

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

November 2007

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Sheep and goats for immediate slaughter may be imported if they are accompanied by an official Canadian health certificate which states they are less than 12 months of age and are transported under seal directly to an APHIS-approved slaughtering establishment.

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](http://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).
- 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.

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- 1.5 The official 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 goats, 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. 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.

## 2. IDENTIFICATION

- 2.1 Each animal must be individually identified by an official Canadian eartag applied 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.

## 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. The Canadian health certificate must contain the following statements:

- 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.

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- 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.
- 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 sheep or goats for immediate slaughter.

#### 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

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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.

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

Slaughtering establishments must have prior approval by VS to receive Canadian sheep and goats directly from the port of entry for immediate slaughter, in accordance with VS Memorandum No. 591.15, Importation of Restricted Animals from Canada and Mexico for Immediate Slaughter. A list of approved slaughtering establishments can be obtained from NCIE.

- 6.1 If all of the requirements for entry have been met, the port veterinarian will issue VS Form 17-30, Report of Animals, Poultry or Eggs Offered for Importation.
- 6.2. The sheep or goats must be moved directly from the port of entry to a recognized slaughter establishment in conveyances that are sealed by a VS or CBP official with seals of the U.S. government. The port veterinarian will also issue VS Form 17-33, Animals Imported for Immediate Slaughter. The U.S. seal numbers will be written on the VS Form 17-33 along with any Canadian seal numbers that remain intact on the conveyance. The seals 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 a slaughtering establishment or feedlot representative who has been designated to perform the functions involved). The USDA representative at the recognized slaughtering establishment will finalize VS Form 1-27 and return it to the Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC).
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4. The port veterinarian will establish a file for the VS Forms 17-33. If the VS Form 17-33 is not returned to the port veterinarian within 14 days, the port veterinarian should contact the slaughter establishment. If the slaughter establishment is not responsive to

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this followup request, the port veterinarian should contact the AVIC, who will then contact the FSIS District Office.

6.5. The sheep or goats must be less than 12 months of age when slaughtered.