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Export Live Animals to Mexico

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](#) (7.77 MB) | [VEHCS Login](#)

Live Animal Export Country Requirements

- Select a Country - [View Requirements](#)

Summary of Requirements

For **all cattle and horse health certificates** to Mexico and ***hatching eggs/ birds up to 3 days old health certificates to Mexico***, USDA Accredited Veterinarians may issue health certificates electronically through the online Veterinary Export Health Certification System ([VEHCS](#)). These certificates will be digitally endorsed by APHIS once received in the system and available for printing by the USDA Accredited Veterinarian once the endorsement is completed by APHIS.

Note: An APHIS-endorsed, printed paper copy **must** accompany each shipment.

For **all other live animal commodities**, health certificates may be submitted by the USDA Accredited Veterinarian through [VEHCS](#); however, the APHIS Veterinary Medical Officer's ink (wet) signature with the application of the APHIS embossed seal must appear on the health certificate. To accomplish this, certificates received by APHIS through the VEHCS system will be printed and endorsed in our offices, and the hard copy will be returned when complete. This APHIS-endorsed paper copy **must** accompany the shipment.

Note: As of June 21, 2019, all cattle, sheep, goats, wild ruminants, and horses being exported to Mexico must have External Parasite treatment listed in the Cattle, Horses, Sheep and Goats, and Zoological Animals sections below.

Important Information for ALL Health Certificates

- All health certificates for live animals and germplasm to Mexico must not contain any abbreviations, except for the abbreviations in the Consignor,

Consignee, and Accredited Veterinarian and endorsing VMO field. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Dates - "January" is accepted while "Jan" is not
- States - Must be the entire word and not the two-letter abbreviation
- Ages - "Months" or "Year" is accepted while "yrs" and "mos" are not
- In addition, all health certificates must be typewritten, or completed using a word processor or computer.
- All health certificates must be printed single-sided. Mexico will not accept double-sided printouts.
- The number of the health certificate must be also typewritten or completed using a word processor or computer.
- Handwritten documents will be rejected.
- Mexico will not accept hand-made corrections, erasures, line outs, or cross outs.

*****NEW WORLD SCREWORM (NWS) NOTICE:**

Due to the detection of [New World screwworm](#) (NWS, *Cochliomyia hominivorax*) in the United States, effective immediately, halt exports of the following species from all U.S. states until we have further information from Mexico:

- **Cattle (slaughter and reproduction)**
- **Wild ruminants (non-bovine)**
- **Equine (slaughter, breeding/work, and sport/exhibition/transit)**
- **Sheep and goats (slaughter and reproduction)**
- **Swine (reproduction)**
- **Ferrets (commercial and pets)**
- **Songbirds/ornamental birds/raptors (commercial and pets)**

PET DOGS - UPDATE (June 10, 2026): Pet dog travel to Mexico will proceed according to previously established procedures. Updated requirements will be posted once they are finalized.

Also: As of November 22, 2024, Mexico is considered to be affected with screwworm. All dogs (including U.S. origin dogs returning to the U.S. after traveling to Mexico) must meet APHIS requirements for screwworm freedom certification upon entry (re-entry) into the United States. Additional information can be found on the [APHIS Dog Import website](#).

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Cattle

Health certificates for cattle may be issued electronically by the USDA Accredited Veterinarian and endorsed by the APHIS Veterinary Medical Officer through the online Veterinary Export Health Certification System ([VEHCS](#)). The APHIS embossed seal is **not** required.

Note: A printed paper copy of the completed health certificate **must** accompany each shipment.

Note: As of July 2, 2019, as directed by Mexico, animals treated with Coumaphos can be exported after at least 3 days has elapsed after treatment. Animals treated with Permethrin can be exported after at least 5 days has elapsed after treatment. The withdrawal time for those two products is listed as 0 days.

