

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, DC

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# FSIS DIRECTIVE

9530.1  
Rev. 1

12/21/15

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## IMPORTATION OF LIVE CANADIAN CATTLE, SHEEP, AND GOATS INTO THE UNITED STATES (U.S.)

### I. PURPOSE

This directive provides the latest instructions to Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) inspection program personnel (IPP) on Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) requirements regarding the receipt, slaughter, and inspection of live cattle, sheep, and goats imported or originating from Canada. This directive represents the sole policy regarding importation of Canadian cattle for immediate slaughter and supersedes any instructions in any previous issuance, askFSIS clarification, or policy letters or memorandums issued before the date of this issuance.

#### KEY POINTS:

- *IPP are to verify that the number of cattle imported from Canada into the U.S. for immediate slaughter reconciles with the number of cattle listed on official documents that accompany each load*
- *IPP are authorized to condemn any non-ambulatory disabled (NAD) Canadian cattle found upon arrival*

### II. CANCELLATION

FSIS Directive 9530.1, Importation of Live Canadian Cattle, Sheep, and Goats into the United States, 12/22/11

### III. BACKGROUND

A. In a Federal Register notice issued by APHIS on November 28, 2005, "*Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE); Minimal-Risk Regions and Importation of Commodities; Unsealing of Means of Conveyance and Transloading of Products*" (hereafter referred to as "*Minimal-Risk Region rule*"), APHIS broadened the definition of who is authorized to break seals on conveyances importing certain ruminants (cattle, sheep, and goats) from Canada (9 CFR 93.400). This provision did not change following implementation of the BSE Comprehensive Rule published in December 2013 and implemented in March of 2014 [[Docket No. APHIS-2008-0010](#)] that supersedes the Minimal-Risk Region rule. FSIS IPP are not required to be present or available when the trucks arrive with ruminants from Canada if another authorized person (e.g., authorized establishment employee) is available to break the seals.

B. APHIS requires that official establishments seeking approval to receive Canadian cattle for immediate slaughter and authorization for slaughter establishment employees to break APHIS seals enter into an agreement with APHIS before such employees can break APHIS seals. Approved official establishments are issued APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) Form 17-36, "Inspection Report of Establishment [Approved] for Immediate Slaughter of Import Animals" or are listed as an approved establishment on the [APHIS website](#).

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**DISTRIBUTION:** Electronic

**OPI:** OPPD

C. Feeder cattle imported from Canada and finished in U.S. feedlots with official identification (ID) are handled as any domestic livestock and may be slaughtered without restriction. APHIS recognizes any appropriately applied and recognized U.S. or Canadian brands, conventional ear tags, radio frequency identification (RFID) (ear tags), or other animal ID approved by the APHIS Administrator. Questions about any Canadian ID can be directed to APHIS' National Import-Export Services (NIES) through the Assistant Director (AD), formerly the APHIS Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC).

D. Establishments that slaughter and process bovine (i.e. genus *Bos*) of any age from any source are subject to verification requirements for the segregation, removal, and disposal of specified risk materials (SRMs) in [9 CFR 310.22](#) and [FSIS Directive 6100.4](#), *Verification Instructions Related to Specified Risk Materials*.

E. The restrictions on sheep and goats in the APHIS BSE Comprehensive Rule [[Docket No. APHIS-2008-0010](#)] have not changed. Sheep and goats must be less than 12 months old and must not be pregnant to be eligible for slaughter. IPP are still to verify that establishments ensure the eligibility of sheep and goats arriving for immediate slaughter and from feedlots.

F. The APHIS regulatory definition of bovine is [Bos taurus, Bos indicus, and Bison bison](#). However, for purposes of this directive, the instructions apply to the genus *Bos*. Questions regarding importation of Canadian Bison should be referred to the APHIS AD.

