

# 3

Animal Product  
Manual

## Reference

### *Foreign Meat and Meat Products, Equine*

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#### Introduction and Subsidiary Locator

The *Foreign Meat and Meat Products, Equine* section covers horse meat and horse meat products.

No specific regulations govern the importation of horse meat. Horses **do not** get BSE and FMD. However, unless horse meat can be differentiated from that of ruminants, then horse meat **cannot** enter U.S. commerce if the meat is from a country affected with BSE or FMD. When a VS permit does **not** authorize entry, continue to [Table 3-10-1](#) which directs you to the final regulatory action to take. Inspect the importation to determine if there is bone-in meat with hoof attached (the hoof is attached by natural attachments to each portion of the carcass).

**TABLE 3-10-1 Regulatory Action on Meat and Meat Products of Horse**

If there is:	And the country or region of export is:	And:	Then:
Hoof attached	_____	_____ →	REFER to FSIS
No hoof attached	Affected with BSE or FMD	Argentina or Paraguay	GO to <a href="#">Table 3-10-3</a>
		Other than Argentina or Paraguay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ REFUSE ENTRY</li> <li>◆ PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options including the option to have an identification test done (see <a href="#">Table 2-2-11</a>)</li> </ul>
	Minimal risk for BSE <sup>1</sup> and Free from FMD	_____ →	GO to <a href="#">Table 3-10-4</a>
	Free from BSE and FMD	_____ →	

1 Currently Canada is the **only** country designated at minimal risk for BSE.

### Horse Meat from Argentina, Canada, New Zealand, and Paraguay

Argentina and Paraguay, which are known to be affected with FMD, are the **only** FMD-affected countries that have horse meat inspection systems approved by USDA for exporting edible (human or animal consumption) horse meat to the United States.

New Zealand, which is free from FMD and BSE, and Canada, which is free from FMD and at minimal risk for BSE, are also allowed to export horse meat to the United States. Canada and New Zealand require **only** a horse meat certificate.

Determine if the importation is accompanied by a USDA approved edible horse meat certificate; see [Figure 3-10-1](#) for an example.

**OFFICIAL HORSE MEAT CERTIFICATE FOR HORSE MEAT FOOD  
PRODUCTS**

Place: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (Country)

The undersigned Official Medical Veterinary, CERTIFIES: That the horse meat and/or horse food products herein described were derived from horses which received ante mortem and post mortem veterinary inspection at the time of slaughter, and that such horse meat products are sound, healthful, wholesome, and otherwise fit for human consumption and have not been treated with, and do not contain any preservative, coloring matter, or other substance not permitted by the regulations governing the horse meat inspection of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, filed with me, and that said horse meat and horse meat food products have been handled only in a sanitary manner in this country.

Kind of Product	Species of livestock derived from	Number of pieces or containers	Weight
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Identification marks on products and containers: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Consignor: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Address)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address)

Establishment number: \_\_\_\_\_

Consignee: \_\_\_\_\_

Destination: \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping marks: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of official authorized by the national foreign government to issue inspection certificates for meat food products exported to the United States.)

Official title: \_\_\_\_\_

FIGURE 3-10-1 Example of a USDA Approved Horse Meat Certificate (Blank)

**TABLE 3-10-2 Determine Whether to Authorize Shipment of Horse Meat from Argentina and Paraguay**

If the importation is from:	And is:	Then:
Argentina or Paraguay	Consigned to an approved establishment for rendering or processing into pet food	AUTHORIZE shipment under seal with VS 16-78 (see <a href="#">Appendix K</a> to complete form)
	<b>Not</b> consigned to an approved establishment	CONTINUE on this page

When the importation of horse meat from Argentina or Paraguay is accompanied by a USDA-approved horse meat certificate but **not** consigned to an approved establishment, then further action is taken. The action is based on whether or **not** you are located at a port of arrival where PPQ conducts identification tests.

**TABLE 3-10-3 Action to Take on Horse Meat from Argentina or Paraguay Dependent upon Consignment to an Approved Establishment**

If the horse meat from Argentina or Paraguay is:	And the certificate is:	And the importation is:	Then:
Accompanied by a certificate	USDA-approved horse meat certificate	Consigned to an approved establishment for rendering or processing into pet food	AUTHORIZE shipment under seal with VS 16-78 (see <a href="#">Appendix K</a> to complete form)
		<b>Not</b> consigned to an approved establishment	Go to <a href="#">Identification Tests on page 3-10-6</a>
<b>Not</b> accompanied by a certificate	<b>Not</b> approved by USDA	—————→	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ REFUSE ENTRY</li> <li>◆ PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see <a href="#">Table 2-2-11</a>) including the option to have an identification test done</li> <li>◆ GO to <a href="#">Identification Tests on page 3-10-6</a> if the importer requests an identification test</li> </ul>
		—————→	

## Horse Meat from a Country Known to Be Free from FMD

TABLE 3-10-4 Regulatory Action to Take on Horse Meat from a Country Known to Be Free from FMD


If the importation is:	And is:	And is:	Then:
Horse meat from a country known to be free from FMD <sup>1</sup>	Accompanied by an official certificate verifying the species as horse, burro, or mule	→	RELEASE
	<b>Not</b> accompanied by an official certificate verifying species	Consigned to an approved establishment for rendering or processing into pet foods	AUTHORIZE shipment under seal with VS 16-78 (see <a href="#">Appendix K</a> to complete form)
		<b>Not</b> consigned to an approved establishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>DO NOT</b> RELEASE the HOLD</li> <li>◆ PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options including the option to have an identification test done (see <a href="#">Table 2-2-11</a>)</li> <li>◆ GO to <a href="#">Identification Tests on page 3-10-6</a> if the importer requests an identification test</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Currently Canada and New Zealand are the only FMD-free countries eligible to export horse meat for human consumption to the United States.

## Identification Tests

Procedures for these identification tests will **not** be listed in this manual because they are specific to those designated ports who communicate directly with laboratories.

TABLE 3-10-5 Identification Tests of Horse Meat

If your port of arrival:	And after conducting a test the results are:	Then:
Conducts identification tests	Negative for containing ruminant tissue	RELEASE
	Positive for containing ruminant tissue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ REFUSE ENTRY</li> <li>◆ PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see <a href="#">Table 2-2-11</a>)</li> </ul>
Does <b>not</b> conduct identification tests		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD</b></li> <li>2. <b>PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options</b> (see <a href="#">Table 2-2-11</a>)</li> </ol>