- [Breeding Cattle - Protocol and Health Certificate](#) - July 2024
 - [Blank Page for VEHCS Submissions \(if not attaching Animal Information via an Addendum\)](#) - October 2019
 - [Addendum for Rest Stops](#) - September 2010
 - [Breeding Cattle Export Guidelines from the United States and Canada to Mexico](#) - September 2013
- [Rodeo Bulls - Health Certificate](#) - August 2019
 - Note:** The exporter should request an import permit 30 days in advance from SAGARPA.
- [Bovine - Semen - Health Certificate](#) - August 2007
- [Bison - Health Certificate](#) - August 2019
- [Bovine - In Vitro or In Vivo Embryos/Oocytes - Health Certificate](#) - March 2026
- [Tips for Avoiding Cut-off Addendum Pages when Using VEHCS - Guidance Document](#) - November 2020

[Expand All](#)

Slaughter Cattle Exported to Mexico from the United States (Except from the Imperial Valley, California) - All approved

Mexican ports can be used to export these cattle.

The health certificate (HC) for slaughter cattle is composed of **two documents**: a) the Slaughter Cattle Health Certificate, and b) the Addendum - List of Animals Covered by the Health Certificate.

- [Slaughter Cattle](#) (260.85 KB) - Health Certificate - July 2024
 - [Addendum - List of Animals Covered by the Health Certificate](#) (43.96 KB) - March 2015

In addition, the following two documents must accompany the health certificate:

- [Affidavit of the Owner/Exporter for Restrictive Drugs](#) (30.52 KB) - March 2015
- [Addendum of Veterinary Certification](#) (22.25 KB) - March 2015

The process to export these slaughter cattle is similar to the one used for exporting breeding cattle to Mexico. Inspection of slaughter cattle will be done at the inspection facility at the border. To be familiar with the export process, please refer to the [Breeding Cattle Export Guidelines from the United States and Canada to Mexico](#) (61.66 KB) to export cattle from the United States and Canada to Mexico.

Pilot Projects for Slaughter Cattle Exported to Mexico from Imperial Valley, California through the Port of Mexicali, Mexico and from the State of Arizona through the Port of Nogales, Mexico

Owners/exporters/importers who want to export cattle from Imperial Valley, CA and from Arizona, must obtain an import permit (HRZ) from SAGARPA's office in Mexico. This import permit will contain the requirements to export slaughter cattle from Imperial Valley, CA and will be provided by SAGARPA upon request by the Mexican importer.

Cattle exported from Imperial Valley, CA, and Arizona must have the following documents:

- [Slaughter Cattle Health Certificate for Imperial Valley](#) (66.05 KB) - July 2024

- [Slaughter Cattle Health Certificate for Arizona](#) (66.81 KB) - July 2024
- [Addendum - List of Animals Covered by the Health Certificates for Imperial Valley and Arizona](#) (90.48 KB) - March 2015
- [Affidavit of the Owner/Exporter for Restrictive Drugs for Imperial Valley and Arizona](#) (34.95 KB) - March 2015

Horses

Health certificates for horses may be issued electronically by the USDA Accredited Veterinarian and endorsed by the APHIS Veterinary Medical Officer through the online Veterinary Export Health Certification System ([VEHCS](#)). Please fill out the health certificate correctly otherwise the horses will be rejected at the border. The APHIS embossed seal is not required.

Note: For horses exported to Mexico, the health certificate must state the name of the laboratory and the date that the equine infectious anemia blood sample was obtained from the horse (within 60 days prior to exportation).

Note: A printed paper copy of the completed health certificate **must** accompany each shipment.

Note: Mexico does not require to identify permanent and temporary entry with microchip. For horses (other than slaughter) exported to Mexico, the following methods of identification must be used: marks (silhouette), or tattoo, or microchip.

Note: As of July 2, 2019, as directed by Mexico, animals treated with Coumaphos can be exported after at least 3 days has elapsed after treatment. Animals treated with Permethrin can be exported after at least 5 days has elapsed after treatment. The withdrawal time for those two products is listed as 0 days.

