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Import Horses from Costa Rica

Last Modified:

No African Horse Sickness Present



No Screwworm Present



No Contagious Equine Metritis Present



No Foot-and-Mouth Disease Present



Horses imported to the United States from screwworm-free regions transiting screwworm-affected regions via air, land, or sea will require a minimum of 7 days in quarantine at an [APHIS-approved equine import quarantine facility](#).

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Import a Horse

General Information

Generally, horse owners will enlist the services of a broker/shipping agent to bring a horse into the United States. While APHIS does not require the use of a broker/shipping agent for importing horses, experienced brokers can coordinate the efforts of airlines, customs brokers, APHIS, and other partner government agencies to ensure the safety of the animals, facilitate clearance of the shipment, and schedule a timely arrival. These agents are familiar with the documents and processing associated with import and export regulations. [Learn more about using a broker/shipping agent](#).

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Health Certificate

An official hard copy of a valid health certificate, written in English, is required for entry. The official health certificate must be issued by an authorized veterinarian in the exporting country and endorsed by a full-time salaried veterinarian of the agency responsible for animal health of the national government of the exporting country of origin.

Certification and testing are described in the following health certificates.

Note: The original health certificate **must** accompany the shipment upon arrival.

Certification and testing are described in the [Horse Import 3-Day Sample Health Certificate](#) (52.78 KB).

Certification and testing are described in the [Sample Health Certificate for Equine From Iceland](#) (104.08 KB) (June 2024).

Certification and testing are described in the [Horse Import 3-Day FMD Sample Health Certificate](#) (59.14 KB).

Certification and testing are described in the [Horse Import 3-Day CEM FMD Sample Health Certificate](#) (160.36 KB).

Certification and testing are described in the [Fillable Health Certificate for Geldings](#) (153.67 KB).

Certification and testing are described in the [Fillable Health Certificate for Mares and Stallions](#) (211.36 KB).

Certification and testing for Spanish Purebreed horses: [Equine - Live Equine - Spanish Purebreed - Spain - NCH](#) (229.92 KB)

Certificate for other horses from Spain: [Equine - Live Equine - Spain - AHC](#) (225.2 KB)

Certification and testing are described in the [Health Certificate for Geldings From the Netherlands](#) (146.81 KB).

Certification and testing are described in the [Health Certificate for Intact Horses From the Netherlands](#) (154.99 KB).

Certification and testing are described in the [Health Certificate for U.S. Returning Horses From the Netherlands](#) (152.59 KB).

The original health certificate, with a pen and ink endorsement, MUST accompany the shipment upon arrival.

Certification and testing are described in the [Fillable Health Certificate for Horses From Italy Entering the United States](#) (254.79 KB).

The original health certificate, with a pen and ink endorsement, MUST accompany the shipment upon arrival.

Certification and testing are described in the [Health Certificate for Geldings From the Czech Republic](#) (305.18 KB).

Certification and testing are described in the [Health Certificate for Intact Horses From the Czech Republic](#) (353.31 KB).

The original health certificate, with a pen and ink endorsement, MUST accompany the shipment upon arrival.

Certification and testing are described in the [Horse Import 7-Day Screwworm Sample Health Certificate](#) (56.58 KB).

Certification and testing are described in the [Horse Import 7-Day FMD Sample Health Certificate](#) (60.1 KB).

Certification and testing are described in the [Horse Import 7-Day FMD, Screwworm Sample Health Certificate](#) (206.17 KB).

Certification and testing are described in the [Horse Import 7-Day Sample Health Certificate](#) (730.82 KB).

Certification and testing are described in the [Horse Import 7-Day Screwworm Sample Health Certificate](#) (56.58 KB).

Certification and testing are described in the [Horse Import 7-Day FMD Sample Health Certificate](#) (60.1 KB).

Certification and testing are described in the [Horse Import 7-Day FMD, Screwworm Sample Health Certificate](#) (206.17 KB).

Certification and testing are described in the [Horse Import 7-Day Sample Health Certificate](#) (730.82 KB).

Certification and testing are described in the [Horse Import 60-Day FMD, Screwworm Sample Health Certificate](#) (64.53 KB).

Certification and testing are described in the [Horse Import 60-Day FMD Sample Health Certificate](#).

