

USDA, APHIS, VETERINARY SERVICES
NATIONAL IMPORT AND EXPORT SERVICES
PROTOCOL FOR THE IMPORTATION OF
FEEDER CATTLE (STEERS AND SPAYED HEIFERS) FROM AUSTRALIA
FEBRUARY 2016, UPDATE MAY 2018

Note: This import protocol applies to AU cattle which have been subjected to proper neutering and ovariectomy procedures.

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- 1.1. The importer must obtain an **import permit** from the:

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services (VS)
National Import and Export Services (NIES),
Unit 39, 4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD 20737-1231

Telephone: (301) 851-3300
Facsimile: (301) 734-4704

The application, **VS Form 17-129, “Application for Import or in Transit Permit,”** may be obtained by writing or calling NIES, or by downloading it from the APHIS Web site:
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/downloads/vs17_129.pdf

- 1.2. The importer must reserve quarantine space at the following USDA quarantine center:

New York Animal Import Center (NYAIC)
230-59 Rockaway Blvd., Suite 101
Jamaica, NY 11413

Telephone (845) 838-5500 [quarantine]
Fax (718) 553-3572
Email: VSPSNIC@aphis.usda.gov

- 1.3. Alternatively, the quarantine may be completed at a USDA-approved privately owned minimum security quarantine facility for ruminants in compliance with title 9, *Code of Federal Regulations*, part 93, as amended on January 1, 2015. The importer may contact NIES for further information.
- 1.4. An official **health certificate** is required on entry. The official health certificate must be issued by a veterinarian designated by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, (ADAWR), and must be endorsed by ADAWR attesting to the certifications and tests required in this protocol. All certifications in Sections 2, 3, 4, and 6 of this protocol

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must be included on the health certificate. Results and dates of all required official tests must also be included on the certificate.

- 1.5. The official health certificate must include:
 - 1.5.1. Name and address of the importer;
 - 1.5.2. Species, breed, and number of the animals to be imported;
 - 1.5.3. Purpose of the importation;
 - 1.5.4. Individual identification, including the eartag number or other approved forms of individual identification, and any other identification present on the animal, including registration number and brands;
 - 1.5.5. Description of the animals, including age in months, sex, breed, and markings (if any);
 - 1.5.6. Region/country of origin;
 - 1.5.7. Address or other means of identifying the premises of origin and any other premises where the animals resided immediately prior to export;
 - 1.5.8. Name and address of the exporter;
 - 1.5.9. Port of embarkation, the mode of transportation, route of travel, and port of entry in the United States.
- 1.6. Feeder cattle exported from Australia will be kept in an Akabane, Bluetongue, Aino, and Bovine ephemeral fever virus- free region prior to being exported to the United States. Areas free of these Arboviruses are defined in this protocol as Arbovirus-free regions. Vector-free facilities from hereon will refer to facilities free of ectoparasites (i.e. ticks, mites).

2. HEALTH CERTIFICATIONS

- 2.1. Australia is free of foot-and-mouth disease, surra, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, and bovine brucellosis (*Brucella abortus*).
- 2.2. The animals for export were born, raised, and continuously resident in Australia.
- 2.3. Bovine tuberculosis is a notifiable disease in Australia.

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- 2.4. Within the previous 12 months prior to collection of animals for this consignment, no cases of bovine tuberculosis have been reported in the animal herd, or from any group of animals susceptible to bovine TB with which the animal commingled.
- 2.5. No cases of disease caused by Schmallenberg virus have been detected or reported in Australia.
- 2.6. Animals originated from farms where no cases of anthrax were officially reported during the last six months.
- 2.7. The animals for export have been part of Australia's national herd for a minimum of 60 days prior to exportation, with no quarantine or movement restrictions due to animal health reasons placed during that time.

3. PRE- EXPORT REQUIREMENTS

- 3.1. For a minimum of 30 consecutive days immediately preceding exportation, the feeder cattle were kept under ADAWR supervision in an ADAWR –approved tick free facility, located in an Akabane, Bluetongue, Aino, and Bovine ephemeral fever –virus free zone of AU. The dates of quarantine shall be recorded on the health certificate.

Note: The animals for export must be inspected for ticks and treated prior to being placed in the tick-free and arbovirus vector-free facility certified by ADAWR as vector-free (as defined above) during the 30 days prior to export to the United States (see Part 6 of this protocol).

- 3.2. Hay provided during pre-embarkation isolation originated from cattle tick- free areas and had been stored for 90 days prior to introduction to the pre-export isolation facility.
- 3.3. The animals must undergo the following inspections and treatments for ectoparasites:
 - 3.3.1. The animals for export must be inspected for ticks and treated for ticks prior to entering the pre-export isolation facility (as per clause 3.1)
 - 3.3.2. Between 7 and 10 days prior to export, the animals must be examined for external parasites and treated for ectoparasites using a product registered for that purpose in Australia and used according to the product's specifications. The product, concentration, dose, and date of treatment must be recorded on the health certificate. The date of inspection must be recorded on the health certificate.
 - 3.3.3. Within 48 hours of the scheduled date of shipment each animal was examined and

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found to be free of any signs of contagious and infectious diseases and free of signs of ectoparasites.