Note: Even when it is not required in the protocol, slaughter horses to Mexico must be free of ticks. Horses with ticks will be rejected at the border. An affidavit and an Owners Declaration (Form 10-13) must be presented at entry along with the health certificate.

- [Horses for Reproduction/Sport/Exhibition/Work/Transit for Permanent Admission into Mexico - Health Certificate](#) - July 2019

- [Horse Identification Page for Use if Submitting in VEHCS and Animals are NOT Microchipped](#) - November 2020
- [Equine - Semen - Health Certificate](#) - February 2021
- [Horses for Temporary Entry Cavalia Company](#) - October 2014
- [Horses Returning to Mexico after Temporary Entry to the United State \(less than 60 days\)](#) - July 2019
- [Horses for 3-day Resident Import from New Zealand](#) - July 2019
 - Note:** Exporters must have an Import Permit (HRZ) from Mexico to use this Certificate.
- [Horses for Temporary Export to Mexico for Competition](#) - May 2023
 - Note:** An export health certificate must be negotiated and approved for each event.
- [European and Canadian Horses for Export to Mexico after Temporary Stay in US for Competition](#) - October 2024
 - **Note:** SENASICA will require horses traveling under this certificate to be accompanied by the following documents:
 1. The endorsed certificate for the export of European or Canadian horses from the United States to Mexico
 2. A copy of the health certificate covering the horse's entry into the United States from the European Union or Canada
 3. **European horses only:** A copy of the release of the horse from APHIS import quarantine (VS form 17-30)
 4. **European mares and stallions only:** a copy of the release from CEM quarantine **OR** the APHIS-issued import permit granting a waiver to the CEM quarantine requirement
- [Horses Health Certificate \(Slaughter\)](#) - February 2020
 - **Note:** Intact male horses are not eligible for export under this certificate
 - [Blank Page for VEHCS Submissions \(if not attaching Animal Information via an Addendum\)](#) - October 2019
 - [Horses \(Slaughter\) Affidavit](#)
 - [Tips for Avoiding Cut-off Addendum Pages when Using VEHCS - Guidance Document](#) - November 2020

Poultry – Hatching Eggs and Day-Old Chicks

Note: Mexico has banned the importation of live birds originating from, and transiting through, states with a detection of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in commercial poultry. Some states with detections may be eligible for export from counties free from HPAI. Please check with your [Veterinary Export Trade Services \(VETS\) Endorsement Office](#) to confirm a state status for HPAI in commercial poultry.

- [Birds - Hatching Eggs - Health Certificate](#) - March 2023
- [Birds - Three Days Old - Health Certificate](#) - March 2023

Note: Health certificates for hatching eggs and three-day old chicks may be issued electronically by the USDA Accredited Veterinarian and endorsed by the APHIS Veterinary Medical Officer through the online Veterinary Export Health Certification System (VEHCS). The APHIS embossed seal is not required.

Note: Mexico only accepts updated health certificates for hatching eggs and three day old birds that have been digitally endorsed. Wet ink endorsed certificates will not be accepted.

Note: All shipments (by land or air transportation) for hatching eggs and three-day old chicks must have labels describing the shipment applied on all the boxes.

Shipment Description Labels:

- [Label Submission](#) - August 2013

Poultry – Other than Hatching Eggs and Day-Old Chicks

Note: Mexico has banned the importation of live birds originating from, and transiting through, states with a detection of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in commercial poultry. Some states with detections may be eligible for export from counties free from HPAI. Please check with your [Veterinary Export Trade Services \(VETS\) Endorsement Office](#) to confirm a state status for HPAI in commercial poultry.

Certificates/protocols not requiring the fillable VS Form 17-6 include the following:

- [SPF Hatching Eggs - Health Certificate](#) (62.7 KB) - February 2016
Note: The HRZ applicable for this commodity is 004-22-1231-USA-USA.
- [Adult Gallinaceous Birds - Protocol and Health Certificate](#) (40.93 KB) - January 2015

Sheep and Goat

Note: As of July 2, 2019, as directed by Mexico, animals treated with Coumaphos can be exported after at least 3 days has elapsed after treatment. Animals treated with Permethrin can be exported after at least 5 days has elapsed after treatment. The withdrawal time for those two products is listed as 0 days.

