

Summary of Texas Requirements For Entry of Livestock (Domestic and Exotic), Poultry and Ratites into the State and into Shows, Fairs, Exhibitions, and Assemblies

Note: The following summary is a condensed version of the Texas Animal Health Commission regulations. The regulations will supersede this summary if there is a dispute between the two.

1. **Infected, Exposed or Quarantined for Disease**
Any livestock, poultry or ratites that are infected, exposed or quarantined in any manner for an infectious, contagious or communicable disease may not enter the state. Contact TAHC at 1-800-550-8242.
2. **Certificate of Veterinary Inspection**
The certificate is required to accompany animals and fowl entering the State of Texas as stated in the following summary of entry requirements. The certificate is valid for 45 days for equine and 30 days for all other species.
3. **Waybill**
A waybill may be used in lieu of a certificate of veterinary inspection in some instances. The waybill must contain the name and address of the owner or shipper; point of origin; number and type of livestock and/or poultry; purpose of movement; official identification (when required); and destination.
4. **Prior Entry Permit**
Entry permits are required as noted in the following summary of entry requirements. Permits may be obtained by calling 512/719-0777 (24 hours) or 1/800-550-8242, extension 777 or by writing the Texas Animal Health Commission, 2105 Kramer Lane, P. O. Box 12966, Austin, Texas 78711-2966.
5. **Entering Shows, Fairs, Exhibitions, and Assemblies**
 - A. Livestock, poultry and ratites entering from out of state must meet this state's entry requirements. Animals moving from out of state and entering for exhibition and sale must be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection and an entry permit when required. The entry permit is not required when livestock enter for exhibition and return to the state of origin, except for bulls when not meeting the Trichomoniasis entry requirements
 - B. Poultry entered in terminal public exhibition events shall be accompanied by a certificate of source which identifies the flock of origin. Poultry entering in a non-terminal public exhibition shall be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection which states the poultry:
 - (1) have been inspected and are free from evidence of infectious or contagious diseases;
 - (2) have been vaccinated only with approved vaccines;
 - (3) have not originated from an area that has had an active avian disease within 30 days of entry.
 - (4) must have either a negative flock or individual bird test for Avian Influenza, within 30 days of entry.
 - (5) have had a negative pullorum-typhoid test within 30 days prior to entry or that the poultry must originate from flocks that meet either the Texas Pullorum-Typhoid Program and/or the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP).
 - C. Equine may enter Texas for shows, fairs, exhibitions, or assembly purposes when accompanied by a valid equine interstate passport, equine go pass or equine identification card and a completed VS Form 10-11 showing negative EIA test results within the previous 6 months **or** a certificate of veterinary inspection and a negative EIA test with the previous 12 months.
 - D. Equine originating in Texas and:
Entering parimutuel racetracks and entering a show, fair, exhibition, and assembly - Must be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection and a negative EIA test within 12 months. Foals under 8 months of age, nursing a negative dam, are exempt from testing.
 - E. All other livestock, poultry and ratites originating in Texas and:

- (1) entering interstate shows, fairs, and exhibitions (those functions that permit livestock and poultry from other states to enter for show or exhibition and held in common facilities with Texas origin livestock and poultry of the same species) are exempt from an entry permit, but must meet the same other requirements as for those species entering from out-of-state.
 - a. Ratites must be individually identified and tested negative for Avian Influenza and Salmonella pullorum-typhoid within 30 days.
 - b. Swine entered in terminal shows are exempt from brucellosis, leptospirosis and pseudorabies requirements.
 - c. Breeding rams originating in Texas are exempt from the brucella ovis test.
 - d. Texas origin dairy cattle are not required to test for tuberculosis to participate in a show, fair or exhibition within the state but must be individually identified.
 - (2) entering all intrastate shows, fairs, and exhibitions (those functions that require Texas livestock, poultry and ratites of the same species to be housed and exhibited separate and apart from livestock, poultry and ratites from out of state) are exempt from the certificate of veterinary inspection and testing requirements, except;
 - a. poultry must originate from flocks or hatcheries free of pullorum disease and fowl typhoid or have a negative pullorum-typhoid test within 30 days before exhibition.
 - b. all exhibition sheep and goats must have a scrapie identification eartag except registered goats with a registration tattoo and accompanied by registration papers listing the scrapie premise ID number.
- F. Rodeo stock from Mexico shall be tested for tuberculosis by an accredited US veterinarian within 12 months prior to their utilization as rodeo or roping stock.

6. **Cattle Entering the State from Other States**

A certificate of veterinary inspection is required on cattle entering the State.