Certification and testing are described in the [Horse Import 60-Day Screwworm Sample Health Certificate](#) (59.63 KB).

Certification and testing are described in the [Horse Import 60-Day Sample Health Certificate](#) (56.33 KB).

Certification and testing are described in the [Horse Import 60-Day AHS, CEM, FMD, Screwworm Sample Health Certificate](#) (66 KB).

Available Ports

The New York Animal Import Center is the **only** quarantine premises that accepts horses from AHS countries.

Federal Quarantine (New York, NY)

New York Animal Import Center (NYAIC)

Email: vspsnic@usda.gov

Phone: [845-838-5500](tel:845-838-5500)

Fax: [845-838-5516](tel:845-838-5516)

Mailing Address

474 International Blvd.

Rock Tavern, NY 12575

Website: [New York Animal Import Center](#)

New York, NY—Federal Quarantine for Horse Imports

APHIS Port Services

Use the dropdown below to locate airports that accept live equine shipments.

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[All Contacts](#)

Quarantine Information

No Quarantine Required

Horses coming from this country are considered to be free from screwworm, African horse sickness, and Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis. This means that they require an observation period in quarantine (minimum 42 hours) plus blood testing for dourine, glanders (Australia exempt from both dourine and glanders testing), equine piroplasmiasis, and equine infectious anemia. If originating from a country APHIS considers to be free of contagious equine metritis, they will be released after completing the initial quarantine without any further testing.

To officially enter the United States, horses from this country will require:

- An official health certificate, issued by the exporting country.
- An import permit, issued by the National Import Export Services.
- A reservation at an animal import center and at an approved CEM quarantine facility, if applicable.

Horses coming from this country are at higher risk of harboring and spreading Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis (VEE) and require a minimum of 7 days in quarantine before entering the United States. Countries affected by VEE can be found at [Animal Health Status of Regions](#).

Import requirements include a minimum 7-day observation period in an APHIS-approved permanent quarantine facility and blood tests for dourine, glanders, equine piroplasmiasis, and equine infectious anemia. Horses must test negative for all these diseases and must show no signs of illness to be released from quarantine. If originating from a country APHIS considers to be free of contagious equine metritis, they will be released after completing the initial quarantine without any further testing.

To officially enter the United States, horses from this country will require:

- An official health certificate, issued by the exporting country.
- An import permit, issued by the National Import Export Services.
- A reservation at an animal import center and at an approved CEM quarantine facility, if applicable.

Import requirements include a minimum 7-day observation period in an APHIS-approved permanent quarantine facility and blood tests for dourine, glanders, equine piroplasmiasis, and equine infectious anemia. Horses must test negative for all these diseases and must show no signs of illness in order to be released from quarantine. If originating from a country APHIS considers to be free of contagious equine metritis, they will be released after completing the initial quarantine without any further testing.

To officially enter the United States, horses from this country will require:

- An official health certificate, issued by the exporting country.
- An import permit, issued by the National Import Export Services.
- A reservation at an animal import center and at an approved CEM quarantine facility, if applicable.

Horses coming from this country are a high risk of harboring and spreading African horse sickness (AHS) and require a minimum of 60 days in quarantine before entering the United States.

The New York Animal Import Center is the only quarantine premises that accepts horses from AHS countries.

Blood tests for dourine, glanders, equine piroplasmiasis, and equine infectious anemia will be performed on arrival at NYAIC. Horses must test negative for all of these diseases and must show no signs of illness in order to be released from quarantine. If originating from a country APHIS considers to be free of contagious equine metritis, they will be released after completing the initial quarantine without any further testing.

To officially enter the United States, horses from this country will require:

- An official health certificate, issued by the exporting country.
- An import permit, issued by the National Import Export Services.
- A reservation at NYAIC, as well as at an approved CEM quarantine facility, if applicable.

Fees and Permitting

The processes and fees involved with importing horses and other equine, as well as equine germplasm (semen, embryos, and cloning tissue), depend on the conditions of entry.

Importers should apply for an import permit online using [APHIS eFile](#). This will expedite the permitting process and enable users to track the status of their permits, confirm receipt, and easily renew or amend existing permits. Visit [Animal Health Permits](#) to learn more about applying for an import permit, including paper applications.

Costs are associated with providing services for importing and transiting horses at airports, ocean ports, rail ports, land border ports, and southern border port and [animal import center](#) quarantines.