- [Sheep and Goats for Breeding - Health Certificate](#) - February 2020
- [Sheep and Goats for Slaughter - Health Certificate](#) - August 2019
- [Sheep and Goats for Slaughter - Additional Information](#) - March 2017
- [Sheep and Goats Semen - Health Certificate](#) - May 2017

Swine

Note: Mexico has prohibited the export of swine and swine semen originating from Iowa or Texas on certificates issued after April 11, 2026. SENASICA has taken down the Hojas de Requisitos Zoosanitarios (HRZs) for export of swine and swine semen while discussions with APHIS are ongoing. APHIS will provide updates to stakeholders once the HRZs are available for use with posted export certificates.

- [Breeding Swine - Health Certificate](#) (75.68 KB) - October 2013
- [Swine Semen - Health Certificate](#) (208.73 KB) - March 2018

Aquatic Animals and Ornamental Turtles for Commercial Use

APHIS Registered Aquaculture Export Facility [approval is required](#) for aquatic animals (including tilapia). General APHIS facility inspection (not RAEF) meets the requirements for turtles shipped on this certificate.

- [Aquatic Animals & Turtles - Ornamental Aquaculture Health Certificate](#) - August 2022
- [Mollusks - Health Certificate](#) - July 2024
- [Salmonid Eggs - Health Certificate](#) - February 2024
- [Shrimp - Breeding - Health Certificate](#) - June 2025
- [Tilapia - Health Certificate](#) - September 2023

Research/Laboratory Animals

- [Lab Animals - Guinea Pigs, Mice, Prairie Voles, Rats, Dogs, Cats, Hamsters - Health Certificate](#) - March 2025
- [Rabbits for Research - Health Certificate](#) - July 2017
Note: As of April 23, 2010, due to a report of Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease in the state of Minnesota, until further notice, Mexico will refuse entry of all non-research rabbits (including pet rabbits) from the United States.

Zoological Animals

- [African Wild Dogs-Health Certificate](#) - March 2025
- [Arndvark - Health Certificate](#) - February 2018
- [Hyenas - Health Certificate](#) - June 2016
- [Marsupials - Health Certificate](#) - May 2023
Note: This certificate may be used for all marsupial species
- [Meerkat - Health Certificate](#) - May 2016
- [Otters - Health Certificate](#) - October 2017
- [Patagonian Hares - Protocol and Health Certificate](#) - October 2010
- [Peccary - Health Certificate](#) - November 2017
- [Porcupine - Protocol and Health Certificate](#) - October 2010
- [Red Panda - Health Certificate](#) - September 2016

- [Rhinoceros - Health Certificate](#) - September 2015
Note: Mexico will not have this HRZ on the web, but rather will only be issued upon request by Mexican importers.
- [Tapir - Protocol and Health Certificate](#) - July 2009
- [Wild Pigs - Health Certificate](#) - February 2017
- [Wild Rodents - Health Certificate](#) - November 2015
- Wild Ruminants - Impala - Health Certificate - Available Upon Request Only - April 2025
Note: SENASICA maintains the HRZ for this commodity as available upon request only
- [Wild Birds - Health Certificate](#) - September 2019
Note: Mexico accepts Penguins exported from the U.S. on this HRZ
- Penguin - Hatching Eggs - Health Certificate - Available Upon Request Only - October 2021

