Export Live Animals to China

Last Modified:

Electronic Signature ACCEPTED; Digital Endorsement for SOME COMMODITIES ONLY

For Accredited Veterinarians: Electronic signature ACCEPTED

For APHIS VMO: Digital endorsement for SOME COMMODITIES ONLY

USDA-accredited veterinarians can electronically issue health certificates and use VEHCS (Veterinary Export Health Certification System) to submit them to USDA for endorsement.

Digital endorsement varies by species—see requirements on this page for details. The health certificate either bears the original ink signature and embossed seal ***or*** digital signature/seal.

What This Means for You

Accredited Veterinarians: Use the links below to access or get help with VEHCS. Learn more about how to issue export health certificates.

Animal Owners/Shippers: Digitally endorsed health certificates can be printed out directly from VEHCS. For non-digitally endorsed health certificates, you can arrange

to have your health certificate returned by mail (a prepaid, preaddressed return label must be provided during certificate submission). A paper version of the endorsed health certificate must accompany the animal(s) during shipment or travel.

VEHCS Help | VEHCS Guide (7.6 MB) | VEHCS Login

Live Animal Export Country Requirements - Select a Country - View Requirements

Beijing is **not** currently allowing the importation of aquatic animals. Please arrange for aquatic animals to arrive at a different Chinese port of entry. Other animals are now allowed entry.

Summary of Requirements

Expand All

Equine

Horses - Protocol - November 2017
Horses - Health Certificate ** - February 2018
Health Certificates for Horses to China must be digitally endorsed by APHIS within VEHCS and a printed copy accompany the shipment.

Note: **Although this health certificate is available as a fillable PDF file, it must be submitted to APHIS for endorsement via the Veterinary Export Health Certification System (VEHCS). This means a hard copy of the health certificate and required supporting documents (e.g. test results) cannot be submitted by mail or in person for review and finalization. Click here for instructions on accessing VEHCS, and completing and submitting the health certificate and required supporting documents (as a PDF) to APHIS. When submitting a PDF file through VEHCS, it is preferred that the issuing Accredited Veterinarian sign the document using the ADOBE signature options, rather than printing, signing and scanning, for optimal quality resolution.

- Additional page for animal identification (if needed).
- Additional pages (if needed) for test results. One page can be used for multiple horses that have the same information (test type, dates, vaccinations, etc.) with the horses listed at the top.

Cattle

Health certificates for this commodity must be physically endorsed by APHIS with an original ink signature and embossed seal. The original APHIS-endorsed certificate must accompany the shipment.

(1) Only the below People's Republic of China (PRC) health certificates are approved for bovine semen and embryos from USA to PRC. When filing the health certificate form, please use the Tab key to move from field to field. **Do not use the Enter key.**

The below protocols and health certificates are only intended for US-resident cattle producing semen and/or in vivo embryos.

Please note, before bovine semen and embryos are eligible for export, the collection facilities must be inspected by Chinese officials.

(2) Current List of China-Approved Bovine Embryo and Semen Collection and Production Facilities (135.18 KB) - January 2015 to Current

- Bovine - Embryos - Protocol - **Under negotiation. Protocol not available.** - February 2025
- Bovine - Embryos - Health Certificate - **Under negotiation. Health certificate not available.** - February 2025
- Bovine - Semen - Protocol - **Under negotiation. Protocol not available.** - February 2025
- Bovine - Semen - Health Certificate - **Under negotiation. Health certificate not available.** - February 2025

Swine

Health certificates for this commodity must be physically endorsed by APHIS with an original ink signature and embossed seal. The original APHIS-endorsed certificate must accompany the shipment.

As of **March 9, 2011**, China requires temporary attestation for novel A/H1N1 flu (additional document required). As of **August 1, 2014**, China requires negative PCR test results for porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDv) and porcine delta coronavirus (PDCoV) during quarantine (additional document required as of January 2022).

- Swine - Health Requirements (73.25 KB) - 1995 - Revised 2006 (Statements 9 and 10)
- Swine - Temporary Attestation for Novel A/H1N1 Flu (7.12 KB) - August 2012
- Swine - Supplemental Attestation for PEDv and PDCv (72.55 KB) - August 2014
- Swine - Semen - Protocol (9.67 KB) - **Under negotiation. Protocol not available.** - February 2025

Poultry

Health certificates for this commodity must be physically endorsed by APHIS with an original ink signature and embossed seal. The original APHIS-endorsed certificate must accompany the shipment.

NOTE: China will NOT ALLOW live poultry from the following States:

- The State of California on or after October 28, 2026
- The State of Idaho on or after April 14, 2022.
- The State of Illinois on or after October 19, 2026.
- The State of Indiana on or after February 8, 2022.
- The State of Iowa on or after October 29, 2026
- The State of Kansas on or after March 11, 2022.
- The State of Minnesota on or after March 25, 2022.
- The State of Montana on or after September 18, 2026.
- The State of Nebraska on or after October 22, 2026.
- The State of New York on or after March 23, 2022.

- The State of North Dakota on or after March 29, 2022.
- The State of South Dakota on or after March 5, 2022.
- The State of Utah on or after July 6, 2026.
- The State of Washington on or after October 9, 2026.
- The State of Wisconsin on or after September 16, 2026.

China **does not allow** live poultry exports from U.S. states they consider HPAI affected (as listed above).