The fees billed are per individual horse. Charges for combined shipments may be split between brokers.

Overtime rates apply for after-duty hours, weekends, and holidays for inspection services. ([9 CFR 130.30](#))

There is a [comprehensive fee](#) for horses staying at a Federal quarantine center with a decreasing scale: days 1 to 3, days 4 to 7 and 8 through subsequent days. The daily rate includes all administrative costs conducted during normal business hours: examination on arrival, routine veterinary care, lodging costs for feed and bedding, obtaining test samples and processing them for shipping to the National Veterinary Services Laboratories, supervision of cleaning and disinfection of trailers and stalls, receiving and releasing horse shipments, identification of each horse on arrival and release, reviewing health certificates and issuing import permits to ensure compliance with import regulations, monitoring horses while they are in quarantine, release of paperwork in Veterinary Services Process Streamlining (VSPS), and oversight of horses shipping under APHIS seal to State CEM quarantine facilities. ([9 CFR 130.2](#))

Private quarantine facilities will bill user fees directly to importers on a quarter-hour to hourly rate. APHIS factors cost in these instances by the time spent for each service, which includes travel time to ports and airports for veterinary inspections.

Hourly rates also cover the costs of monitoring in-bond or transiting horses passing through the United States and exporting to other countries.

Import Semen and Embryos

Any semen or embryos from countries affected with African horse sickness (AHS) are prohibited.

Animal semen, embryos, and cloning tissue may not be imported into the United States from a region other than where it was collected.

Any semen and embryo shipments should be routed directly to the United States with no stops other than those designated on the import permit.

Requirements for Importation of Equine Semen, Embryos, and Cloning Tissue into the United States

An **import permit** is necessary for import of equine semen, embryos, and cloning tissue into the United States. Animal semen, embryos, and cloning tissue may not be imported into the United States from a region other than where it was collected.

An **official health certificate**, written in English, is required for the importation of semen, embryos, and cloning tissue. Collection should follow the regulations of the respective country's approved artificial collection centers for export of equine semen to the United States. The official health certification must be endorsed by a full-time salaried veterinarian of the agency responsible for animal health of the national government of the exporting country of origin.

The donor stallion must also be free from any quarantine or movement restriction for not less than 60 days prior to semen collection.

Generally, importers will use a broker/shipping agent to bring equine semen and embryos into the United States. [Learn more about using a broker/shipping agent.](#)

Importing Semen, Embryos, and Cloning Tissue From Non-CEM-Affected Countries

Animal semen, embryos, and cloning tissue may not be imported into the United States from a region other than where it was collected. The certified semen must be collected in a country free of African horse sickness. It should be routed directly to the United States with no stops other than those designated on the import permit.

Collection should follow the regulations of the respective country's approved artificial collection centers for export of equine semen to the United States.

An import permit will accompany the shipment. Importers should apply for an import permit online using [APHIS eFile](#). This will expedite the permitting process and enable users to track the status of their permits, confirm receipt, and easily renew or amend existing permits. Visit [Animal Health Permits](#) to learn more about applying for an import permit, including paper applications.

An official health certificate, written in English, is required for entry. The official health certificate must be issued by a full-time salaried veterinarian of the agency responsible for animal health of the national government of the exporting country of origin.

[Sample Health Certificate for Equine Semen](#) (62.14 KB)

Certification and testing are described in the attached health certificate. A phantom teaser is preferred over a live teaser mare. All animals must be tested with negative results for dourine within 30 days of the date they enter into the semen collection unit. Subsequent testing must be conducted at 180-day intervals if the stallions and mares remain in the semen collection unit. Stallions must not be used for natural breeding for a period starting 15 days prior to the initial tests for dourine, while the stallion is in the collection unit and while semen is being collected for export to the United States.

All equipment used for collection, processing, and shipping semen must be new equipment or sanitized prior to use. Collected semen must be processed with a semen extender with milk from a country free of foot-and-mouth disease at the time of collection or with egg originating from a country recognized by USDA to be free of Newcastle disease or reportable avian influenza.

Animal semen, embryos, and cloning tissue may not be imported into the United States from a region other than where it was collected.

The certified semen must be collected in a country considered by APHIS to be **free** of African horse sickness (AHS).

