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Export Live Animals to South Africa

Last Modified:

Electronic Signature **ACCEPTED**; Original Ink Endorsement **REQUIRED**

For Accredited Veterinarians: Electronic signature **ACCEPTED**

For APHIS VMO: Original ink endorsement **REQUIRED**

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

USDA must ink-sign and emboss the health certificate.

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: You can arrange to have your health certificate returned by mail (a prepaid, preaddressed return label must be provided during certificate submission). The endorsed health certificate—ink-signed and embossed—must accompany the animal(s) during shipment or travel.



Summary of Requirements

[Expand All](#)

Equine

Note: An Import Permit must be obtained from the Republic of South Africa, and space must be reserved at the official quarantine station.

Cattle

- [Bovine - Semen - Health Certificate](#) (61.69 KB) - April 2004
- [Bovine - Embryos - Health Certificate](#) (117.31 KB) - August 2013December 2022

Poultry

Note: Due to the HPAI outbreak, the South African Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) has imposed trade restrictions on the import of U.S. origin day-old chicks and hatching eggs from the following states:

- Alabama (effective November 7, 2023)
- Arkansas (effective December 1, 2023)
- California (effective November 7, 2023)
- Colorado (effective January 3, 2024)
- Delaware (effective January 27, 2025)
- Florida (effective February 22, 2024)
- Georgia (effective December 1, 2023)

- Idaho (effective January 3, 2024)
- Illinois (effective February 7, 2025)
- Indiana (effective February 5, 2024)
- Iowa (effective November 2, 2023)
- Kansas (effective January 3, 2024)
- Maryland (effective December 1, 2023)
- Massachusetts (effective August 8, 2024)
- Michigan (effective January 3, 2024)
- Minnesota (effective April 7, 2022)
- Mississippi (effective January 7, 2025)
- Missouri (effective December 1, 2023)
- Montana (effective April 20, 2022)
- Nebraska (effective February 22, 2024)
- Nevada (effective October 31, 2022)
- New Jersey (effective June 6, 2022)
- New Mexico (effective April 26, 2024)
- New York (effective January 3, 2024)
- North Carolina (effective March 6, 2024)
- North Dakota (effective December 1, 2023)
- Ohio (effective December 1, 2023)
- Oklahoma (effective January 7, 2025)
- Oregon (effective June 6, 2022)
- Pennsylvania (effective January 10, 2024)
- Puerto Rico (effective January 27, 2025)
- South Carolina (effective January 27, 2025)
- South Dakota (effective March 11, 2022)
- Tennessee (effective January 7, 2025)
- Texas (effective April 26, 2024)
- Utah (effective May 12, 2022)
- Washington (effective November 22, 2023)
- Wisconsin (effective January 3, 2024)

Note: Import Permits from the Republic of South Africa are required for live poultry, birds, day-old chicks and hatching eggs.

- [Poultry - Day-old Chicks - Health Certificate](#) (52.35 KB) - July 2016
- [Poultry - Hatching Eggs - Health Certificate](#) (57 KB) - July 2018

Aquaculture/Aquatic Animals

APHIS Registered Aquaculture Export Facility [approval is required](#) for the following certificates:

- [Salmonidae Fish Ova](#) (76.24 KB) - September 2018
- [Guidance Information for Completing Salmonidae Fish Ova Certificate](#) (335.03 KB) - March 2019

Swine

[Porcine - Semen - Health Certificate](#) (244.01 KB)- September 2024

Research/Laboratory Animals

- [Example of Import Permit](#) (185.5 KB) - August 2011

Other Animals

Note: South African Import Permits are required prior to APHIS endorsement of veterinary health certificates.

- [* Birds - Captive Bred \(non-poultry, not pigeons\) - Health Certificate](#) (173.03 KB) - July 2023
- [Reptiles - Health Certificate](#) (29.71 KB) - October 2018
- [Vultures - Health Certificate](#) (96.52 KB) - November 2019
- [Rodents - Zoo or Captive Bred Commercial Movement - Health Certificate](#) (147.21 KB) - April 2020
- [Red Pandas - Health Certificate](#) (170.83 KB) - March 2021
- [Kinkajous \(Honey Bears\) - Health Certificate](#) (170.43 KB) - March 2021
- [Lagomorphs \(Rabbits, Hares, Pikas\) - Health Certificate](#) (161.14 KB) - March 2022

- [* Pigeons - Racing ONLY - Health Certificate](#) (128.68 KB) - December 2022

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?

[Download contacts](#)

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) and for issuance of health certificates.

[Find a USDA-Accredited Veterinarian](#)

USDA Endorsement Offices

Contact your nearest APHIS Veterinary Export Trade Services Endorsement Office for questions about endorsing an export health certificate for live animals.

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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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