

USDA, APHIS, VETERINARY SERVICES
NATIONAL CENTER FOR IMPORT AND EXPORT
PROTOCOL FOR THE IMPORTATION OF
SHEEP AND GOATS FOR FEEDING FROM CANADA

November 2007

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Feeder sheep and goats may be imported if they are accompanied by an import permit (for intact animals) issued by NCIE and an official Canadian health certificate which states they are less than 12 months of age, have a permanent “C” brand, have an official Canadian eartag and meet all of the other import health requirements. They must be transported under seal directly to an APHIS-approved designated feedlot for feeding, then must be moved from the approved designated feedlot to a recognized slaughtering establishment in sealed conveyances accompanied by VS Form 1-27. Sheep and goats from Canada must be slaughtered before reaching 12 months of age.

Breeding sheep or goats cannot be imported from Canada. Also, pregnant sheep or goats are not considered feeders and cannot be imported.

General regulations are described in title 9 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (9 CFR) part 93.

- 1.1. To import uncastrated sheep and goats under this protocol, the importer must obtain an import permit from:

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

The import permit application (VS 17-129) can be found online at www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie.

This permit is valid for 14 days from the date specified on the application as the “proposed arrival date.”

- 1.2 Wethers (castrated sheep and goats) do not need a permit. However, the entire sealed shipment must consist of castrated sheep and goats and must be certified as such on the health certificate.
- 1.3 The sheep and goats must be presented for entry at a land border port listed in 9 CFR 93.403(b).

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- 1.4 An original and two copies of the official Canadian health certificate are required for each conveyance. The official health certificate must be issued by a veterinarian designated or accredited by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and must be endorsed by a full-time salaried veterinarian employed by CFIA attesting to the certifications and tests required in this protocol. The health certificate is valid for 30 days from the issue date.
- 1.5 The official Canadian health certificate must include:
- a. Name and address of the importer;
 - b. Species, breed, and number of sheep or goats to be imported;
 - c. Purpose of the importation;
 - d. Individual identification, which includes the official Canadian eartag number or other approved forms of individual identification, and any other identification present on the animal, including registration number (if any) and brands;
 - e. Description of the sheep or goat, including age in months, color, sex, breed, and markings (if any);
 - f. Region/country of origin;
 - g. Address or other means of identifying the premises of origin and any other premises where the sheep or goats resided immediately prior to export;
 - h. Specific physical location of the APHIS-approved designated feedlot where sheep and goats are to be moved after importation or the address of the APHIS approved slaughtering establishment, including the applicable Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) establishment number;
 - i. Name and address of the exporter;
 - j. Port of embarkation in Canada, the mode of transportation, route of travel, and port of entry in the United States; and
 - k. Identification numbers of the Canadian seals that have been applied to the conveyance containing sheep and goats going to an APHIS-approved designated feedlot or approved slaughtering establishment.
- 1.6 The feedlot of destination must have **prior approval** by VS to receive feeder sheep or goats from Canada in accordance with 9 CFR 93.419(d)(8). Contact the Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC) in the State of destination for further information.

2. IDENTIFICATION

- 2.1 Each animal must be individually identified by an official Canadian eartag before the animal's arrival at the port of entry into the United States. All tags must be clean and readable and preferably in the right ear to expedite inspection at the port of entry. Complete eartag numbers must be recorded on the health certificate.

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- 2.2 Each animal must have a “C” brand applied prior to the port of entry into the United States. The brand must be not less than 1 inch high or more than 1¼ inch high and can be applied to any haired area on the animal that can be readily observed. Improperly applied brands or hair brands or anything that does not result in a permanent mark is not acceptable.