Any semen and embryo shipments should be routed directly to the United States with no stops other than those designated on the import permit.

Permit

The importer must be based in the United States and must obtain the import permit from APHIS. The import permit will accompany the shipment.

Importers should apply for an import permit online using [APHIS eFile](#). This will expedite the permitting process and enable users to track the status of their

permits, confirm receipt, and easily renew or amend existing permits. Visit [Animal Health Permits](#) to learn more about applying for an import permit, including paper applications.

Health Certificate

An official hard copy valid health certificate, written in English, is required for entry. The official health certificate must be issued by an authorized veterinarian in the exporting country and endorsed by a full-time salaried veterinarian of the agency responsible for animal health of the national government of the exporting country of origin.

[Equine-Equine Semen-United Kingdom-Health Certificate](#)

[Equine - Equine Semen - European Union - Health Certificate - February 2024](#)
(397.03 KB)

[Equine - Equine Embryos - European Union - Health Certificate - October 2024](#) (343.9 KB)

[Equine - Equine Semen - European Union - Health Certificate - February 2024](#)
(397.03 KB)

[Equine - Equine Embryos Belgium Health Certificate](#) (745.92 KB) - March 2026

[Equine - Equine Semen - Switzerland - Health Certificate - January 2024](#) (966.81 KB)

[Equine - Equine Semen - Netherlands - Health Certificate - September 2024](#) (164.15 KB)

[Equine - Equine Semen - European Union - Health Certificate-February 2024](#) (397.03 KB)

[Equine Embryos Health Certificate-Denmark-March 2025](#) (787.67 KB)

[Sample Health Certificate for Export of Micromanipulated Equine Embryos into the United States From Countries Affected With CEM](#) (187.87 KB)

A phantom teaser is preferred over a live teaser mare, if using a live teaser the mare has not been used for natural or artificial breeding prior to entrance into the semen collection center.

All animals must be tested with negative results for dourine within 30 days of the date they enter into the semen collection unit. Subsequent testing for dourine must be conducted at 180-day intervals if the stallions and mares remain in the semen collection unit.

[Sample Health Certificate for Export of Non-Micromanipulated Equine Embryos into the United States From Countries Affected With CEM](#) (56.24 KB)

Stallions must not be used for natural breeding for a period of time starting 15 days prior to the initial tests for CEM, while the stallion is in the collection unit and while semen is being collected for export to the United States. Before semen is collected, the stallions must be cleaned and then cultured negative for CEM.

All equipment used for collection, processing, and shipping semen must be new equipment or sanitized prior to use.

Collected semen must be processed with a semen extender with milk from a country free of foot-and-mouth disease at the time of collection or with egg originating from a country recognized by APHIS to be free of Newcastle disease or reportable avian influenza.

Collection should follow the regulations of the respective country's approved artificial collection centers for export of equine semen to the United States. The veterinarian issuing the health certificate should directly oversee collection, processing, and storage, including placement of semen into individual containers or in straws permanently marked with the identification of the stallion, date of collection, and the collection unit. The certifying veterinarian will maintain custody of the semen until it is placed in the shipping container and sealed with official seals of the government of the country of origin.

Animal semen, embryos, and cloning tissue may not be imported into the United States from a region other than where it was collected.

The certified semen must be collected in a country considered by APHIS to be **free** of African horse sickness (AHS).

Any semen and embryo shipments should be routed directly to the United States with no stops other than those designated on the import permit.

Permit

The importer must be based in the United States and must obtain the import permit from the APHIS. The import permit will accompany the shipment.

Importers should apply for an import permit online using [APHIS eFile](#). This will expedite the permitting process and enable users to track the status of their permits, confirm receipt, and easily renew or amend existing permits. Visit [Animal Health Permits](#) to learn more about applying for an import permit, including paper applications.

Health Certificate

An official hard copy valid health certificate, written in English, is required for entry. The official health certificate must be issued by an authorized veterinarian in the exporting country and endorsed by a full-time salaried veterinarian of the agency responsible for animal health of the national government of the exporting country of origin.