Please modify **Certification Statement #1** of each of the following health certificates, to exclude all states currently banned, as follows:

1. **The United States of America officially confirms that commercial poultry flocks are free from highly pathogenic Avian Influenza (except for:** *list all of the state above individually here****), viscerotropic velogenic Newcastle disease, and plague of gosling.**

    - Chicken - Breeding, Day-old Chicks, and Hatching Eggs - Health Certificate (192.6 KB) - July 2012
    - Poultry (Non-chicken) - Protocol (48.55 KB) - June 2013
    - Turkeys - Breeding, Day-old Chicks, and Hatching Eggs - Health Certificate (60.02 KB) - June 2013
    - Geese - Breeding, Day-old Chicks, and Hatching Eggs - Health Certificate (59.5 KB) - June 2013
    - Ducks - Breeding, Day-old Chicks, and Hatching Eggs - Health Certificate (60.31 KB) - June 2013
        - **Note:** For all of the above poultry health certificates, this format is required by AQSIQ.
    - Ratites - Protocol (8.62 KB) - February 1997
    - Ratites - Hatching Eggs - Protocol (7.47 KB) - February 1997

Aquaculture/Aquatic Animals

Health certificates for this commodity must be physically endorsed by APHIS with an original ink signature and embossed seal. The original APHIS-endorsed certificate must accompany the shipment.

- Amphibians-Research-Health Certificate (132 KB) - September 2024
- Aquatic Worms-Research-Health Certificate (133.68 KB) - September 2024
- Finfish and Eggs-Research - Health Certificate (177.06 KB) – April 2024

For all other aquatic animal exports, see information below.

APHIS Registered Aquaculture Export Facility approval is required.

- **Health Certificate:** U.S. origin aquatic animals for **breeding and ornamental purposes** must use the VS Form 17-141 “Health Certificate for the Export of Live Finfish, Mollusks, and Crustaceans (and their Gametes)” (249.52 KB) for export purposes.
    - Instructions for Completing the VS Form 17-141 (372.45 KB) (372.45 KB) **Note:** In section "I. Identification" only select the "Farmed/Aquaculture Stocks" option. The "Public resource/Wild/Feral Stocks" option should not be selected.
- **Facility Registration:** In addition to APHIS Registered Aquaculture Export Facility approval, U.S. origin **crustaceans** and **finfish** aquaculture facilities must be included on China’s approval list before APHIS can endorse the export health certificate: GACC’s Quarantine Registration List of Overseas Animals and Plants and Relevant Products.
    - **Note**: For the full list of U.S. facilities approved by GACC for these commodities, select the following: “United States of America” for the country/region, “Aquatic animals and genetic material” for the product type, and either “Ornamental aquatic animals” or “Breeding aquatic animals and genetic materials” for the product category. The “Overseas official registration No.” field in the table should match the APHIS Registered Aquaculture Export Facility approval number for a given facility.
- **Acceptable Species:** Only those U.S. origin aquatic animal **species** listed below have market access and are approved for export from the United States to China:
    - Acceptable Species of Ornamental Fish and Other Aquatic Animals (148 KB) (101.1 KB)
    - Acceptable Species Aquatic Animals for Breeding Purposes (86.79 KB) (86.79 KB)

For exports of U.S. origin aquatic species that are not included on the lists above, the Chinese importer should contact the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) to request a special import permit.

Research/Laboratory Animals

NOTE: Health Certificates for the following commodities to China must be digitally endorsed by APHIS within VEHCS and a printed copy accompany the shipment.

- Naked Mole Rats - Laboratory - Health Certificate - May 2025
- Parasites, parasitoids & parasitoid cocoons - Research/Laboratory - Health Certificate (152.53 KB) - December 2025
- Rodents - SPF mice, rats, guinea pigs - Laboratory - Health Certificate (205.6 KB) - September 2026
- Rodents - Genetic Material - SPF mice, rats, guinea pigs - Laboratory - Health Certificate (225.08 KB) - September 2026
- Squirrels - Research/Laboratory - Health Certificate (598.27 KB) - September 2026

Other Animals

Health Certificates for Giant Panda semen to China must be physically endorsed by APHIS with an original ink signature and embossed seal. The original APHIS-endorsed certificate must accompany the shipment.

- Giant Panda Semen - Health Certificate (404.94 KB) - January 2026
- Mink/Ferret - Health Certificate (147.53 KB) - September 2012
  Note: This format is required by AQSIQ.
- Foxes - Protocol for Quarantine and Health Requirements (5.04 KB) - November 1988
- Rabbits - Protocol for Quarantine and Exit-Entry Inspections (13.82 KB) - March 2009

Taking a Pet to Another Country?

Visit Pet Travel

If your species is not listed, the requirements for that species are not known. Exporters who want to ship livestock or germplasm whose requirements are not listed above should have the importer or buyer in the destination country apply for an import permit at the appropriate ministry. This import permit will most likely outline the specific requirements.

Need Help?

USDA-Accredited Veterinarians

Contact a USDA-accredited veterinarian for questions about your destination country's entry requirements for animals (including any needed vaccinations, tests, or treatments); issuance of health certificates; and status updates on certificate endorsement.

Find a USDA-Accredited Veterinarian

APHIS Endorsement Offices

APHIS Veterinary Export Trade Services (VETS) offers commodity-specific expertise for exporting animals. Use the dropdown to contact us with questions about endorsing health certificates. For quickest help, see **tips for exporters and accredited veterinarians.**

- Select a Commodity - ▼

Loading...

All Contacts

Related Resources

- Frequently Asked Questions About Live Animal Exports
- VEHCS Login

- National Veterinary Accreditation Program: Information for Veterinarians
- Role of the Accredited Veterinarian in International Animal Exports

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