A. **Brucellosis testing requirements**

Brucellosis testing is not required for cattle originating from a cattle brucellosis free state. All states are currently free.

B. **Tuberculosis testing requirements**

- (1) All beef cattle, bison and sexually neutered dairy cattle originating from a tuberculosis free state or zone, or from a tuberculosis accredited herd are exempt from tuberculosis testing requirements.
- (2) All beef cattle, bison and sexually neutered dairy cattle originating from a state or zone with anything less than a tuberculosis free state shall be tested negative for tuberculosis in accordance with the appropriate status requirements as contained in Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 77, Sections 77.10 through 77.19. When tuberculosis testing is required, the test should be conducted within 60 days prior to entry.
- (3) All dairy breed animals, including steers and spayed heifers, shall be officially identified prior to entry.
- (4) All sexually intact dairy cattle, that are two (2) months of age or older may enter provided that they are officially identified, and are negative to an official tuberculosis test conducted within 60 days prior to the date of entry.
- (5) All sexually intact dairy cattle that are less than two (2) months of age must be officially identified and obtain an entry permit from the Commission to a designated facility where the animals will be held until they are tested negative at the age of two (2) months.
- (6) Animals which originate from a tuberculosis accredited herd and/or animals moving directly to an approved slaughtering establishment are exempt from the TB test requirement.
- (7) Dairy cattle delivered to an approved feedyard/pen for feeding for slaughter by the owner or consigned there with an entry permit are exempt from testing unless from a restricted herd but must be officially identified.
- (8) In addition, all sexually intact dairy cattle originating from a state or zone with anything less than a tuberculosis free state status shall be tested negative for tuberculosis in accordance with the appropriate requirements for states or zones for that status, prior to entry.

- (9) All "M" branded steers, which are recognized as potential rodeo and/or roping stock, being imported into Texas from another state shall obtain an entry permit and be tested negative for tuberculosis within twelve months prior to entry.

C. Trichomoniasis Requirements

- (1) All breeding bulls entering the state more than 12 months of age or be tested negative for Trichomoniasis with PCR test within 30 days prior to entry. Bulls that have had contact with female cattle subsequent to testing must be retested prior to entry. Breeding bulls shall be individually identified by an official identification device shown on the certificate of veterinary inspection indicating the age.
- (2) Breeding bulls, entering Texas as a recent resident, enrolled at a CSS certified Artificial Insemination facility where the bull(s) was isolated from female cattle and accompanied by documents with an original signature by the veterinarian or manager of the facility, are exempt from the test requirements.
- (3) Untested bulls from out of state can enter Texas directly to a feedyard that has executed a Trichomoniasis Certified Facility Agreement, and are on a VS 1-27 permit and accompanied with an entry permit number issued by the Commission.
- (3) All bulls entering Texas for the purpose of participating at fairs, shows, exhibitions and/or rodeos, which are twelve months of age or older and capable of breeding may enter the state without testing for trichomoniasis, but shall obtain a permit prior to entry. Bulls permitted for entry under the provisions of this subsection shall not be commingled with female cattle or used for breeding. Bulls that stay in the state more than sixty (60) days must be tested negative for trichomoniasis with an official PCR test.

7. Cattle Entering the State from Foreign Countries

- A. Permit Requirement. Sexually intact cattle must obtain an entry permit if for other than direct to slaughter or approved feedyard/pens. The permit number must be entered on the Importation Certificate (VS Form 17-30).

B. Branding Requirements

Sexually intact cattle destined for an approved feedyard/pen must be "S" branded prior to or upon arrival at the approved feedyard/pen.

Spayed heifers shall be identified by branding prior to entry.

All cattle moved into Texas from Mexico shall be identified with an "M" brand prior to moving to a destination in Texas.

C. Brucellosis Requirements

- (1) Vaccination Requirement. Nonvaccinated sexually intact female cattle between 4 and 12 months of age entering for purposes other than immediate slaughter or feeding for slaughter in an approved feedyard/pen shall be placed under quarantine on arrival and officially brucellosis vaccinated. The quarantine may be released after a negative test is conducted 30 days after they have had their first calf.
- (2) Testing Requirements for Bulls entering for purposes other than immediate slaughter or feeding in an approved feedyard/pen. Bulls shall be tested at the port of entry into Texas and placed under quarantine and retested 120 to 180 days after arrival. The quarantine will be released following a negative brucellosis test.
- (3) Testing Requirements for Females entering for purposes other than immediate slaughter or feeding in an approved feedyard/pen. All sexually intact female cattle shall be tested at the port of entry into Texas and placed under quarantine on arrival and retested for brucellosis in no less than 120 days nor more than 180 days after arrival for release of the quarantine however, if the sexually intact female cattle have not had their first calf prior to the 120 to 180 day post entry test, the quarantine will not be released until a second negative test for brucellosis is conducted no sooner than 30 days after the animal has had its first calf and the second negative test has been confirmed.
- (4) Testing Requirements for Sexually Intact Cattle moving directly to an approved feedyard/pen. All sexually intact cattle must be tested at the port of entry into Texas. These cattle must be "S" branded

prior to or upon arrival at the approved feedyard/pen, and may move to the approved feedyard/pen only in sealed trucks with a VS 1-27 permit issued by a representative of TAHC or USDA personnel.

