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Importing Live Cattle and Bison from Mexico to the United States

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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.

Requirements

Ports of Entry

Southern Border Ports

- Texas: Brownsville, Hidalgo, Laredo, Eagle Pass, Del Rio, and Presidio
- Arizona: Douglas, Naco, Nogales, Sasabe, and San Luis
- California: Calexico and San Ysidro
- New Mexico: Antelope Wells, Columbus, and Santa Teresa

Air/Ocean

- Newburg, NY
- Miami, FL
- Los Angeles, CA

** Please see [9CFR 93.403](#) for list of special/limited ports of entry

Live Domestic Cattle and Bison

Protocols for the Import of Feeder Cattle, Breeding Cattle, and Cattle for Immediate Slaughter from Mexico to the United States; no permit is required

- [Protocol for the Import of Sexually Intact \(Breeder\) Bovines from Mexico into the United States](#) (1.42 MB)
- Model Health Certificate: [Breeding Cattle and Bison from Mexico](#) (73.96 KB)
- [Protocol for the Import of Steers and Spayed Heifers Cattle and Bison \(Feeders\) from Mexico](#) (407.16 KB)
- Model Health Certificate: [Feeder Cattle and Bison from Mexico](#) (73.92 KB)
- Model Health Certificate: [Slaughter Cattle and Bison from Mexico](#) (73.92 KB)
- [Transit Canadian Cattle and Bison to Mexico](#) (39.39 KB)
 - [Questions and Answers: Transit Canadian Cattle and Bison to Mexico](#) (31.37 KB)

Bovine Tuberculosis Requirements for Cattle from Mexico

- [VS Bulletin 2023.1 Bovine Tuberculosis Testing Requirements for Cattle Imported to the United States from Mexico](#)

Additional Import Guidance

- [VSG 13416.2 Spayed Heifers from Mexico](#) (1.21 MB)
- [VSG 13414.2 Branding Requirements for Imported Mexican Bovines](#) (275.98 KB) (Cattle/Bison)

Bovine Embryos

Bovine embryos **are not** permitted to be imported from Mexico at this time.

Bovine Semen

Bovine semen **is not** permitted to be imported from Mexico at this time.

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](#)