

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

FSIS NOTICE

44-19

10/30/19

REMINDER FOR FSIS INSPECTION PROGRAM PERSONNEL OF VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CANADIAN RUMINANTS IMPORTED FOR SLAUGHTER

I. PURPOSE

This notice reminds inspection program personnel (IPP) of the instructions in [FSIS Directive 9530.1, *Importation of Live Canadian Cattle, Sheep, and Goats Into the United States \(U.S.\)*](#) and supplements the directive with clarification that any slaughter facility receiving live ruminants from Canada for slaughter must implement procedures to ensure that each animal is eligible for slaughter, including exotic species (e.g., bison) slaughtered under voluntary inspection. Further, this notice clarifies that IPP are to verify that each slaughter facility receiving live ruminants from Canada for slaughter has a written program in place to verify each individual animal ID against the Canadian export health certificate.

II. BACKGROUND

A. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) issued the final rule, titled, "[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") on November 28, 2005. In the rule, APHIS broadened the definition of who is authorized to break seals on conveyances importing certain ruminants from Canada ([9 CFR 93.400](#)).

B. In [9 CFR 93.419](#) and [9 CFR 93.420](#), APHIS requires that ruminants imported from Canada for slaughter are to bear unique official identification (e.g., an official ear tag) and are to be accompanied by a Canadian export health certificate.

C. Instructions for completing Veterinary Services (VS) Form 17-36, *Inspection Report of Establishment for Immediate Slaughter Import Animals* were updated on May 20, 2019, and now require that written procedures be developed for verifying individual animal IDs against the Canadian export Health certificate and approved by APHIS VS.

III. INSTRUCTIONS

A. IPP who perform ante-mortem or humane handling verification activities at FSIS inspected slaughter establishments that receive live ruminants from Canada for slaughter are to be aware of the instructions in [FSIS Directive 9530.1, *Importation of Live Canadian Cattle, Sheep, and Goats Into the United States \(U.S.\)*](#). Although [FSIS Directive 9530.1](#) specifically excludes exotic ruminant species, such as bison that are received and slaughtered under FSIS voluntary inspection, this notice does not. IPP are to understand that this notice also applies to imported Canadian ruminants slaughtered under FSIS voluntary inspection.

B. Only an authorized representative (e.g., APHIS VS employee, IPP, or slaughtering establishment representative who has been approved by APHIS to perform the function) may

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break seals on shipments of Canadian ruminants at an official slaughter establishment. IPP are not required to be present or available when the trucks arrive with ruminants from Canada if another authorized person is available to break the seals. However, IPP are to verify that the establishment has been issued a VS Form 17-36, "Inspection Report of Establishment [Approved] for Immediate Slaughter of Import Animals" or is listed as an [approved establishment](#) on the APHIS website.

C. IPP are to verify that the establishment has a written program in place to verify each individual animal ID against the associated Canadian export health certificate for all ruminants imported for slaughter. If IPP find that an establishment does not have a program to verify the ID of each Canadian animal or the establishment does not implement the program, they are to notify the District Office (DO) according to [FSIS Directive 9530.1](#). The DO is to notify [APHIS VS \(the Northern Border Port Veterinarian in Charge\)](#). As part of their oversight, APHIS VS will occasionally visit establishments receiving Canadian ruminants to review their written receiving programs.

IV. QUESTIONS

Refer questions regarding this notice to the Office of Policy and Program Development through [askFSIS](#) or by telephone at 1-800-233-3935, if needed, after correlation with your supervisor. When submitting a question, use the **Submit a Question** tab, and enter the information indicated below in the designated fields.

Subject Field:	Enter Notice 44-19 .
Question Field:	Enter your 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 (U.S.) only 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.



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