



## Import Requirements for Canadian Feeder Calves ("bob" calves under 21 days)

### **Canadian Feeder or "Bob" Calves: Destination Inspection and Country Mark Verification**

1. The importer must acquire pre-shipment approval from the USDA APHIS port of entry at least 7 days in advance; the inspection must be at an APHIS approved destination facility.
2. Changes to inspection/crossing time must be made 7 or more days in advance. Shipments arriving an hour or more past their scheduled crossing time may be refused.
3. Shipping conveyances must arrive in sanitary and good working condition or will be refused by APHIS at the U.S. port of entry.
4. For transfer loads, the importer must provide appropriate equipment (transfer box/chute) for transfer of calves from one conveyance to another. APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) officials will inspect as calves are transferred.
5. The exporter is required to follow all Canadian animal health and safety transport guidelines ([Livestock transport in Canada - Canadian Food Inspection Agency](#)) and must provide documentation in their log books, if requested, of appropriate feeding intervals prior to arrival at the port of inspection for the calves due to their age and increased possibility of transport stress. Feeding within 4 hours of arrival at the port of entry is recommended.
6. Shipments arriving after 3pm at an approved destination facility will be held overnight for VS inspection the following day. Friday shipments arriving after 3pm will be held in isolation, fully separated from all other ruminants in the facility, over the weekend for VS inspection Monday.
7. Calves deemed unfit for shipping by APHIS (poor condition, non-ambulatory, respiratory symptoms, no log entries for feeding during long transports) may result in the entire load being refused.
8. The importer is responsible for the disposition of refused calves or loads. Refused calves or loads returning to Canada will require a Canadian import permit, VS 1-27, US origin export certificate, and return under USDA seal. Local disposal of euthanized or dead calves will require State Animal Health Official (SAHO) concurrence.
9. Importer/destination facility will incur user fees associated with Canadian feeder calf inspections (\$1.00/head + travel time +/- overtime + AV fees).

### **Destination Facility Approval Requirements**

1. The inspection destination facility must be in accordance with all Federal laws and regulations, including 9 CFR 93.401 through 93.418.
2. The facility must be maintained in good repair, provide adequate individuals to maintain the facility, and provide for the proper care of each shipment of calves, including sufficient feed, potable water, housing, bedding, quarantine space, and associated maintenance of any related equipment. Feed and bedding must be vermin-proof, fresh, and unspoiled. Feed and bedding



must not originate from a region affected with fever ticks, as identified in 9 CFR 72, or otherwise further amended by APHIS.

3. Shipments must be housed biologically separate from each other. If the facility includes more than one calf holding area, the design must minimize cross-contamination of air between separate lots.
4. The facility must provide and use separate isolation pens available for calves exhibiting signs of illness.
5. The facility must provide APHIS personnel adequate examination space, along with a sufficient quantity of adequately trained individuals, with appropriate equipment or tools, to safely restrain calves.
6. The facility must ensure all floors and walls that have contact with calves and their excrement or discharges are impervious to moisture and able to withstand repeated cleaning and disinfecting without deteriorating. Floor and wall surfaces must be free of sharp edges that could injure calves. Flooring must be skid resistant and provide adequate drainage.
7. The facility is required to clean and disinfect calf holding areas after each load has left the facility and before the next load arrives.
8. The facility must provide stalls of sufficient size to allow each animal to make normal postural adjustments and provide adequate freedom of movement.
9. The facility must provide adequate lighting throughout the facility, facilitating the visual inspection of calves.
10. In the event a calf dies or must be euthanized while in quarantine, the owner/operator of the facility must arrange for the proper disposal of the carcass in concurrence with APHIS and State Animal Health Officials (SAHOs). Imported calf illness or death must be immediately reported to APHIS and include official ID of the animals. Disposal is to be supervised by APHIS or SAHOs.
11. The facility must provide a telephone number that USDA/APHIS/VS can use for contact at any time.
12. The facility must provide APHIS with a written contingency plan for emergencies that includes a designated accredited veterinarian. The written plan will be reviewed and must be approved by APHIS.
13. The facility must have a designated accredited veterinarian available to receive shipments arriving after 3pm and for emergencies to remove or apply seals and provide APHIS with that information for each shipment. Fees associated with the accredited veterinarian will be the responsibility of the destination facility.
14. The facility must maintain all records associated with calf shipments, including seal removal/application, mortalities, refusals, and official identification will be kept and available for APHIS review upon request for 5 years.



15. The facility may be subject to quarterly inspection, including record review, by APHIS for continued approval.
16. The facility must provide equipment and personnel to apply the Canadian mark to any unmarked animals that are found. APHIS must verify the application of the mark and associated fees will be charged to the destination facility.

**Contact for Questions:**

USDA APHIS Veterinary Services

Strategy and Policy

Live Animal Imports

(301)851-3300, Option 2

[vs.live.animal.import.export@usda.gov](mailto:vs.live.animal.import.export@usda.gov)