#### **IV. SEALS, HANDLING, AND DOCUMENTATION ASSOCIATED WITH CANADIAN CATTLE TRANSPORTED UNDER APHIS RESTRICTION**

A. IPP are to continue to verify that the establishment has identified whether any new hazards exist in their hazard analysis per [9 CFR 417.4\(b\)](#) and [FSIS Directive 5000.6](#), *Performance of the Hazard Analysis Verification (HAV) Task*, before the establishment slaughters any livestock from a new source, including any livestock imported from Canada.

B. For cattle from Canada arriving at the establishment for immediate slaughter under APHIS restriction, IPP are to verify before ante-mortem (AM) inspection that:

1. The establishment is approved by APHIS to receive such restricted cattle (see background above);
2. If IPP are present, such loads arrive with an intact Canadian government seal or a U.S. government seal;
3. All Canadian cattle in each load are unloaded and penned separate from domestic cattle. When necessary, the establishment may commingle separate loads of Canadian livestock in the same pen.
4. The establishment presents the following documentation with the seals to IPP for each load of Canadian cattle:
  - a. A VS Form 17-33, "Animals Imported for Immediate Slaughter"; and
  - b. A Canadian export health certificate.

**NOTE:** The VS Form 17-33 lists the receiving establishment, the number of animals, and other related information. The Canadian health certificate provides the number of animals, the official ear tag number, sex, approximate age, breed, and additional information.

5. Upon arrival of the cattle, the establishment segregates, identifies, and presents to IPP all Canadian non-ambulatory disabled (NAD), dead on arrival (DOA), and dead in pen (DIP) cattle. At such time, IPP are to:
  - a. Condemn any NAD Canadian cattle;
  - b. Verify that the establishment handles NAD cattle humanely and promptly euthanizes such animals as necessary; and
  - c. Account for all Canadian DOA and DIP on official documents associated with each shipment and in PHIS.

E. During AM inspection, IPP are to verify that:

1. Each bovine in each load of Canadian cattle has an official Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) ear tag or identification;
2. The number of cattle on the truck, pen, or lot at the time of AM inspection is less than or equal to the number of cattle listed on the associated VS Form 17-33, "Animals Imported for Immediate Slaughter," or the Canadian health certificates; and
3. Any individual bovine missing a tag is to be withheld from slaughter and controlled with a U.S. Condemned tag or a U.S. Retained/Reject tag (Form 6502-1, "U.S. Rejected - U.S. Retained") in the pen holding such bovine, and the AD or Service Center Director (SCD) has been notified.

**NOTE:** To "hold" the animals means that the establishment segregates the affected animals and does not move them to slaughter or outside the official premises. In all cases, the establishment is to move animals off the means of transportation, into an area or pen at the official establishment, and handle such livestock humanely. To execute the holding of animals and to restrict their movement, IPP are to apply an FSIS retain tag to the pens containing the affected animals. Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with APHIS and the Animal Health Protection Act, FSIS personnel are to contact the APHIS AD or SCD, through the FSIS DO.

F. During post-mortem (PM) inspection, IPP are to verify that:

1. The Canadian cattle are slaughtered together as a lot. The establishment may request authorization from the PHV to slaughter sub-lots for operational reasons; and
2. The establishment maintains the identity of each animal (or lot of animals) of Canadian origin until PM inspection is completed per [9 CFR 310.2](#). See [FSIS Directive 6100.1](#). *Ante-mortem Livestock Inspection*.

## **V. SHEEP AND GOATS SHIPPED TO AN OFFICIAL ESTABLISHMENT AFTER BEING SHIPPED FROM CANADA TO A FEEDLOT IN THE U.S.**

A. Under the MOU with APHIS, if sheep and goats originally from Canada are shipped first to a U.S. feedlot and then to an official establishment, IPP are to verify that:

**NOTE:** VS Form 17-33, "Animals Imported for Immediate Slaughter" is not required for sheep and goats arriving from a U.S. feedlot.

