



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Veterinary Services

National Center for
Import-Export

4700 River Road
Unit 40
Riverdale, MD 20737

Telephone:
(301) 734-3277

Facsimile:
(301) 734-8226

Clarification of NCIE Policy for the importation of hides and skins from Mexico:

Veterinary Services (VS), National Center for Import and Export (NCIE) recently published a regulation in the Federal Register implementing new requirements for the importation of fresh (green) ruminant hides and skins from Mexico. The new requirements include verification, by Customs and Border Protection, that the ruminant hides and skins are:

- (1) free of live and dead ticks, AND
 - (2) accompanied by an official certificate stating that the ruminant hides and skins have been treated with an acaricide; OR
 - (3) accompanied by proof that the ruminant hides and skins were taken from cattle that were dipped with a specific tickicidal dip at a Mexican facility 7 to 12 days prior to slaughter; OR
 - (4) accompanied by a certificate/documentation issued by the importer or shipper attesting to the fact that the ruminant hides and skins were frozen solid for 24 hours.
- Please be advised that the hides and skins need to be in a condition (thawed) to allow for inspection for ticks.

Ticks pose a risk of disease (i.e. cattle fever, heartwater) introduction due of their ease of mobility, small size and resistance to freezing. Because of this, VS has limited the importation of ruminant hides and skins from Mexico to the provisions listed above (9CFR 95.5). As a result, VS inactivated (classified as "prohibited") all USDA approved establishments that were previously approved to receive ruminant hides and skins that are infested with ticks.

Therefore, although consignment to a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved establishment is an option for the other hides and skins (i.e. swine, birds) listed in the new regulations, ruminant hides and skins from Mexico that do not meet the new import requirements, do not have this option as there are no longer USDA approved establishments approved to receive ruminant hides or skins from Mexico.

In accordance with VS, NCIE current policy, fresh (green) ruminant hides and skins from Mexico not meeting the above 4 import requirements must be refused entry.

Thank you for your consideration,
Karen A. James-Preston, DVM, MPA
Director, NCIE/ TTST, Animal Products



Safeguarding American Agriculture
APHIS is an agency of USDA's Marketing and Regulatory Programs
An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer