

**USDA APHIS VETERINARY SERVICES  
NATIONAL CENTER FOR IMPORT AND EXPORT**

**PROCEDURES FOR SHIPMENTS BY LAND OF U.S.-ORIGIN  
NON-BOVINE RUMINANT ANIMALS FROM ONE POINT IN THE U.S.  
TO ANOTHER POINT IN THE U.S THROUGH CANADA**

Under a joint arrangement made by USDA APHIS Veterinary Services (APHIS VS) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), non-bovine ruminant animals of U.S. origin may directly transit Canada without stopping (except for feed, water, or rest purposes) while moving between points in the U.S. Such consignments must comply with APHIS' conditions for re-entry to the U.S.; with CFIA requirements and oversight for any applicable feed, water, and rest stops in Canada; and with CFIA's import health requirements for livestock entering Canada. This guidance outlines APHIS and CFIA requirements for such movements.

This protocol may also be used for similar movements of other livestock-type animals (on a case-by-case basis) traveling as personal pets, and which may directly transit Canada without stopping (except for feed, water, or rest purposes); provided that any additional certifications or documents that may be required by either Canada or the U.S. state of re-entry are clearly referenced on the APHIS permit and/or CFIA import permit.

NOTE: Applications for shipments to move under this protocol will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and will be approved subject to the ability of a shipment to meet the criteria in this document and the availability of the necessary CFIA resources. It is important that importers/brokers contact CFIA with details of their itinerary well in advance of a proposed shipment, to ensure that all necessary arrangements can be adequately made.

**I. Roles and Responsibilities**

A. U.S. Applicants (typically an applicant is an 'importer', who may be the person receiving the animals in the U.S. after re-entry; the applicant may also person sending the consignment): The Applicant is responsible for obtaining all necessary permits and documentation, and making adequate financial arrangements, in advance of a shipment. Typically, the steps to be followed by the applicant consist of:

1. Obtaining an APHIS permit (completed VS Form 17-135, "United States Permit to Import" ) from the:

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Veterinary Services  
National Center for Import and Export Unit 39  
4700 River Road  
Riverdale, MD 20737-1231  
Telephone: (301) 734-8364

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Facsimile: (301) 734-4704

Email: [VS-Live.Animals\\_Import.Permits@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:VS-Live.Animals_Import.Permits@aphis.usda.gov)

An application form (VS Form 17-129, “Application for Import or in Transit Permit,”) for the permit can be obtained by emailing, writing, or telephoning the National Center for Import Export (NCIE), or by downloading it from the APHIS Web site: [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/forms.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/forms.shtml). Permits are required by APHIS to ensure adequate VS personnel are available for inspection and the release of the shipment upon re-entering the United States. [NOTE: The applicant must provide the contact information of any proposed non-VS personnel that might be responsible for seal and ID verification at the destination location to NCIE when applying for a permit. See section III.B below.]

2. Contacting State authorities in the U.S. receiving state for a state import permit (if applicable). A list of state veterinarians can be found at the following website:  
[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/animals/animal\\_import/downloads/state\\_vet.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/animal_import/downloads/state_vet.pdf)
3. Obtaining a U.S. Origin Health Certificate to accompany the animals transiting Canada and re-entering the U.S.
4. Arranging with and seeking acknowledgment from VS (in advance of the shipment) to provide any services needed at an approved feed, water, and rest (FWR) station while animals are moving within the United States (prior to leaving or after re-entering, as applicable).
5. Contacting the APHIS VS Port Veterinarian in the receiving state at least one week in advance to arrange (and pay) for any services to be provided by VS upon re-entry to the United States. VS must also be contacted 72 hrs prior to arrival in a receiving state to confirm that the consignment will arrive at the specified time and location. The applicant must provide the Port Veterinarian with the name of the driver, the estimated time of arrival, company name (if applicable), license plate and trailer plate number for the conveyance.
6. Obtaining an import permit from CFIA to transit Canada. The reported turnaround time is 5-10 business days for permit issuance from CFIA. [NOTE: the Applicant, if not a resident of Canada, must enlist the services of a broker for this process]. The Applicant should not apply for the CFIA

