

USDA, APHIS, VETERINARY SERVICES
NATIONAL CENTER FOR IMPORT AND EXPORT
PROTOCOL FOR THE IMPORTATION OF CATTLE OR BISON FROM CANADA
November 2007

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for immediate slaughter and other than immediate slaughter are similar, except for requirements for tuberculosis testing, identification, and moving from the port of entry to the slaughter establishment. The term “bovines” includes both cattle and bison.

General regulations are described in title 9 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* part 93.

- 1.1 No import permit is required if the bovines are offered for entry at a land border port and meet one of the following conditions:
 - a) The bovines were born in Canada on or after March 1, 1999 (which is determined by APHIS to be the date of the effective enforcement of a ruminant-to-ruminant feed ban in the region of export), and have been in no other region; or
 - b) The bovines were born in the United States or were legally imported into Canada from a region recognized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) as a region not restricted due to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), and have been under no movement restrictions within Canada or the United States for at least 60 days prior to importation into the United States.

In any other case, the importer must obtain an import permit from:

USDA
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
Veterinary Services (VS)
National Center for Import and Export (NCIE)
4700 River Road, Unit 39
Riverdale, Maryland
20737-1231

The import permit application (VS 17-129) can be found online at www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie.

- 1.2 An official health certificate is required. The official health certificate must be issued by a veterinarian designated by Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), and must be endorsed by a veterinarian employed by CFIA attesting to the certifications and tests required in this protocol.
- 1.3 The official health certificate must include:
 - a) name and address of the importer;
 - b) species, breed, and number of bovines to be imported;
 - c) purpose of the importation;

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- d) individual identification, which includes the official Canadian eartag number or other approved forms of individual identification, and any other identification present on the animal, including registration number and brands;
- e) description of the bovines, including age in months, sex, breed, and markings (if any);
- f) region/country of origin;
- g) address or other means of identifying the premises of origin and any other premises where the bovines resided immediately prior to export;
- h) specific physical location of the APHIS-approved slaughtering establishment, including the applicable Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) establishment number for bovines for immediate slaughter;
- i) name and address of the exporter;
- j) port of embarkation in Canada, the mode of transportation, route of travel (slaughter animals), and port of entry in the United States.

2. IDENTIFICATION

- 2.1 For bovines, except those for immediate slaughter, the “CAN” brand or tattoo must be properly applied before the animals arrived at the port of entry. Improperly applied brands or hair brands or anything that does not result in a permanent mark is not acceptable. The mark must be no less than 2 inches high or more than 3 inches high, and must be applied to each animal’s right hip, high on the tail-head (over the junction of the sacral and first coccygeal vertebrae). If a tattoo is used it must identify the exporting country with the CAN letters applied to the inside of the left ear. Note that alternative methods of permanent identification may be used if prior approval is given by NCIE before the shipment reaches the port. Any alternative methods of identification that are approved by NCIE will be communicated promptly through the Regional Offices to the port veterinarians.
- 2.2 All bovines, including those for immediate slaughter, must be individually identified with an official eartag of the country of origin traceable to the premises of origin of the animal (birth place). The official eartag must be tamper-resistant and provide unique identification for the individual animal and either use the country code as a prefix or have a mark unique to official eartags of the country of origin. The official eartags must have one of the following numbering systems:
 - a) National Uniform Eartagging System; or
 - b) Animal identification number, composed of the 3-digit country code and a 12-digit number unique to the animal; or
 - c) Premises-based number system

No person may alter, deface, remove, or otherwise tamper with the official identification while the animal is in the United States or moving into or through the United States, except that the identification may be removed at the time of slaughter.

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3. CERTIFICATION STATEMENTS

The following statements must be on the health certificate:

- 3.1 The bovines have been inspected and found to be free from any evidence of communicable disease, and, as far as can be determined, have not been exposed to any such disease during the preceding 60 days.
- 3.2 Canada is free of foot-and-mouth disease, rinderpest, surra, and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia.
- 3.3 The bovines were born in the United States or Canada or were legally imported into Canada from a region recognized by the USDA as a region not restricted due to BSE, and have been under no movement restrictions within Canada or the United States for at least 60 days prior to importation into the United States.
- 3.4 The bovines are not in quarantine in Canada.
- 3.5 The bovines were born on or after March 1, 1999, which is the date determined by APHIS to be the effective enforcement of a ruminant-to-ruminant feed ban.
- 3.6 The bovines have been individually identified with an official Canadian eartag, applied prior to each animal's entry into the United States.
- 3.7 For bovines imported for other than immediate slaughter, the following certifications are required in addition to the above certifications:
 - 3.7.1 The bovines are from a brucellosis-free province or territory or from a brucellosis-free herd.
 - 3.7.2 The bovines have continuously resided in a tuberculosis accredited free or modified accredited advanced province or U.S. State.
 - 3.7.3 The bovines have been permanently and humanely identified before arrival at the port of entry with either a tattoo or a distinct and legible CAN mark that has been properly applied with a freeze brand, hot iron, or other permanent method, and is easily visible on the live animal. [Note: If a tattoo is used it must identify the exporting country with letters (CAN) applied to the inside of the left ear. Note that alternative methods of permanent identification) may be used if prior approval is given by NCIE before the shipment reaches the port. Any alternative methods of identification that are approved by NCIE will be communicated promptly through the VS Regional Offices to the port veterinarians.]

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4. TUBERCULOSIS (TB) TESTING

- 4.1. No tests are required for bovines that are certified by CFIA as continuously residing in a TB-free province.
- 4.2. USDA considers the Province of Manitoba as modified accredited advanced TB status.
 - 4.2.1 No test is required if any of the following apply:
 - a) The bovines are moved directly to slaughter.
 - b) The bovines are sexually intact heifers moved to a feedlot or steers or spayed heifers.
 - c) The bovines are from an accredited herd and are accompanied by a certificate which states that the accredited herd completed the necessary tests for accredited status with negative results within 1 year prior to the date of movement.
 - 4.2.2 If none of the conditions in 4.2.1 apply, an official tuberculin test is required within 60 days prior to the date of movement. A negative test means no detectable response using both palpation and visual examination when read 72 hours following injection with intradermal tuberculin. This test must be performed by a veterinarian designated or accredited by CFIA.

5. FOR IMMEDIATE SLAUGHTER

- 5.1 Bovines for immediate slaughter must be inspected and moved directly from the port of entry to the APHIS approved slaughtering establishment in conveyances that are sealed with seals of the U.S. government at the port of entry. The route of travel from the port of entry to the approved slaughtering establishment must be listed on the health certificate.
- 5.2 The seals may be broken only at the APHIS approved slaughtering establishment by an authorized USDA representative.
- 5.3 The bovines must be accompanied from the port of entry to the APHIS approved slaughtering establishment by VS Form 17-30, VS Form 17-33, and the official Canadian health certificate.

6. PORT OF ENTRY INSPECTION

Bovines for U.S. entry must be presented to the port of entry by appointment and accompanied by a health certificate. The port veterinarian shall conduct a visual health

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examination of the bovines to verify identification and the accuracy of the health certificate. All bovines other than for immediate slaughter will be offloaded for inspection.

7. ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES

Please be sure to check the animal health regulations of the importing state of destination for possible additional regulations.