[Sample Health Certificate for Equine Semen](#) (192.5 KB)

[Sample Health Certificate for Equine Embryos](#) (206.88 KB)

[Equine - Equine Semen - Argentina - Health Certificate - May 2024](#) (484.35 KB)

[Sample Health Certificate for Equine Embryos](#)

[Equine - Equine Semen - Brazil - Health Certificate](#) (262.65 KB) September 2025

[Equine-Equine Embryos - Brazil-Health Certificate](#) (230.44 KB)February 2026

[Equine - Equine Semen - European Union - Health Certificate - February 2024](#)
(397.03 KB)

[Equine - Equine Embryos - European Union - Health Certificate - October 2024](#) (343.9
KB)

[Equine - Equine Semen - European Union - Health Certificate-February 2024](#) (397.03
KB)

[Equine Embryos Health Certificate-Denmark-March 2025](#) (787.67 KB)

A phantom teaser is preferred over a live teaser mare, if using a live teaser the mare has not been used for natural or artificial breeding prior to entrance into the semen collection center.

All animals must be tested with negative results for dourine within 30 days of the date they enter into the semen collection unit. Subsequent testing for dourine must be conducted at 180-day intervals if the stallions and mares remain in the semen collection unit.

Stallions must not be used for natural breeding for a period of time starting 15 days prior to the initial tests for CEM, while the stallion is in the collection unit and while semen is being collected for export to the United States. Before semen is collected, the stallions must be cleaned and then cultured negative for CEM.

All equipment used for collection, processing, and shipping semen must be new equipment or sanitized prior to use.

Collected semen must be processed with a semen extender with milk from a country free of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) at the time of collection or with egg originating from a country recognized by APHIS to be free of Newcastle disease or reportable avian influenza.

Collection should follow the regulations of the respective country's approved artificial collection centers for export of equine semen to the United States. The veterinarian issuing the health certificate should directly oversee collection,

processing, and storage, including placement of semen into individual containers or in straws permanently marked with the identification of the stallion, date of collection, and the collection unit. The certifying veterinarian will maintain custody of the semen until it is placed in the shipping container and sealed with official seals of the government of the country of origin.

Equine semen/embryos containers and tanks from a country affected with FMD shall be disinfected at the airport in the exporting country prior to departure and again upon arrival to the United States.

Available Ports

Ports listed have APHIS oversight for physical inspections and cleaning and disinfection of containers.

- Atlanta, GA
- Dallas, TX (DFW)
- Houston, TX
- Los Angeles, CA (LAX)
- Memphis, TN
- Miami, FL
- Minneapolis, MN
- Newark, NJ
- New York, NY (JFK)
- San Francisco, CA

Fees and Permitting

The processes and fees involved with importing horses and other equine, as well as equine germplasm (semen, embryos, and cloning tissue), depend on the conditions of entry.

Importers should apply for an import permit online using [APHIS eFile](#). This will expedite the permitting process and enable users to track the status of their permits, confirm receipt, and easily renew or amend existing permits. Visit [Animal Health Permits](#) to learn more about applying for an import permit, including paper applications.

Costs are associated with providing services for importing and transiting horses at airports, ocean ports, rail ports, land border ports, and southern border port and [animal import center](#) quarantines.

The fees billed are per individual horse. Charges for combined shipments may be split between brokers.

Overtime rates apply for after-duty hours, weekends, and holidays for inspection services. ([9 CFR 130.30](#))

There is a [comprehensive fee](#) for horses staying at a Federal quarantine center with a decreasing scale: days 1 to 3, days 4 to 7 and 8 through subsequent days. The daily rate includes all administrative costs conducted during normal business hours: examination on arrival, routine veterinary care, lodging costs for feed and bedding, obtaining test samples and processing them for shipping to the National Veterinary Services Laboratories, supervision of cleaning and disinfection of trailers and stalls, receiving and releasing horse shipments, identification of each horse on arrival and release, reviewing health certificates and issuing import permits to ensure compliance with import regulations, monitoring horses while they are in quarantine, release of paperwork in Veterinary Services Process Streamlining (VSPS), and oversight of horses shipping under APHIS seal to State CEM quarantine facilities. ([9 CFR 130.2](#))

Private quarantine facilities will bill user fees directly to importers on a quarter-hour to hourly rate. APHIS factors cost in these instances by the time spent for each service, which includes travel time to ports and airports for veterinary inspections.

Hourly rates also cover the costs of monitoring in-bond or transiting horses passing through the United States and exporting to other countries.

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