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Import Horses From Mexico

Last Modified:

As of May 11, 2025, APHIS has suspended importation of live horses originating from or transiting Mexico through U.S. ports of entry along the southern border, due to the continued and rapid northward spread of New World screwworm. For more information about the suspension, see the [USDA press release](#). APHIS will continue to allow the import of live horses via air until further notice.

No African Horse Sickness Present



No Screwworm Present



No Contagious Equine Metritis Present



No Foot-and-Mouth Disease Present



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Import a Horse

General Information

Horses imported into the United States from Mexico or transiting Mexico require a 7-day quarantine. The animals must be accompanied by an official health certificate issued within 30 days of physical examination and endorsed by a salaried veterinarian of the Mexican government. Horses completing quarantine at an APHIS-approved quarantine facility in the United States require an APHIS-issued import permit prior to export. Imported horses must test negative for dourine, glanders, equine infectious anemia, and piroplasmosis. The official entry tests for equine piroplasmosis are the complement fixation test (CFT) and cELISA (enzyme-linked immunoabsorbent assay). Quarantine and pre-entry testing take a minimum of 7 days. There is no differentiation between temporary and permanent status of horses importing from Mexico.

Health Certificate

The health certificate should state that the horse has:

- Been in Mexico for 60 days preceding importation. Horses imported from Mexico that have been in Mexico less than 60 days must be accompanied by an

original or copy of the export certificate from each country in which the horse has resided during the 60 days prior to import into the United States.

- Been inspected and found free of contagious diseases or exposure to any diseases immediately preceding exportation.
- Not been vaccinated during the 14 days prior to exportation.
- Not been on premises where African horse sickness, dourine, glanders, surra, epizootic lymphangitis, ulcerative lymphangitis, equine piroplasmosis, equine infectious anemia, contagious equine metritis, vesicular stomatitis, or Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis has occurred during the last 60 days immediately preceding exportation. The certificate must also state that these diseases have not occurred on any adjoining premises during the previous 60 days.
- Not been in a country where contagious equine metritis (CEM) is known to exist, nor have had any contact, breeding or otherwise, with horses from any such country, for the last 12 months preceding exportation **or** have been in a CEM-affected country and were tested for CEM as specified in the health certificate, with negative results.
- Had a negative examination for ectoparasites, including ticks.
- Not been castrated within 14 days of export.
- Been treated with injectable ivermectin or other product pre-approved by APHIS 3 to 5 days prior to the date of export to the United States according to the recommended dose prescribed on the product's label. Oral ivermectin paste that is formulated for horses and administered per the manufacturer's label may be used instead of injectable ivermectin. If oral ivermectin is administered, the medication used, and dosage should be recorded on the addendum.
- Had a negative examination for screwworm within the 24 hours prior to shipment, including their external genitalia.
- Any visible wounds had been treated with a solution of coumaphos dust at a concentration of 3-percent active solution, or an APHIS-approved medication for the treatment of screwworm, at the time the horse(s) are loaded onto a means of conveyance for export.

[APHIS-SENASICA NWS Protocol for the Importation of Equines From Mexico to the United States](#) (293.47 KB)

Certificate for horse(s) that have only resided and/or **have not** resided in a [CEM-affected country](#) within the 12 months prior to export:

- [Equine Import Health Certificate from Mexico](#) (211.19 KB)

Certificate for horse(s) that **have** resided in a [CEM-affected country](#) within the 12 months prior to export:

- [Equine Import Health Certificate from Mexico \(CEM\)](#) (224.06 KB)

[New World Screwworm Inspection and Treatment Certificate for Horses Exported to the United States](#) (135.05 KB)

[Required Screwworm Addendum to the Health Certificate From Mexico](#) (137.71 KB)

Available Ports

Due to the dynamic nature of security requirements and inspection personnel, you **must contact the port at least 3 business days prior to crossing**. Each port has may have its own additional requirements—contact the port for the latest information.

Check with the border port to determine if it requires the importer to use an authorized customs broker.

[Download contacts](#)

Available Ports

With the exception of Del Rio and Laredo, APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) port veterinarians will inspect horses on the Mexican side of each port. Make a reservation for quarantine space at least 3 days in advance of arrival at the border port.

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Quarantine Information

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 of 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.

Fees

Costs are commensurate with services provided for importing horses at land border ports. 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](#)
- Checking health certificates and permits
- Ensuring compliance with import regulations

Import Semen and Embryos

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.

General Information

Contact the specific port to discuss options. The port veterinary medical officer (VMO), animal health technician (AHT), or program assistant (PA) can answer questions and ensure you have everything needed for import.

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