



Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Veterinary Services
Strategy and Policy

4700 River Rd

Riverdale, MD 20737

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Requirements for Horses that Reside in Multiple Countries of Differing Health Statuses Prior to Exporting to the United States

This notice applies to horses that temporarily resided in a country which APHIS considers screwworm, Venezuelan equine encephalitis (VEE), and/or foot and mouth disease (FMD) affected, then reside in a country or countries which APHIS recognizes as either (1) screwworm, VEE, and FMD free or (2) screwworm and VEE free and FMD affected within the 90 days (for U.S.-origin horses) or the 60 days (for foreign-origin horses) immediately preceding export to the United States.

Screwworm requirements: Horses that have resided in a country APHIS recognizes as screwworm affected that are then examined and found to be free of screwworm after residing in country or countries APHIS recognizes as screwworm free for a minimum of 7 days preceding export to the United States may qualify for a 3-day federal import quarantine period upon arrival provided that (1) the screwworm examination was performed by a veterinarian authorized by the Competent Veterinary Authority of the screwworm-free country; and (2) the following statement appears on, or in addendum to, the issued export health certificate, and is endorsed by an official veterinarian of the Competent Veterinary Authority:

The horse has resided in one or more countries that APHIS considers free of screwworm for at least seven (7) days after residing in a country that APHIS considers screwworm affected AND after seven (7) days, the horse and their external genitalia were examined and found to be free of screwworm infestation.

If screwworm examination and certification is not completed as above, the horses must complete a 7-day federal import quarantine with screwworm mitigations upon arrival to the United States.

VEE requirements: Horses that have resided in a country APHIS recognizes as VEE affected that are then examined and found to be free of clinical signs of VEE after residing in country or countries APHIS recognizes as VEE free for a minimum of 7 days preceding export to the United States may qualify for a 3-day federal import quarantine period upon arrival provided that (1) the VEE examination was performed by a veterinarian authorized by the Competent Veterinary Authority of the VEE-free country; and (2) the following statement appears on, or in addendum to, the issued export health certificate, and is endorsed by an official veterinarian of the Competent Veterinary Authority:

The horse has resided in one or more countries that APHIS considers free of VEE for at least seven (7) days after residing in a country that APHIS considers VEE affected AND after seven (7) days, the horse was examined and found to be free of clinical signs of VEE.

FMD requirements: Horses that reside in a country or countries APHIS recognizes as free of FMD for a minimum of 5 days after residing in a country APHIS recognizes as FMD affected may export to the United States without additional FMD mitigations, provided that the following statement appears on, or in addendum to, the issued export health certificate and is endorsed by an official veterinarian of the Competent Veterinary Authority:

The horse has resided in one or more countries that APHIS recognizes as free of FMD for a minimum of 5 consecutive days after residing in a country that APHIS considers FMD affected.

Horses that do not meet the above criterion must undergo the additional FMD mitigations specified below immediately prior to export. Statements of these required mitigations must appear on, or in addendum to, the issued export health certificate and be endorsed by an official veterinarian of the Competent Veterinary Authority.

The horse has resided in a country that APHIS considers affected with FMD within the five (5) days immediately preceding export to the United States AND

- a. The horse has not been on any premises or quarantined area identified to be affected with FMD, nor has the horse been in direct contact with domestic or wild animals, including ruminants or swine, that have been in an FMD region or on an FMD affected or quarantined premises.*
- b. I have received confirmation from the owner and/or exporter that, prior to loading for departure:*
 - i. The horse was groomed to remove dirt and debris, and subsequently wiped, sprayed and/or sponged down with vinegar or a solution of 6.5 ounces of concentrated glacial acetic acid in 1 gallon of water or another approved disinfectant.*
 - ii. The horse's hooves were cleaned and disinfected with a 4% sodium carbonate (soda ash) solution or Virkon S in a manner to ensure that the hooves are free of dirt, manure and debris.*
 - iii. Prior to loading the horse, all crates and transportation vehicles were cleaned and disinfected with an approved product.*
 - iv. Any equipment (tack, blankets, sheets, leg wraps, etc.) accompanying the horse has been laundered or cleaned to remove dirt and debris prior to disinfection with an approved product.*
 - v. The equipment was cleaned and disinfected with a 4% sodium carbonate (soda ash) solution immediately prior to shipment. The disinfectant used will have removed the risk of this equipment transmitting the foot-and mouth disease virus.*

The attached addendum may be used to satisfy these requirements. The APHIS-recognized animal health status of regions is available at the following link:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/animal-health-status-of-regions>

For more information, questions, or concerns, please contact LAIPolicy@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

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