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permit until the APHIS permit and any applicable state permits have been obtained. Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/imp/perme.shtml>

- a. If a FWR stop in Canada is required, the Applicant should consult with CFIA in identifying a Canadian FWR station. The station must be inspected and approved by CFIA prior to applying for either the APHIS permit or the CFIA import permit. The station may be a specific facility where the animals are offloaded, or it may be a location where the transport vehicles can be stopped and the animals fed, watered, and rested while remaining inside the vehicle, provided that, to the satisfaction of CFIA, there is adequate room in the vehicle to do so.
  - b. For movements either way between Alaska and the lower 48 states, FWR stops in Canada must be within 100 km of Dawson Creek, British Columbia or Grand Prairie, Alberta. The FWR stations must be inspected for each shipment, unless utilized more than once on the same day by the same Applicant.
  - c. The Applicant (or shipper) will be responsible for making arrangements for providing the feed and bedding necessary for this shipment.
  - d. The Applicant must also consult with CFIA concerning emergency contingency plans for emergency offloading or otherwise dealing with transportation or animal health issues/emergencies en route. The route of travel should also be documented and communicated to CFIA prior to embarkation. CFIA may prescribe the route to be taken by the shipper.
  - e. The Applicant must contact CFIA prior to shipment (3 full business days in advance) to confirm the time of arrival for inspection by a Canadian federal inspector at the point of Canadian entry and the time of arrival at the approved FWR station.
  - f. Animals must meet CFIA requirements for importation into Canada; further information about these requirements may be found at: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/imp/airse.shtml#>. The CFIA import permit should identify the requirements.
7. Paying in advance (or by other arrangements as approved by APHIS) for permits and all anticipated services to be provided by APHIS VS.

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B. Canadian Food Inspection Agency (or Canadian Border Services Agency acting on behalf of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency) is responsible for:

1. Providing all health certification requirements for animals transiting Canada.
2. Issuing an import permit, once the feed, water and rest arrangements are approved, as applicable
3. Issuing licenses to transport the animals between the port of entry into Canada, the approved FWR station, and the port of exit from Canada.
4. Sealing the vehicles used and recording seal information on the CFIA license to transport the imported animals from the port of entry directly to approved rest stops; and for unsealing/re-sealing vehicles as needed at the approved rest stops.

C. APHIS Veterinary Services is responsible for:

1. Endorsing origin health certificates for shipments transiting through Canada. Certificates must be issued by an APHIS-accredited veterinarian and endorsed by Veterinary Services in the state where the animals originate.
2. Providing additional or technical assistance regarding import/export regulations.
3. Reviewing the Applicant's proposed FWR arrangements (if needed prior to leaving or re-entering the U.S.) for approval.
4. Issuing an APHIS permit if all necessary arrangements are considered adequate.
5. Notifying the CBP Agricultural Specialist (or other contact as designated by CBP) of the incoming shipment, after confirmation of the arrival time by the permit holder; and will provide CBP with the conditions for allowing re-entry. The Port Veterinarian (or AVIC) will also provide CBP

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with the name of the driver, the estimated time of arrival, company name (if applicable), license plate and trailer plate number for the conveyance.

6. Inspecting shipments covered under this protocol and ascertaining that CFIA seals are intact and the animals are fit for entry. For animals re-entering the U.S. at a port staffed in normal circumstances only by CBP (and not by VS; such as Alaska land ports), by prior arrangement, inspection will occur EITHER at the port (by a VS veterinarian who specially travels to the port for the purpose) OR at the destination premises at the time of arrival of the shipment or at a later time. If a later inspection is arranged, the shipment will be met at the destination premises by VS-designated personnel, who will verify whether the CFIA seals are intact and the animals are properly identified, and will immediately bring any discrepancies to the attention of the VS Area Veterinarian-in-Charge in whose Area the destination premises are located.
7. Charging User Fees for services provided under this protocol prior to leaving the U.S. and in association with the animals' return.