D. Tuberculosis Requirements

- (1) All sexually intact cattle, from any foreign country or part thereof with no recognized comparable tuberculosis status:
 - a. To be held for purposes other than for immediate slaughter or feeding for slaughter in an approved feedyard/pen, must be tested at the port of entry into Texas and shall be under quarantine on the first premise of destination in Texas pending a negative tuberculosis test no earlier than 120 days and no later than 180 days after arrival. The test will be performed by a veterinarian employed by the TAHC or APHIS/VS.
 - b. When destined for feeding for slaughter in an approved feedyard/pen, cattle must be tested at the port-of-entry into Texas; moved directly to the approved feedyard/pen only in sealed trucks; accompanied with a VS 1-27 permit issued by TAHC or USDA personnel; and "S" branded prior to or upon arrival at the feedyard.
- (2) All other cattle from foreign countries, foreign states or zones within foreign countries with comparable tuberculosis status, would enter by meeting the requirements for a state with similar status.
- (3) Cattle originating from Mexico
 - a. All sexually intact cattle shall meet the requirements provided for in subsection (1) of this section.
 - b. Steers and spayed heifers from Mexico shall meet the federal importation requirements as provided in Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 93, Section 93.427, regarding importation of cattle from Mexico. In addition to the federal requirements, steers and spayed heifers must be moved under permit to an approved pasture or to an approved feedyard/pen.
 - c. Cattle utilized as rodeo and/or roping stock shall meet the requirements set out in subsection (3) (a) of this section and the applicable requirement below:
 - (i) All sexually intact cattle shall be retested annually for tuberculosis, or
 - (ii) All sexually neutered horned cattle imported from Mexico are recognized as potential rodeo and/or roping stock and must:
 - (I) be tested for tuberculosis at the port of, and
 - (II) be moved by permit to a premise of destination and remain under Hold Order until permanently identified, and retested for tuberculosis between 60 and 120 days after entry. The cattle may be allowed movement to and from events/activities in which commingling with other cattle will not occur and with specific permission by the TAHC until confirmation of the negative post entry retest for tuberculosis can be conducted, and
 - (III) be retested for tuberculosis annually and the test records shall be maintained with the animal and available for review.
 - d. Regardless of reproductive status, test history, or Mexican state of origin, Holstein and Holstein cross cattle are prohibited from entering Texas.
 - e. A copy of the certificate issued by an authorized inspector of the USDA,APHIS, for the movement of Mexico cattle into Texas, must accompany such animals to their final destination in Texas, or so long as they are moving through Texas.

E. Trichomoniasis Requirements

- (1) All breeding bulls entering from Mexico or from any country that does not have an established trichomoniasis testing program, shall enter on and be moved by an entry permit, to a premises of destination in Texas and remain under Hold Order until tested negative for trichomoniasis with not less than three official culture tests conducted not less than seven (7) days apart, or a PCR test, within thirty (30) days after entry into the state. All bulls shall be maintained separate from female cattle until tested negative for trichomoniasis. The Hold Order shall not be released until all other post entry disease testing requirements have been completed. All bulls tested for trichomoniasis shall be identified at the time the initial test sample is collected. The Identification shall be recorded on the test documents.
- (2) All breeding bulls entering from Canada or from any country that has an established trichomoniasis testing program but for which the animals are not tested to meet the certification and testing requirements of subsection (C.) (1) "6. Cattle Entering the State from Other States" of this part, shall

enter on and be moved by a permit, issued prior to entry, to a premises of destination in Texas and remain under Hold Order until tested negative for trichomoniasis with not less than three official culture tests conducted not less than seven (7) days apart, or a PCR test within thirty (30) days of entry into the state. All bulls shall be maintained separate from female cattle until tested negative for trichomoniasis. All bulls tested for trichomoniasis shall be identified at the time the initial test sample is collected. The identification shall be recorded on the test documents.