3.3.4. If the pre-export isolation premises do not meet the requirements of clause 6.1.1, the animals for export were also then treated for ticks using a product registered for that purpose in Australia and used according to the product's specifications. The date of inspection - and if relevant the product, concentration, dose, and date of treatment - must be recorded on the health certificate (6.1.2).

3.4. The animals for export are permanently identified with a radio frequency identification device (RFID) in accordance with Australia's National Livestock Identification System (NLIS).

Note: If microchip identification is used, a functional reader must be made available at the U.S. port of entry.

4. TRANSPORTATION

- 4.1. The animals for export must be loaded onto vehicles cleaned with a disinfectant, and transported directly to the port of embarkation. Equipment used during transit must also be cleaned and disinfected prior to use. During transit from the pre-embarkation quarantine premises to the port of embarkation and loading, the animals may not come into contact with any animals of lesser health status (based on an official declaration by the transporter). These animals must be transported to a port of embarkation within the Arbovirus free region(s) of Australia, without transiting any region that is not certified Arbovirus free.
- 4.2. At no time may there be contact with livestock that were not quarantined or at least of the same health standards.
- 4.3. All hay and straw provided for the animals in the transporting aircraft or ocean vessel must be sourced from countries/regions recognized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as free of cattle fever ticks and have been stored for 90 days prior to loading on the aircraft or vessel.
- 4.4. No animals other than those animals intended for export to the United States are permitted aboard the transporting aircraft or ocean vessel. The captain of the transporting carrier must be advised of the transportation requirements.
- 4.5. All required ADAWR certifications relating to the health of the animals, pre-embarkation, tests conducted and results, cleaning, disinfecting, transportation, and hay and bedding shall accompany the qualifying animals for export to the U.S. port of entry.

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4.6. No stops or ports of call are allowed except those provided on the U.S. import permit.

5. U.S. PORT OF ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 5.1. All hay, straw, bedding, manure, and similar material accompanying the animals (except pelleted feed stored separate and apart from the animals) must be removed and disposed of in accordance with the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) guidance upon arrival at the first U.S. port of entry. The animal area and equipment must be cleaned with a disinfectant once livestock have been unloaded.
- 5.2. Transport must be arranged so that arrival at the U.S. port of entry will be accomplished with minimal transiting of other U.S. ports of entry. Transit of a U.S. port is only allowed if authorized on the import permit issued by USDA APHIS. The import permit must accompany the shipment.
- 5.3. The U.S. import inspection, quarantine, and testing will be accomplished at a USDA-operated animal import center or a USDA-approved privately owned minimum security quarantine facility. Prior to issuing the import permit, the owner or operator of the private quarantine facility must enter into a cooperative service agreement with APHIS and provide adequate funding to defray the expenses of the quarantine.
- 5.4. The cattle shall be quarantined a minimum of 30 days on arrival into the U.S.
- 5.5. Once the animals have arrived at the quarantine facility, they will receive a treatment for internal and external parasites with a product labeled for such use (i.e. ivermectin or similar product).
- 5.6. Cattle will be tested for TB during the quarantine period.
- 5.7. Various other tests or treatments may be required when the Deputy Administrator, VS, determines that such tests or treatments are necessary. If all test results are negative and no other infectious and communicable disease conditions become evident, VS will issue a VS Form 17-30 (Report of Animals, Poultry, or Eggs Offered for Importation) and the animals will be released to the importer.

6. Guidelines to a Tick-Free Pre-export Isolation Facility

- 6.1. Fencing

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6.1.1. The entire facility must be double-fenced with heavy gauge woven wire fencing at least 1.8 meters high in order to keep out all domestic and wild animals that may carry ticks. The space between the fences must be at least 3 meters wide (approximately 10 feet) and kept free of all vegetation.

OR

6.1.2. The entire facility must be double fenced with fencing at least 1.2 meters high. The space between fences must be at least 3 meters, and must include a space between the fences at least 3 meters wide that is kept free of all ground vegetation AND

The animals in the consignment underwent a final tick treatment within 48 hours of export (see clause 3.2.3)

Note: No pets will be allowed inside the quarantine area.

- 6.2 All hay or other non-processed roughage must originate from countries/regions recognized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as free of cattle fever ticks and foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). All hay or non-processed roughage has been stored for 90 days prior to introduction to the pre-export isolation facility.
- 6.3 Stock horses used for management of the cattle undergoing pre-embarkation quarantine must, prior to entry to the facility, be examined by a veterinarian or government inspector and no evidence of ticks detected or be treated for ticks, if they are discovered, prior to entry to the facility. Additionally, once the horses have entered the facility after inspection/treatment, they must remain in the facility until the cattle are exported or if they are removed and re-enter the facility, they must be re-examined and treated if required prior to each re-entry.