D. Customs and Border Protection (note: communications between CBP and VS will be made on a local basis at ports of entry for animals imported under this protocol. The VS Area Veterinarian-in-Charge for the state where a port is located will contact CBP using established contact information, and will provide CBP with appropriate VS contact information.)

1. **At ports of re-entry that are normally staffed by both CBP and VS:** Notifying VS of incoming shipments covered by this protocol that the shipment is available for inspection.
2. **At ports of re-entry to the United States that are not normally staffed by both CBP and VS (after notification by VS of a shipment arriving under this protocol):** Confirming that CFIA seals are intact and that an APHIS permit is present for shipments that have been notified to CBP by VS as incoming under this protocol.
  - a. For shipments with intact CFIA seals and accompanied by both a valid APHIS permit and a valid CFIA import permit, CBP will allow the shipment to re-enter the U.S. for inspection by VS at the destination premises. CBP form 7512B, United States – Canada Transit Manifest should be filed.

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- b. For shipments that do not have intact CFIA seals and are not accompanied by both a valid APHIS permit and a CFIA import permit, CBP will refuse entry and notify the VS using contact numbers provided by VS; OR (if holding space is available) will hold the shipment and notify VS using contact numbers provided by VS. No additional forms need to be filed for such refusals.

**II. Procedures while in-transit through Canada**

- A. When the shipment arrives for inspection at the first port of entry into Canada, CFIA will seal the shipment and conduct a visual inspection. Any animals that are ill, dead, or otherwise considered unfit for travel through Canada by CFIA will be refused entry.
- B. The shipment must proceed after entry inspection under seal and license directly from the port of entry to the CFIA-approved rest stop. An inspector designated under the Health of Animals Act will be present to unseal the truck (if necessary) to allow for the animals to be rested, fed, and watered as required, or observe the administration of this requirement in the stationary conveyance according to CFIA regulations and approval.
- C. At the time of exit from the rest stop, the animals must proceed under license and Canadian seal to the port of entry into the U.S.

NOTE: For shipments under this protocol that are entering Canada from Alaska, the Canadian Border Services Agency will apply a Canadian seal to the truck, and receive a license for transit by fax from the CFIA office at Dawson Creek, British Columbia. The inspection by CFIA will take place at the pre-approved rest location. Seal numbers will be documented on the CFIA license to transport documents, for reconciliation (as applicable, this reconciliation may be deferred to a final destination; see section III.C below).

**III. VS Procedures when re-entering the U.S.**

- A. Arriving at a standard approved port staffed by both CBP and VS:
  - 1. VS will respond to notifications by CBP that a shipment traveling under this protocol has arrived, and will verify that CFIA seals are intact.

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- a. If the seals are not intact, the port veterinarian will notify the Area Office, who will forward the information to the VS Regional Import/Export Coordinator. The shipment must be held until a resolution is worked out.
  - b. If CFIA seals are intact, the port veterinarian will break the seals, verify by inspection that the animals correspond to the official ID information provided, and determine whether animals are fit for further travel to the final destination. If these criteria are met, the shipment may be released.
  - c. VS port staff will generate a completed VS Form 17-30, with 'Intra- or Interstate Shipment of Non-bovine Ruminants Transiting Canada' listed in the 'Remarks' section.
  - d. VS personnel will fax confirmations of the seal numbers and individual animal ID reconciliations back to CFIA at: Western Area Office, Attention: Area Import Specialist, 403-292-6629
- B. Arriving at a specially approved port (i.e., a port specially designated for the re-entry of the shipment and not normally staffed by VS):
1. By prior arrangement, VS personnel will meet the shipment at the specially approved port to verify that the CFIA seals are intact and conduct an inspection per section III.A.1 above.
  2. Alternatively, by prior arrangement, VS will notify CBP of the anticipated arrival of a shipment that will not be met by VS at the port and will provide CBP with the APHIS permit number and CFIA import permit number of the shipment. CBP personnel will verify that the conveyance is sealed with CFIA seals-and is accompanied by the APHIS and CFIA permits before allowing the shipment to continue to the destination premises. Conveyances with CFIA seals that are missing, broken, or otherwise tampered with, or that are not accompanied by both the APHIS and CFIA permits, will be refused entry by CBP.
- C. Deferred inspections: for shipments handled under section III.B.2 above, VS personnel (or other personnel, as designated on the APHIS permit) will meet the shipment at the destination premises to verify that the CFIA seals are intact. Animals may not be offloaded prior to this verification.