8. **Equine Entering the State**

All equine shall have a certificate of veterinary inspection and proof of a negative EIA test within the previous 12 months prior to entering Texas. The negative test results must be shown on the certificate of veterinary inspection or a completed VS Form 10-11 may be attached to the certificate. Only test results from USDA approved laboratories are acceptable.

Exceptions to these requirements:

- (1) equine may be consigned directly to a veterinary hospital or clinic for treatment or for usual veterinary procedures when accompanied by an entry permit number. Following release by the veterinarian, equine must be returned immediately to the state of origin by the most direct route; *or*,
- (2) equine for sale at a livestock market, may first be consigned directly to a veterinary hospital or clinic for issuance of the certificate of veterinary inspection and/or EIA testing, when accompanied by a prior entry permit; *or*,
- (3) equine may enter Texas for shows, fairs, exhibitions or assembly purposes when accompanied by a valid equine interstate passport or equine identification card or equine go pass and a completed VS Form 10-11 showing negative EIA results within the previous six (6) months; *or*,
- (4) foals, under eight (8) months of age, accompanying and nursing a dam with a negative test within the last twelve months.

9. **Swine Entering the State**

A. A certificate of veterinary inspection is required for all but slaughter swine listing permanent identification and including a statement that they have not been fed garbage, have not been exposed to hog cholera or pseudorabies and have not been vaccinated for pseudorabies. Swine may be consigned direct to slaughter or a specifically approved market for sale to slaughter accompanied by a waybill in lieu of the certificate.

B. Leptospirosis vaccination is required on breeding swine, 6 months of age and over, within 30 days prior to entry with Leptospirosis vaccine containing the following strains: Canicola, Hardjo, Icterohaemorrhagiae, Grippotyphosa, Pomona.

C. A brucellosis test is not required on breeding swine. All states are swine brucellosis free except Texas.

D. A pseudorabies test is not required. All states are currently swine pseudorabies free.

10. **Sheep Entering the State**

A. A certificate of veterinary inspection is required on all imported sheep. All breeding sheep regardless of age, all sheep 18 months of age or older, and all sexually intact show or exhibition sheep, must be officially identified with a Scrapie Eradication Program eartag prior to entry.

B. All breeding rams, six months of age and over, must have had a negative ELISA test for brucella ovis within 30 days prior to entry or be from a brucella ovis free flock.

C. All blackface ovine females and all blackface crossbred females, except hair sheep, imported for breeding purposes shall originate from a Scrapie Certified Free Flock or have documentation supporting that the animals are of the genotype RR at codon 171 or AA at codon 136 and QR at codon 171.

11. **Goats Entering the State**

A. A certificate of veterinary inspection is required on all imported goats.

B. All breeding or exhibition goats must be officially identified with a Scrapie Eradication Program eartag prior to entry, except registered goats with a registration tattoo, accompanied by registration papers and a Scrapie Eradication Program premise number.

12. **Poultry Entering the State**

- A. A certificate of veterinary inspection and entry permit is required on poultry except poultry delivered to a slaughter establishment (which maintains federal postmortem inspection) by the owner or consigned there and accompanied by a waybill indicating the plant of destination.
- B. Live domestic poultry, except those entering for slaughter and processing at a slaughter facility owned or operated by the owner of the poultry entering, may enter Texas only under the following circumstances:
 - (1) originate from a flock that is certified as Avian Influenza clean in accordance with the National Poultry Improvement Plan; or
 - (2) originate from an Avian Influenza negative flock that participates in an approved state-sponsored Avian Influenza monitoring program; or
 - (3) originate from a flock in which a minimum of 30 birds, 4 weeks of age or older, or the complete flock, if fewer than 30, are serologically negative to an Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) or Agar Gel Immunodiffusion (AGID) test for Avian Influenza within 30 days of entry *or* a minimum of 10 birds (e.g. two pools of 5 birds per house) are tested negative on trachea swabs to a real-time reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RRT-PCR) test within 30 days of entry *or* negative to other tests approved by the Commission.
 - (4) Live domestic poultry from states affected with Avian Influenza may enter Texas for slaughter and processing only under the following circumstances: A minimum of 30 birds per flock are serologically negative to an ELISA or AGID test for Avian Influenza within 72 hours of entry, *or* a minimum of 10 birds (e.g., two pools of 5 birds per house) are tested negative on tracheal swabs to a RRT-PCR test within 72 hours of entry *or* negative to other tests approved by the TAHC, and specific written permission has been granted.
 - (5) Live domestic poultry broilers from states affected with Infectious Laryngotracheitis and vaccinated with chick embryo vaccine may enter Texas for immediate slaughter and processing only under the following conditions: (1) The request for authorization to bring poultry into the state must be in writing and shall include a proposed route to slaughter that would not pose a disease risk to Texas poultry. (2) The initial request must be approved by the Executive Director prior to entry of the poultry. (3) All shipments of poultry qualifying for entry shall have an entry permit and documentation of the origin of the shipment.
- C. Vaccination must be with vaccines approved by USDA and TAHC. (Contact TAHC for a list of approved vaccines.) NOTE: No modified live virus chick embryo origin Laryngotracheitis (LT) vaccine and no modified live virus mycoplasma gallisepticum (MG) attenuated vaccine may be used on poultry entering the State.
- D. The certificate should state that the poultry have not originated from an area that has had active Laryngotracheitis within the last 30 days.
- E. A negative pullorum-typhoid test is required within 30 days prior to entry *or* poultry must originate from flocks that meet either the Texas Pullorum-Typhoid Program and/or the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP).
- F. Baby poultry are exempt from these requirements if from a NPIP or equivalent hatchery and accompanied by a NPIP VS Form 9-3 or an APHIS Form 17-6; *or*, are covered by an approved "Commuter Poultry Flock Agreement" on file with the state of origin and the Texas Animal Health Commission.

