those provided in items 7 and 10 of the United States Import Permit.

**5. U.S. PORT OF ENTRY QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS**

- 5.1. 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 upon arrival at the first United States port of entry. The animal area and equipment must be cleaned with a disinfectant.
- 5.2. The United States import inspection, required tests, and quarantine will be accomplished at a USDA-operated animal import center or USDA APHIS approved private ruminant quarantine facility as described in paragraph 1.1. Transport must be arranged so the arrival at the port of entry will be accomplished with minimal transiting of other United States ports of entry.
- 5.3. Any flight will be allowed to transit only United States ports authorized on the import permit. The import permit must accompany the shipment.

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- 5.4. On arrival, the animals must be quarantined a minimum of 30 days, with the tuberculosis and brucellosis testing performed during the start of the quarantine period. Once the animals have arrived, they will receive a treatment for internal and external parasites with a product labeled for such use (i.e. ivermectin or similar product).
- 5.5. Various other tests or treatments may be required when the Deputy Administrator, VS, determines that such tests or treatments are necessary.
- 5.6. If all test results are negative and no other infectious and communicable disease conditions become evident, VS will issue a VS Form 17-30 (Report of Animals, Poultry, or Eggs Offered for Importation) and the animals will be released to the importer.

**6. ANIMALS REFUSED ENTRY:**

Any animal refused entry into the United States for noncompliance with the requirements of this protocol must be removed from the United States within a time period specified by the Administrator, or will be considered abandoned by the importer. Pending removal or abandonment, the animal will be subject to such safeguards as the APHIS inspector determines necessary to prevent the possible introduction of ectoparasites or disease into the United States. If an animal that has been refused entry is not removed from the United States within a prescribed time period or is abandoned, it may be seized and destroyed, or otherwise disposed of as the Administrator determines necessary to prevent the possible introduction of ectoparasites or disease into the United States.

**7. THE IMPORTER MUST PAY FOR ALL SERVICES PROVIDED BY USDA APHIS PERSONNEL IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ABOVE SPECIFICATIONS, THROUGH USER FEES AS PUBLISHED IN 9 CFR, SECTION 130.5.**

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

1. The facility shall be so located that water from the 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 furnished shall include a properly equipped dipping vat or high pressure spray equipment and a roof of 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 be provided with a walk-through shower with dressing areas on both sides. Personnel working with the animals in quarantine must change from their street clothing, shower, and change into clean clothing before handling the animals.
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 which 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 shall 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 the USDA as being 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 from FMD and has been treated, packaged, shipped, and stored in a manner so that it is free of ticks.
8. All openings in the building must be double screened with both screens being a minimum of 52 mesh (52 holes per linear inch).