1. A VS Form 1-27, "Permit for Movement of Restricted Animals" and a Canadian health certificate accompany each shipment. The VS Form 1-27, "Permit for Movement of Restricted Animals," lists the unique identification number of each animal transported on the vehicle and the official seal numbers;

2. The establishment follows its procedures to ensure that the VS Form 1-27, "Permit for Movement of Restricted Animals," does not list any sheep or goats that are not in the shipment;
3. The establishment or IPP identify any or all Canadian sheep and goats without an official CFIA ear tag or "CAN" brand. IPP are to apply a "U.S. Retained" tag to the pens, and the PHV is to contact the District Office (DO) so that the DO can notify the APHIS AD or SCD; and
4. All such restricted sheep and goats are slaughtered as a lot. The establishment may request authorization from the PHV to slaughter sub-lots for operational reasons.

**NOTE:** Sheep and goats originating from Canada may leave the feedlot at different times. Thus, the Canadian health certificates may have more animals listed than on the VS Forms 1-27, "Permit for Movement of Restricted Animals," and there may be more than one Canadian health certificate attached to the VS Forms 1-27. These circumstances are foreseeable and acceptable.

B. If an establishment moves sheep or goats to slaughter that had to be retagged at the feedlot (e.g., tags were lost), and all the animals are listed on one Canadian health certificate, the following is required:

1. VS Form 1-27, "Permit for Movement of Restricted Animals," that lists the unique identification number of each animal transported on the vehicle and the official seal numbers;
2. A copy of the Canadian health certificate that contains the ID numbers of the sheep or goats on the vehicle and the additional "retag" numbers or a separate document with the Canadian ID number cross-referenced to the additional "retag" numbers as well as to the Canadian health certificate reference number. This document with the Canadian ID number should be attached to the appropriate Canadian health certificate. IPP are to follow the directions in [Section VI](#), below, for the appropriate actions to take if any of this documentation is not present. The documents need to contain the printed name and signature of the accredited veterinarian, State representative, or USDA representative who prepared them and the date on which they were signed; and
3. VS Form 17-130, "Ruminants Imported to Designated/Approved Feedlots," which identifies the feedlot of destination.

**NOTE:** It is acceptable to have more than one truck listed on the VS Form 1-27 "Permit for Movement of Restricted Animals." However, the first page of the form must list all official seal numbers, and a copy of the VS Form 1-27 must accompany each truck.

C. If an establishment moves sheep or goats to slaughter that required retagging at the feedlot (e.g., tags were lost), and the sheep or goats are listed on any one of two or more Canadian health certificates, the following is required:

1. VS Form 1-27, "Permit for Movement of Restricted Animals," that lists the unique identification number of each sheep and goat transported on the vehicle and the official seal numbers;

**NOTE:** These sheep and goats are moved as a group.

2. Copies of all Canadian health certificates that contain the ID numbers of the sheep or goats on the vehicle and the additional "retag" numbers, or a separate document with the Canadian ID numbers cross-referenced to the additional "retag" numbers as well as to the Canadian health certificate reference numbers. This document should be attached to the appropriate Canadian health certificates. The documents need to contain the printed name and signature of the accredited veterinarian or State or USDA representative who prepared them and the date on which they were signed; and

3. Copies of all VS Form 17-130s, "Ruminants Imported to Designated/Approved Feedlots."

## **VI. ACTIONS TAKEN WITH NONCONFORMANCE OF APHIS REQUIREMENTS**

### **A. Examples of APHIS nonconformance include:**

1. Establishment is not approved to receive Canadian cattle, sheep, or goats and not authorized to break APHIS seals;
2. Receipt of livestock ineligible for immediate slaughter;
3. Missing or tampered seals on the trailer upon arrival;
4. Receipt of Canadian cattle, sheep, or goats without required tags or animal identification;
5. Receipt of more animals than listed on official documentation;
6. Missing applicable VS Forms as described above (i.e. VS 17-33, "Animals Imported for Immediate Slaughter," VS 1-27, "Permit for Movement of Restricted Animals," or VS 17-130 "Ruminants Imported to Designated/Approved Feedlots) or the Canadian health certificate; or
7. Establishment failure to segregate Canadian livestock from domestic cattle, sheep, or goats on arrival and maintain identity until PM inspection is completed;