3. HEALTH CERTIFICATIONS

Animals must be presented to an APHIS port veterinarian at a U.S. port of entry listed in 9 CFR 93.403(b). The shipment must be accompanied by the official Canadian health certificate. The VS Form 17-29, Declaration of Importation, will be completed by the customs broker or other authorized individual and will be presented to the port veterinarian along with the Canadian health certificate which must contain the following health certifications:

- 3.1 The sheep or goats have been inspected and found to be free from any evidence of communicable disease and, as far as can be determined, have not been exposed to any such disease during the preceding 60 days.
- 3.2 Canada is free from foot-and-mouth disease, rinderpest, surra, and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia.
- 3.3 The sheep or goats have been kept in Canada during the last 60 days immediately preceding the date of shipment to the United States.
- 3.4 The sheep and goats are subject to a ruminant feed ban equivalent to the requirements established by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- 3.5 The sheep or goats have not resided in a flock or herd that has been diagnosed with bovine spongiform encephalopathy.
- 3.6 The sheep or goats are not in quarantine in Canada.
- 3.7 The sheep or goats have not tested positive and are not suspect for a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy.
- 3.8 The movement of the sheep or goats is not restricted within Canada as a result of exposure to a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy.

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- 3.9 The sheep and goats are less than 12 months of age.
- 3.10 The sheep or goats are not pregnant, or the sheep or goats have been castrated.

4. TESTING

No tests are required for feeder sheep or goats.

5. PORT OF ENTRY INSPECTION

5.1 Sheep or goats must be presented by appointment to a U.S. port of entry listed in 9 CFR 93.403(b). The VS Form 17-29, Declaration of Importation, must be completed by the customs broker and must be presented to the port veterinarian along with the official health certificate.

5.2 Sheep or goats must arrive at the port of entry in a conveyance that has been sealed in Canada with seals of the national government of Canada. (In the event that Customs and Border Protection (CBP) inspected the conveyance, CBP will reseal the conveyance with official seals.) The Canadian seal numbers must be included on the Canadian health certificate. If the conveyance arrives at the port of entry and the Canadian seals are broken, missing, or do not match the seal numbers on the health certificate, the entire shipment will be refused entry. In the event that the shipment does not comply with protocol requirements, the port veterinarian will document the number of sheep or goats in the shipments that are rejected. The port veterinarian will also contact the appropriate CBP officials and CFIA port authorities to inform them of the refusal of the shipment.

5.3 The port veterinarian will issue VS Form 17-130, Ruminants Imported to Designated/Approved Feedlots. These forms should be distributed as indicated on each individual form. A copy of the health certificate should be attached to the copy of the VS Form 17-30 that is sent to the State Veterinarian in the State of destination. If any of the Canadian seals are broken, the shipment will be resealed by the APHIS port veterinarian at the port of entry with official seals of the U.S. government. The U.S. seal numbers will be written on the VS Form 17-130 along with any Canadian seal numbers that remain intact on the conveyance.

6. POSTENTRY MOVEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR CANADIAN SHEEP AND GOATS FROM DESIGNATED FEEDLOTS DIRECTLY TO SLAUGHTER

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- 6.1 The sheep and goats identified on VS Form 17-130 must remain at the designated feedlot until transported to a recognized slaughtering establishment for slaughter.
- 6.2 No person may alter, deface, remove, or otherwise tamper with the individual, official ruminant identification while the ruminant is in the United States. Official ruminant identification may be removed only at the time of slaughter.
- 6.3 The sheep or goats must be moved directly from the feedlot as a group of Canadian animals to a recognized slaughter establishment in conveyances that are sealed by an accredited veterinarian or a State or USDA representative with seals of the U.S. government. The seals may be broken only at the recognized slaughtering establishment by a USDA representative.
- 6.4 The shipment must be accompanied to the slaughter establishment by VS Form 17-130 and VS Form 1-27, completed by an accredited veterinarian or a State or USDA representative. The VS Form 1-27 must identify the physical location of the slaughter establishment, the individual responsible for the movement of the ruminants, the seal numbers, and the individual identification of each ruminant, which includes the official eartag and any other identification present on the ruminant. A copy of the Canadian health certificate must be attached to the VS Form 1-27.
- 6.5 The USDA representative at the recognized slaughtering establishment will complete VS Form 1-27 and return it to the AVIC.
- 6.6 The feedlot must maintain copies of the VS Form 17-30, VS Form 17-130, VS Form 1-27 and the health certificate (which accompanied the animals when initially entering the designated feedlot) for 5 years, and the copies must be made available to State or Federal representatives as requested.
- 6.7 The sheep or goats must be less than 12 months of age when slaughtered.

7. BREEDING ANIMALS

Breeding sheep or goats cannot be imported from Canada. Also, pregnant sheep or goats are not considered feeders and cannot be imported.