Other Animals

- [Captive Wild Ruminants - Health Certificate](#) — September 2025
 - **Note:** The following are **ineligible** to export under this certificate per the associated HRZ: Bos indicus (domestic cattle of Asian origin), Bos taurus (domestic cattle of European origin), Bison bison (American bison), Bison bonasus (European bison), Bos gaurus (Gaur), Bos grunniens (Yak), Bos javanicus (Banteng), Bos sauveli (Kouprey), Bubalus bubalis (Asian buffalo), Syncerus caffer (Cape buffalo), and wild cervids. For clarification, all camelid species meeting the requirements of the certificate are **eligible** to export under this certificate.
- [Bumble Bees - Health Certificate](#) - September 2016
- [Chinchillas - Health Certificate](#) - December 2017
- [Ferrets Commercial - Protocol and Health Certificate](#) - August 2012
- [Greyhounds - Protocols and Health Certificate](#) - May 2012
- [Kori Hatching Eggs - Health Certificate](#) - July 2016
- [Reptiles \(including Turtles\) - Health Certificate for Commercial](#) - June 2016
- [Wolves - Health Certificate](#) - January 2022

- Wild Birds - Albatross - Health Certificate - Available Upon Request Only - December 2020
- Wild Birds - Albatross Hatching Eggs - Health Certificate - Available Upon Request Only - December 2020
- Wild Rodents - Prairie Dogs - Health Certificate - Available Upon Request Only - October 2024
 - **Note:** SENASICA maintains the HRZ for this commodity as available upon request only

Taking a Pet to Another Country?

[Visit Pet Travel](#)

Obtaining an Import Permit

Note: The exporter must obtain a Sanitary Permit from Mexico for ruminants, swine, and horses.

- The name of the person that is listed on the Sanitary Permit must match the name of the person listed on the Health Certificate.
- The Health Certificate must contain the following statement for animals exported to Mexico:
 - “The animals must be transported in cleaned and disinfected vehicles, and not contact any other animals during their transport. *Los vehículos utilizados para el transporte de los animales a la frontera fueron sometidos a limpieza y desinfección antes del embarque y no estar en contacto con otros animales durante el traslado.*”
- A Sanitary Permit is issued by the Division of Animal Health, Ave Mexico No.190, Colonia Del Carmen Coyocan, CP 04700, Mexico DF.
 - This permit must be obtained in advance of the importation by the importer.
 - The permit shall be submitted to the official veterinarian of The Department of Port and Border Animal Health Inspection at the port of entry.

Ports of Entry

- [The Exportation of Live Animals to Mexico by Land Ports](#)
- [Mexican/US Border Ports](#) - List of Sites and Animals Accepted at Ports
 - Veterinary Services has been informed that border entry points have been authorized by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Livestock, for the importation of livestock from the United States.
 - An official veterinarian of Mexico has been assigned permanently to each of these ports by the Bureau of Animal Health, Department of Port and Border Animal Health Inspection.
 - Inspection of livestock will be performed by the official Mexican port veterinarian at facilities in the United States approved by the Bureau of Animal Health. (See Mexican Border Port Facilities.)
 - Importations by air or by sea may be made under Sanitary Permit when facilities for inspection are available at the port of entry in Mexico.
- [Mexico Land Port Offices](#) - Sister city on the U.S. side, listed in parentheses
 - The following **documents are required** and shall be submitted to the official veterinarian prior to the inspection of the animals:
 - Sanitary Permit for importation
 - Origin Health Certificate (VS form 17-140) or computer-generated document, duly signed, and endorsed by VS - The U.S. Origin Health Certificate must be typewritten. Mexican Port Veterinarians will reject any certificates that are handwritten.
 - Dip Certificate, if applicable
 - Registration Certificate, if applicable
 - Original and copy of the commercial invoice
 - Any additional documents to permit compliance with the requirements established in the regulations
- The official veterinarian at the port of entry shall be notified of the pending arrival of animals at the authorized facility by the importer or his agent **24 hours in advance** of the arrival of the animals.
- Animals to be exported to Mexico will remain in the **authorized facility** a minimum of 24 hours and may be subjected to procedures of quarantine, clinical observation, inspection, disinfection, immunization, diagnostic tests, or application of appropriate animal health safety measures if the official veterinarian determines that the shipment does not meet all specifications.

- Spanish Terminology:
 - M.V.Z. - Medico Veterinario Zootecnista
 - Delegado - Veterinarian in Charge
 - Garita - Building housing official offices, such as customs

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?

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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