

Take Care of Our Horses

Commercial Transportation of Equines to Slaughter

Transport Requirements

Prior to the commercial transportation of horses to a slaughter facility, you—the owner or shipper—must:

- Give each horse an opportunity to eat and drink for a period of not less than 6 consecutive hours immediately before loading onto the truck or trailer.
- Apply a backtag to each horse in your shipment. (Backtags are available from recognized slaughtering establishments or from Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service [APHIS] personnel.)
- Complete and sign an owner/shipper certificate that includes the name, address, and phone number of the shipper and receiver (slaughter plant), and the transporting vehicle's license and registration number.
- Certify that each horse is able to bear weight on all four limbs, is not blind in both eyes, is able to walk unassisted, is not a mare that is likely to foal during the trip, is older than 6 months, and has had access to food, water, and rest for 6 consecutive hours before being loaded into a vehicle.

- Document identifying marks (brands, tattoos, scars, etc.).
- Document breed, color, and sex.
- Document any preexisting condition of the horse prior to shipment to prove the condition did not occur during transport.

Falsification of any certificate or document is a criminal offense and may result in a fine of up to \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than 5 years or both.

For complete transportation instructions, contact your nearest U.S. Department of Agriculture, APHIS, Veterinary Services (VS) office. A list can be found on our Web site at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs>. Click on "Area Offices" in the box at the top of the page.



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