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Importing Live Cattle, Bison and Germplasm into the United States

Last Modified:



USDA APHIS regulates the importation of all ruminants and their germplasm (embryos/oocytes, semen, cloning tissue) to prevent the spread of animal diseases. **Ruminants** include all animals which chew the cud, such as cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats, deer, antelopes, camels, llamas and giraffes.

USDA APHIS defines the following animals as **bovine**: *Bos taurus*, *Bos indicus* and *Bison bison*.

[View Countries From Which Bovines and Their Germplasm May Be Imported](#)

General Protocols and Guidelines Specific to Bovines

[Information on BSE and Minimal Risk Regions for the Importation of Live Ruminants](#)

[Importing Live Cattle and Bison from Canada to the United States](#)



[Importing Live Cattle and Bison from Mexico to the United States](#)



[Other Approved Countries \(except Canada and Mexico\)](#)



What You Need To Know

- U.S. transits are classified as shipments presented to a U.S. port of entry for conveyance purposes to then be transported to a destination country shortly after. [Notice Regarding APHIS Live Animal Import and Third-Country Import Transit Permits](#) (272.29 KB).
- Please note that any animals and their germplasm transiting the United States must not transit countries with questionable disease statuses prior to reaching a U.S. port of entry.
- All transits require a contingency plan. Please submit your contingency plan with your permit application ([VS 17-129](#)) to laipermits@usda.gov. To submit an import permit electronically, visit [APHIS eFile](#).

If you are applying to import live animals, semen, and embryos, you may submit applications by email to laipermits@usda.gov

Contact Us

Live Animal Imports

For questions about import permits or permit applications:

Live Animal Import Permit Team

Email: laipermits@usda.gov

Phone: [301-851-3300](tel:301-851-3300)

For general questions related to the import of a live animal:

Live Animal Import and Export

Email: laie@usda.gov

Phone: [301-851-3300](tel:301-851-3300)

[All Contacts](#)

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