



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Veterinary Services

National Center for
Import/ Export

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Subject: Importation of Bovines (Cattle or Bison) from Canada for Feeding

To: Feedlot Owners and Operators and Other Interested Parties

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) published a final rule on January 4, 2005, entitled "Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy; Minimal-Risk Regions and Importation of Commodities." As a result of this publication, regulations are now in place to allow for the importation of bovines from Canada for feeding. Bovines must be less than 30 months of age when imported and when sent to slaughter. This rule is effective immediately.

There are now specific post entry requirements on the movement of these animals from the Port of Entry (POE). If you intend to import feeder bovines from Canada, you must comply with the following conditions:

- (1) All bovines imported from Canada will be individually identified by an official Canadian eartag, applied before the bovine's arrival at the United States POE. This eartag cannot be removed. You cannot alter, deface, remove, or otherwise tamper with the individual identification while the animal is at your feedlot. The bovines must also be marked with a CAN brand on the right hip.
- (2) Shipments of bovines must move directly from the POE to the feedlot. When the shipment of animals arrives at the feedlot from the POE, the vehicle will be sealed by official government seals of Canada, or official seals of the United States [applied at the POE by either APHIS or U.S. Customs and Border Protection]. The shipment will be accompanied by VS Form 17-130 "Ruminants Imported to Designated/Approved Feedlots." This form identifies the physical location of the feedlot, and the individual responsible for the movement of the animals. This form is issued at the POE. A copy of the official Canadian Health certificate will also accompany the shipment.
- (3) The official seals on the vehicle can be broken by a State or U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) representative, an accredited veterinarian, or his/her designee (i.e., an employee of the accredited veterinarian). The individual that breaks the seal must complete #13 to #18 of the VS Form 17-130 and return it to the POE within 14 days of receipt of the shipment. The appropriate return address is included on the form.
- (4) The bovines must remain at the feedlot that was identified on the VS Form 17-130. They cannot be sent to any other location except to slaughter.
- (5) The bovines must be moved directly from the feedlot to the slaughter establishment in a vehicle that must be sealed at the feedlot with U.S. Government seals by an accredited veterinarian or a State or USDA representative. The seals may be broken only at the slaughter establishment by a USDA representative.



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(6) The accredited veterinarian or State or USDA representative must complete VS Form 1-27, "Permit for Movement of Restricted Animals." This form will identify the location of the recognized slaughtering establishment, the individual responsible for the movement of the bovines, and the individual identification of each animal. **A copy of the official Canadian health certificate and a copy of the VS 17-130 must be attached to this form and accompany the shipment to slaughter.**

(7) Canadian bovines must be moved as a group of Canadian bovines to the slaughter establishment. U.S. and Canadian bovines cannot be shipped in the same vehicle to slaughter.

(8) It is the responsibility of the individual that is sending these animals to slaughter to ensure that they are less than 30 months of age when slaughtered.

Failure to comply with any of these requirements may prevent you from receiving Canadian feeder bovines. You may also be subject to civil or criminal penalties under the Animal Health Protection Act.

In order to avoid unnecessary delays at the POE and in receiving your feeder shipments, it is highly recommended that you contact the Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC) in the State of destination of your feedlot and provide him/her with the name and address of your feedlot and the designated individual(s) who will be responsible for removing the official government seals and completing and returning VS Form 17-130 to the port veterinarian. A list of AVICs can be found on the Internet at www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/area_offices.htm.

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