13. **Exotic Livestock and Ratites Entering the State**

Exotic Livestock are defined as grass-eating or plant-eating, single-hooved or cloven-hooved mammals that are not indigenous to this state and are known as ungulates, including animals from the swine, horse, tapir, camel, llama, rhinoceros, elephant, deer, and antelope families.

Camelidae are defined as members of the family of animals which includes camels, lamas, and vicunas. The domestic members of the genus lama include the llama, alpaca, and guanaco.

Ratites are defined as exotic fowl with a flat breastbone and small or nonexistent wings, such as ostriches, emu, rheas, and kiwi.

Exotic bovidae means non-indigenous members of the family of animals which includes water buffalo, gnu (wildebeest), addax, antelope and nilgai (among others).

Exotic cervidae is further defined as non-indigenous members of the family of animals which includes deer, elk, moose, caribou, reindeer and the sub-family musk deer.

An entry permit and a certificate of veterinary inspection are required on all exotic livestock and ratites entering the state.

- A. Exotic cervidae must originate from a certified free herd or be tested negative for brucellosis within 30 days prior to entry and meet the tuberculosis entry requirements as outlined in "Cervids Entering the State" (# 14. below).
- B. Exotic bovidae must be tested negative for brucellosis within 30 days and negative to a tuberculosis test within 60 days prior to entry
- C. Exotic swine must be tested negative to pseudorabies and brucellosis within 30 days prior to entry or originate from a brucellosis validated free and pseudorabies qualified free herd.
- D. Ratites must be individually identified with a RFID device, a permanently attached tag or an implanted electronic device (microchip) and be found to be serologically negative for Avian Influenza and Salmonella pullorum-typhoid from a sample collected within 30 days of shipment. Birds or hatching eggs must originate from flocks that show no evidence of infectious disease and have no history of Avian Influenza in the past six months.

Ratites, destined for slaughter only, may enter accompanied by an entry permit and either a waybill or certificate of veterinary inspection without meeting the testing or identification requirements.

14. **Cervids Entering the State**

- A. All cervids entering the State must be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection stating they were negative to two tuberculosis tests, which were conducted no less than 90 days apart; the second test was conducted within 90 days prior to the date of movement; and that the animals were isolated from all other members of the herd during the testing period; *or*,
 - (1) originate from an accredited free herd; *or*,
 - (2) originate from a qualified herd and have a classified negative 90-day tuberculosis test. If the qualifying herd test was administered within 90 days of movement, the animal(s) do not require an additional test; *or*,
 - (3) originate from a monitored herd and have a classified negative 90-day tuberculosis test; *or*,
 - (4) be less than 12 months of age, originate and were born in accredited, qualified, or monitored herds and have not been exposed to cervids from a lower status.
- B. All cervidae entering Texas must meet the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Monitoring Program and entry permit requirements. Contact TAHC during business hours for information on the CWD requirements or read the full text of the Texas Administrative Code requirements at: [http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=4&pt=2&ch=51&rl=10](http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=4&pt=2&ch=51&rl=10)
- C. All mule deer and white-tailed deer are also required to obtain an entry permit from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). (TPWD are prohibiting white-tailed and mule deer to enter Texas at the present time.)

15. **Dogs and Cats Entering the State**

Contact Texas Department of State Health Services at (512) 458-7255

16. **Embryos and Semen**

Contact U.S. Department of Agriculture at (301) 734-8364