

Protocol for the Import of Ratites from Canada for Immediate Slaughter
APHIS VS National Import and Export Services
October, 2019

I. General requirements: for importations of ratites from Canada going directly to a slaughter establishment.

1.1 Canadian Residency: Ratites are considered Canadian origin if they were hatched and raised in Canada OR were legally imported upon arrival in Canada, underwent 28 days of Canadian quarantine and remained in Canada for an additional 60 days following completion of quarantine.

1.2 Ratites from Canada can be imported without quarantine.

1.3 There are limited ports along the U.S. and Canadian border which are allowed to receive ratites for immediate slaughter. Ports of entry from Canada are found in 9 CFR - 93.203 (b). A web link to US limited ports is listed [Here](#)

1.4 An import permit is not required when entering the US via a land border port.

1.5 Confirmation of availability at the port of entry should be discussed with APHIS VS port veterinarian 72 hours prior to arrival at the port of entry.

II. Identification and Documentation:

2.1 Identification is not needed for ratites from Canada.

2.2 Two copies of a declaration is required. The declaration must list: port of entry, name and address of importer, name and address of the broker, origin of the ratites, number and type of birds, purpose of the import, and location of slaughter establishment.

2.3 Health certificates:

i. Should be issued by a Canadian practicing veterinarian and endorsed by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

ii. Must contain the following health statements:

a. Ratites covered under this health certificate were inspected by the veterinarian issuing the certificate.

b. Ratites were not vaccinated against any H5 or H7 subtype of avian influenza.

c. The ratites have been vaccinated against Newcastle disease (avian paramyxovirus) at least 21 days prior to export, using vaccines that do not contain any velogenic strains of Newcastle disease virus.

OR

Ratites have not been vaccinated against Newcastle disease. (strike and initial out that which does not apply).

d. There was no evidence of avian communicable disease found among the ratites being shipped.

e. The premises where the ratites were exported from were not adjacent to any areas under quarantine during the 88 days preceding the exportation.

- f. Ratites were either born in Canada; or legally imported and then have resided in Canada for at least 88 consecutive days.
- g. The ratites were placed in new or appropriately sanitized bedding for shipment to the United States at the premises where the flock of origin was kept.

2.4 The lead vehicle in a convoy of the same animals must have an original signed document for the animals in the entire convoy. Each vehicle following the lead vehicle in the convoy with ratites for immediate slaughter must have separate signed copies of the documentation for animals on those vehicles.

III. Inspection at the port of entry:

3.1 The APHIS VS port veterinarian will conduct a visual examination of the birds to determine that they are free of ectoparasites, or clinical signs that ectoparasites may be present.

3.2 Review of the health certificate which may contain strikeouts made and initialed by CFIA authorities or the veterinarian who issued the certificate.

3.3 The port vet must seal the containers and add the seal numbers to import documents as listed below. Any animals that are recumbent and appear to be unable to walk should be refused entry on an individual animal basis. The driver should then safely return across the border for animals to be reloaded, where the dead or downed animals get removed.

3.4 The port veterinarian may refuse individual animals or the entire shipment at his/her discretion, with consideration given to factors such as the level of ectoparasitism, clinical signs of disease, broken seals, and animal welfare issues. If individual animals are refused entry, the port veterinarian will document the reduced total numbers on the health certificate for the animal(s) refused entry.

3.5 Trucks that return to Canada with refused entry animals, may return for re-inspection

3.6 If all of the requirements for entry have been met, the port veterinarian will seal the shipment with APHIS seals and issue a completed VS Form 17-30, 'Report of Animals, Poultry or Eggs Offered for Importation'. The port veterinarian will also seal conveyances and issue a completed VS Form 17-33 (two copies) 'Animals Imported for Immediate Slaughter'. The U.S. seal numbers will be written on the VS Form 17-33.

3.7 The ratites for immediate slaughter must be imported to a slaughtering establishment approved by APHIS VS to receive these kinds of animals. The establishment should be approved by FSIS to receive animals that are imported direct to slaughter.

IV. Post-entry procedures for Ratites:

4.1. The ratites must be moved directly from the port of entry to a slaughtering establishment authorized by APHIS VS to receive ratites from Canada for

immediate slaughter, along an APHIS- approved route of transportation. The port vet should relay information about the shipment to the USDA representative at the receiving slaughter establishment and request follow up to the VS Form 17-33 as is referenced below. If any emergencies occur during transportation that would entail a delay in delivery or diversion from the specified route, the driver must notify APHIS VS port personnel for further instructions.

4.2 Except for emergencies, seals applied by the port veterinarian may be broken only at the recognized slaughtering establishment by a USDA representative (e.g., an APHIS VS employee, an FSIS inspector, a State Representative, an accredited veterinarian or an employee of an accredited veterinarian, or the recognized slaughtering establishment (by a person who has been designated to perform the functions involved).

4.3 Inspection plant personnel will submit fully completed VS Forms 17-33 to the APHIS VS port veterinarian within 14 days of the ratites' arrival at the recognized slaughtering establishment. If the fully completed VS Form 17-33 is not returned to the port veterinarian within 14 days, the port veterinarian should contact the recognized slaughter establishment. If the recognized slaughter establishment is not responsive to this follow-up request, the port veterinarian should contact the NIES office covering the area of the slaughter establishment, who will then contact the FSIS District Office. The VS Import/Export Coordinator should be copied on these communications.

V. Inquiries

Information on this import protocol should be directed to:
Strategy & Policy,
Live Animal - Avian Imports
USDA/ APHIS/VS
PH. 301/851-3300, Option #2
Fax: 301/734-6402