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1. The inspecting VS veterinarian (or other personnel, as designated on the APHIS permit) will break the intact CFIA seals on the trucks to unload the animals.
2. The inspecting VS veterinarian will check each animal's identification to ensure that no additional animals were included in the shipment and that all animals are of U.S. origin.
3. If a VS veterinarian is not meeting the shipment at the destination, then other personnel as designated on the APHIS permit will perform steps 1 and 2 above. Such personnel must immediately notify the VS Area Veterinarian-in-Charge in whose Area the destination premises are located of any conveyances arriving with CFIA seals that are missing, broken or visibly tampered with. The AVIC, in consultation with state animal health officials, will arrange for the quarantine of the shipment (at the destination premises or another location determined by VS and state authorities) until a resolution can be reached.
4. The animals will be inspected by a VS veterinarian either at the time of arrival at the destination premises or at a later time.
5. For shipments that meet the above criteria for release, the inspecting VS veterinarian will generate a completed VS Form 17-30, with 'Intra- or Interstate Shipment of Non-bovine Ruminants Transiting Canada' listed in the 'Remarks' section.
6. VS personnel (or other personnel, as designated on the APHIS permit) will fax confirmations of the seal numbers and individual animal ID reconciliations back to CFIA at: Western Area Office, Attention: Area Import Specialist, 403-292-6629
7. The seals that were removed will be maintained in the possession of a/the person designated on the APHIS permit to remove them, pending release of the shipment or until any issues delaying release are resolved.

**IV. Animals Refused Entry**

- A. Entry may be refused by VS if:
  1. Seals are missing, broken, appear to have been tampered with, or were not recorded on the Canadian license.



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2. Dead animals, sick animals, or injured animals are found on the conveyance upon presentation at the port of re-entry. Individual animals or the entire shipment may be refused entry at the discretion of the inspecting VS veterinarian.
- B. For animals refused re-entry by VS, one of the following options may be used:
1. Contacting the shipper/exporter and, for interstate transits, the VS Area Office in the sending state, to discuss a possible return to the premises of origin. [The VS Area Office in the sending state will also contact state animal health authorities as part of this process.]
  2. If agreed by the sending or receiving party, transporting under seal directly to an APHIS-approved establishment in the U.S. for immediate slaughter.
  3. For cases involving humane issues, euthanasia and APHIS-prescribed disposal of the animals by incineration, landfill or other means.
- C. If any of the situations under section IV.A above (or other actionable scenarios) arise while the shipment is in Canada, CFIA will contact APHIS and a determination will be made as to how to proceed. Barring emergency interventions, and even after the initial crisis is addressed, intact seals will be verified/applied and recorded, and the shipment will be directed by CFIA to either proceed forward or return to the U.S. via the shortest or most prudent route.

**V. User Fees**

- A. APHIS VS will charge applicable user fees for the services it provides under this protocol for shipments leaving and re-entering the U.S. [NOTE: The fee for processing the APHIS permit application is a fee separate from the fees for other services provided by APHIS VS.] User fees related to the shipment's movement must be paid prior to or at the time of service, depending on payment arrangements approved in advance by APHIS VS.
- B. CFIA will separately charge applicable user fees for the services it provides. The importer must arrange for payment of CFIA fees directly to CFIA.