### **B. When IPP determine that there is nonconformance with APHIS requirements, or that the establishment has failed to identify and alert IPP or APHIS regarding a nonconformance with APHIS requirements, IPP are to:**

1. Institute a hold on the individual affected live animals or the entire pen or lot with a "U.S. Retained" tag and promptly contact the AD or SCD through the DO for instructions. See note above regarding holding of livestock;
2. Collect and hold for the AD or SCD all means of identification (i.e., ear tags, associated documentation (e.g. VS Forms 1-27, "Permit for Movement of Restricted Animals," health certificates, and IPP observations)) of any ineligible Canadian livestock dead, euthanized, or already slaughtered;
3. Notify the AD or SCD through the DO when the establishment receives Canadian livestock ineligible for slaughter;

**NOTE:** APHIS VS AD and APHIS-National Import Export Service (NIES) contact information can be found at the following link: [Veterinary Services Contacts](#).

4. Verify disposition of such livestock or follow instructions given orally or in writing by the AD or SCD once either has determined what should be done with livestock ineligible for slaughter, or that an establishment is not meeting APHIS requirements; and
5. Document any discrepancies with APHIS requirements, trends in discrepancies, and resolution are to be documented under a memorandum of interview (MOI) with the establishment whenever appropriate.

## **VII. RECORDS - COMPLETING AND DISTRIBUTING FORMS**

### **A. For cattle from Canada that were shipped for immediate slaughter, after the slaughter of the cattle, the PHV is to:**

1. Sign and date VS Form 17-33, "Animals Imported for Immediate Slaughter;"
2. Maintain in the inspection file for 3 years a copy of the VS Form 17-33, "Animals Imported for Immediate Slaughter," the Canadian health certificate, and any other documentation arriving with the shipment; and
3. Send a copy of the signed and dated VS Form 17-33, "Animals Imported for Immediate Slaughter," (Part 3) to the Port of Entry as written on the form.

**NOTE:** Animals may arrive with forms in addition to the VS Form 17-33, "*Animals Imported for Immediate Slaughter*," and Canadian health certificate (e.g., farm records, age verification documents, shipping information, and bills of lading). IPP are to maintain copies of any additional documents in the inspection file for 3 years.

B. For sheep or goats shipped to an official establishment after being shipped from Canada to a feedlot in the U.S. after the slaughter of a shipment of animals, the PHV is to:

1. Sign and date VS Form 1-27, "Permit for Movement of Restricted Animals";
2. Maintain in the inspection file for 2 years a copy of the VS Form 1-27, "Permit for Movement of Restricted Animals," Canadian health certificate (see above), and any other documentation arriving with the shipment; and
3. Send a copy of the signed and dated VS Form 1-27, "Permit for Movement of "Restricted Animals", (Part 2) to the local APHIS office. Contact the local AD or SCD using the following link: [Veterinary Services Contacts](#).

## VIII. DATA ANALYSIS

As needed, Office of Policy and Program Development, Policy Development Staff (OPPD-PDS), will perform an analysis of askFSIS questions on this directive. Results from these analyses will be shared with the OPPD and the Office of Field Operations (OFO) Assistant Administrators.

## IX. QUESTIONS

When supervisory personnel are not able to answer questions regarding the content of this directive, IPP are to refer questions to PDS through [askFSIS](#) or by telephone at 1-800-233-3935. When submitting a question use the Submit a Question tab, and enter the following information in the fields provided:

Subject Field: Enter **Directive 9530.1**  
 Question Field: Enter question with as much detail as possible.  
 Product Field: Select: **General Inspection Policy** from the drop-down menu.  
 Category Field: Select: **Regulations/Agency Issuances** from the drop-down menu.  
 Policy Arena: Select: **Domestic** from the drop-down menu.

When all fields are complete, press **Continue** and at the next screen press **Finish submitting Question**.

**NOTE:** Refer to [FSIS Directive 5620.1](#), *Using askFSIS*, for additional information on submitting questions.



Assistant Administrator  
 Office of Policy and Program Development