

**USDA APHIS VETERINARY SERVICES  
NATIONAL CENTER FOR IMPORT AND EXPORT**

**PROCEDURES FOR SHIPMENTS OF CANADIAN-ORIGIN SHEEP AND  
GOATS TRANSITING THE U.S. BY AIR OR LAND/AIR  
TO A THIRD COUNTRY**

March 2012

**I. General**

- A. Under a joint arrangement made by USDA APHIS Veterinary Services (APHIS VS) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), sheep and goats of Canadian origin that are not currently eligible to enter the United States may move to eligible airports in the United States for immediate export to a third country. This includes sheep or goats of more than 12 months of age; pregnant females; and sheep and goats intended for purposes other than feeding/slaughter.
- B. Applications for shipments of Canadian-origin sheep and goats (including those moving as personal pets) to transit the U.S. under this protocol will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and will be approved subject to the availability of the necessary APHIS VS resources and ability of a shipment to meet the criteria in this document.

Transit shipments involving air-only movement through the United States may be accommodated at airports for which APHIS provides export-related services. A general list of airports approved as ports of embarkation may be found at

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/downloads/pt\\_e.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/downloads/pt_e.pdf). Note: Anchorage, AK may be used on a case-by-case basis (if approved in advance by VS) involving re-fueling of air transits of Canadian sheep and goats. See I.E and II.A.6 below for additional information.

The VS Area Office (for the U.S. state where air transit is being requested) should be consulted by the importer regarding VS availability to accommodate the shipment. A list of VS Area Offices may be found at [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/downloads/vsavic.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/downloads/vsavic.pdf)

- C. Transit shipments traveling by land conveyance to an airport in the United States may be presented for VS inspection at the Canadian land border ports found at [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/animals/animal\\_import/animal\\_imports\\_portlist.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/animal_import/animal_imports_portlist.shtml) : Eastport, Idaho; Houlton and Jackman, Maine; Detroit, Port Huron, and Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan; Baudette, Minnesota; Opheim, Raymond, and Sweetgrass, Montana; Alexandria Bay, Buffalo, and Champlain, New York; Dunseith, Pembina, and Portal, North Dakota; Highgate Springs, Vermont; Oroville and Sumas, Washington.

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- D. Land shipments from Canada transiting under this protocol should generally move through the closest airport for which APHIS provides export-related services, relative to the U.S. border state of entry. The VS Area Office for the state or states involved in these transits should be consulted by the applicant regarding the nearest eligible airports, in advance of contacting NCIE for a permit.
- E. Additionally, emergency/contingency arrangements at any eligible airports must be made in advance by the applicant requesting the transit, and be approved by APHIS (see II.A.6 below)

## **II. Roles and Responsibilities**

- A. **Applicants.** The Applicant (e.g. agent, broker, other individual) is responsible for obtaining all necessary permits and documentation, and making adequate financial arrangements, in advance of a shipment.

The steps to be followed by the applicant consist of:

1. Obtaining a completed APHIS VS transit permit (VS Form 17-135, "United States Permit to Import" ) from the:  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Veterinary Services  
National Center for Import and Export Unit 39  
4700 River Road  
Riverdale, MD 20737-1231  
Telephone: (301) 851-3300  
Facsimile: (301) 734-4704  
Email: [VS-Live.Animals\\_Import.Permits@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:VS-Live.Animals_Import.Permits@aphis.usda.gov)

An application form (VS Form 17-129, "Application for Import or in Transit Permit,") for the permit can be obtained by emailing, writing, or telephoning the National Center for Import Export (NCIE), or by downloading it from the APHIS Web site:

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/forms.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/forms.shtml). Applicants may submit and pay electronically; for more information, please see: [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/permits/login\\_epermits.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/permits/login_epermits.shtml).

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A point of contact in the U.S. must be designated by the Applicant on the application form. This person must be available to be contacted by APHIS VS at all times in case of any problems experienced during the transit.

If applicable, the APHIS VS transit permit will identify any additional responsibilities of the applicant.

2. Obtaining a VS Form 17-29 (Declaration of Importation) to present to the port veterinarian at entry (this form is for Customs purposes).
3. Obtaining the appropriate health documentation required by the receiving country to accompany the animals.
4. Arranging with and seeking acknowledgment from APHIS VS (at least 10 business days in advance of the shipment) to provide monitoring services needed at the designated airport. Adequate arrangements for payment must also be made at this time.
5. Contacting the APHIS VS Port Veterinarian in the border state 3 business days in advance of the shipment to confirm the time of arrival for inspection by APHIS VS at the point of United States entry, and/or the time of arrival at a designated airport. (Port Veterinarian contact information will be provided on the transit permit.)
6. Consulting with APHIS VS concerning contingency plans for emergency offloading or otherwise dealing with transportation or animal health issues/emergencies en route. The route of travel should also be documented and communicated to APHIS VS prior to embarkation. APHIS VS must approve the land route to be taken by the shipper for shipments involving land/air transport.
7. Paying all applicable User Fees (see Section V).

B. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is responsible for:

1. Providing additional or technical assistance to the exporter regarding export regulations.
2. Issuing all health and other documentation required by a receiving (third) country.

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3. Reviewing the Applicant's proposed Feed/Water/Rest arrangements in Canada (if applicable) for approval.
4. Issuing a CFIA license and/or permit if applicable.
5. Sealing the vehicles used (CFIA or Canadian Border Services Agency acting on behalf of the CFIA) for transport to the U.S. and recording seal information on the CFIA export health certificate addendum accompanying the transiting animals; and for unsealing/re-sealing vehicles as needed at the approved rest stops (if applicable) within Canada.

C. APHIS Veterinary Services is responsible for:

1. Reviewing applications for transshipments (including contingency arrangements) and issuing transit permits for approved applications.
2. Inspecting shipments per Section III of this protocol.
3. Collecting User Fees for all services provided under this protocol.

**III. Port and other transit procedures** [NOTE: the transit permit will stipulate whether any deviations from this process apply to a specific transit as a condition of the receiving country, such as breaking of seals, offloading, inspections or issuance of a VS Form 17-37.]

- A. For shipments arriving by land transport at a border port and proceeding to a designated airport: when the shipment arrives at the land port, VS will determine that CFIA seals are intact and conduct a visual inspection from outside of the conveyance.
1. Any animals that are ill, dead, or otherwise considered unfit for travel to the airport of embarkation by APHIS VS will be refused entry (see Section IV). If CFIA seals are broken by VS, the shipment should be re-sealed with APHIS seals.
  2. A VS Form 1-27 (*Movement of Restricted Animals*) will be issued at the border port, with the CFIA or APHIS seal numbers noted on the form. A VS Form 17-30 release will also be issued at the border port. 'Immediate

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Export of Restricted Sheep/Goats Transiting the U.S.' should be listed in the 'Remarks' sections of the 17-30 and 1-27 forms.

3. The shipment must proceed after entry inspection directly from the specified border state port of entry to the designated airport for export to a third country, following the route listed in the import permit.

C. For shipments arriving at a designated airport or transiting multiple airports directly by air:

1. By prior arrangement, APHIS VS personnel will meet the shipment at the designated airport(s) to verify that the CFIA and/or APHIS VS seals (as applicable) are intact, and conduct a visual inspection (without offloading) to determine fitness for further travel.
2. VS personnel will verify that the shipment is accompanied by the APHIS import permit, and the CFIA-endorsed export health certificate/documentation to the third country. Conveyances with CFIA and/or APHIS VS seals that are missing, broken, or otherwise tampered with, or that are not accompanied by both the APHIS VS and CFIA documentation will be refused entry by APHIS VS (see Section IV). For shipments that are transiting multiple airports, VS will issue a VS Form 1-27 and note the seal numbers on the form. A VS Form 17-30 release (with '*Immediate Export of Restricted Sheep/Goats Transiting the U.S.*' listed in the 'Remarks' section) should be issued at the first airport for any transits involving multiple airports.
3. APHIS VS personnel at the airport of embarkation will fax confirmations of the seal numbers to VS port personnel at the first airport (if multiple US airports are being transited).

**IV. Animals Refused Entry**

- A. Entry may be refused by APHIS VS at the port of arrival or any other port involved in the transit if:
1. Prior arrangements have not been adequately made for the transshipment.
  2. Any required documentation is missing, incomplete, altered, suspected of being falsified, or is otherwise not considered valid.

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3. Seals are missing, broken, appear to have been tampered with, or were not recorded on the Canadian export health certificate.
  4. Dead animals, sick animals, or injured animals are found on the conveyance. Individual animals or the entire shipment may be refused entry at the discretion of the inspecting APHIS VS veterinarian.
- B. Options for return of transits refused entry include the U.S. point of contact coordinating with the Canadian shipper/exporter and the VS Area Office to discuss a possible return to the premises of origin. [The VS Area Office may also contact state animal health authorities, the Regional Import-Export Coordinator, and/or NCIE as part of this process, if necessary.] For cases of refused entries involving humane issues, euthanasia (and APHIS VS-prescribed disposal of the animals by incineration, landfill or other means) may also be utilized, at the discretion of the port veterinarian.

**V. User Fees**

- A. APHIS VS will collect applicable User Fees for the services it provides under this protocol. [NOTE: The fee for processing the APHIS VS permit application is a fee separate from the fees for other services provided by APHIS VS.] The permit will stipulate that unless other User Fee payment arrangements have been made and approved in advance by VS port personnel, the permit holder is responsible for ensuring that all fees are paid by the time of any services rendered. Shipments for which User Fee payments have not been adequately arranged may be refused entry by VS at any port of transit.
- B. CFIA will separately charge applicable User Fees for the services it provides. The applicant must arrange for payment of CFIA fees directly to CFIA.