

5.6 Export to the U.S. – Horses

Health Certification

(Except for Horses for Immediate Slaughter)

1. There are two ways to certify horses for export to the U.S. In both cases, the export health certificate must be issued by the accredited veterinarian who inspected the animal(s). All the horses must be individually identified, and all requirements as listed on the export certificate must be fully met.
2. The export certificate *HA 1964 Veterinary Health Certificate – Export of Horses to the United States* is used to certify individual animals. Horses certified on this certificate may enter the U.S. for temporary or permanent entry.
3. The export certificate *HA 1963 Veterinary Health Certificate for the Export of Horses to the United States of America* is used to certify shipments of more than one horse for permanent entry to the U.S., provided that:
 - i. all the animals are consigned by a single consignor and originate from the premises where they were inspected;
 - ii. all the animals are being consigned to the same destination in the same vehicle. All the horses in the shipment must be identified with “visibly numbered” back tags, mane tags, or necklace-type tags. Each horse must be numbered differently, and this number must be entered in the “Tag No.” column on the HA 1963 certificate. It is recommended that this visible number be recorded on the equine infectious anaemia (EIA) test form to speed up border inspections;
 - iii. a copy of the most recent EIA certificate (CFIA 3937) identifying each horse must be attached to the export certificate. The laboratory reference number in the top right-hand corner of the CFIA 3937 certificate must be entered in the “EIA Laboratory Code” column on the HA 1963 export certificate;
 - iv. to reduce the risk of fraud after a completed certificate has left the control of an accredited veterinarian, the accredited veterinarian:
 - (1) signs and legibly prints or stamps his or her name at the bottom of each page of the health certificate,
 - (2) signs and legibly prints or stamps his or her name below the last entry, and crosses through unused blank lines,

- (3) enters the total number of horses travelling under the certificate in the top right-hand corner of the front page of the certificate,
 - (4) refers to the instructions for foals at foot in paragraph 11. below;
 - v. only one truckload of horses is certified by one HA 1963 form.
- 4. The horses must have been in Canada or the U.S. during the 60 days preceding the date of export to the U.S.
 - 5. The horses were inspected on the premises of origin and found to be free from evidence of contagious disease and, as far as it can be determined, have not been exposed to any such disease during the 60 days immediately preceding the date of shipment.
 - 6. As far as it can be determined, no cases of African horse sickness, dourine, glanders, surra, epizootic lymphangitis, ulcerative lymphangitis, equine piroplasmiasis, or Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis have occurred on the premises of origin or on adjoining premises during the 60 days preceding the date of shipment.
 - 7. The horses must not have been in a country affected by contagious equine metritis during the 12 months preceding the date of export. Horses of U.S. origin that met Canadian import requirements, are exempt from this requirement.
 - 8. Some states have additional requirements, such as the need for an import permit or Coggins certificate. Exporters are responsible for determining whether any of such requirements apply and for complying with them.

Certification Procedures

- 9. All horses (except foals born after their dam was tested and are accompanying their dam) must test negative to an officially approved test for EIA within the 180 days before entry to the U.S.
- 10. Horses must not have been vaccinated with a live or attenuated or inactivated vaccine during the 14 days preceding the date of export.

11. Foals **born after the mare has been tested for EIA** are exempt from the EIA test requirement, provided that they accompany their dam. To ensure that every animal in the shipment is properly identified, the accredited veterinarian must:
 - a. describe the foal on a separate HA 1964 form and indicate that the EIA test date is the same as for the dam; and on the dam's certificate must write "plus foal at foot, born _____." The description should be sufficient to identify the foal.
 - b. on the HA 1963 multi-horse certificate, describe the foal by linking it to its dam by her visible number and EIA certificate code. Date of birth must be included.

How to Complete the Canadian Health Certificates

12. The accredited veterinarian must use the most recent version of the export certificate.
13. The descriptions and marks indicated on the HA 1964 and the description indicated on the HA 1963 must match those indicated on the EIA test document (CFIA 3937). The animal's marks must be indicated in red on the export certificate and described in the appropriate sections. The physical description includes marks, scars, brands, tattoos, whorls, cowlicks, etc.
14. The date on which the horses were inspected on the premises of origin must be indicated.
15. The date on which the blood sample for the EIA test was taken and the date on which the laboratory result was obtained must be indicated. The export certificate must not be signed by the accredited veterinarian before negative EIA results are received.
16. The HA 1964 export certificate may be used more than once if the "Temporary" box is checked off and each entry is made within 30 days of the date of inspection. The exporter/importer retains the original of the certificate and presents it to Customs each time the horse crosses the border. As Customs officers often want to keep a copy of the certificate, it is advisable to make photocopies if the animal will be making several border crossings.
17. The HA 1964 and HA 1963 export certificates are **valid for entry to the U.S. for 30 days from the date issuance of the export certificate by the accredited veterinarian**, provided that the EIA test is valid on entry to the U.S. (negative result within the preceding 180 days).

18. The completed certificate will be submitted to a CFIA veterinary inspector to review and, if all requirements are met, endorse. The "Reference number" is assigned by the CFIA district office. Any incomplete export certificates will be returned to the accredited veterinarian for completion. A fee is charged for CFIA endorsement.

Inspections at U.S. Ports of Entry

19. Horses certified on the multi-horse certificate HA 1963 must be presented for inspection to the USDA veterinarian at the port of entry. All copies must be legible.
20. Horses certified with export certificate HA 1964 entering the U.S. for a temporary stay (a period of 30 days or less after their inspection by the accredited veterinarian) are inspected at ports of entry by U.S. Customs officials; however, horses certified with HA 1964 entering the U.S. for a permanent stay (longer than 30 days after their inspection by the accredited veterinarian) require USDA veterinary inspection upon entry.
21. When horses are presented for permanent entry to the U.S., the USDA veterinary inspector retains the original of the certificate.

Return/Entry to Canada

22. Horses entering Canada from the U.S. are inspected by Canada Border Services Agency officials as long as their paperwork is in order. Under certain circumstances—such as a disease outbreak in the U.S.—veterinary inspection may be required. Horses can return to Canada at any port of entry.
23. The CFIA conducts a border inspection in the following situations:
 - i. Horses have been imported to the U.S. from a third country and presented for import into Canada less than 60 days after their arrival in the U.S.;
 - ii. Horses entering Canada are in transit to another country;
 - iii. Horses being imported for immediate slaughter.
24. Horses can return to Canada accompanied by the HA 1964 certificate, provided that they return within 60 days of the date of entry to the U.S. This means that there must be proof of the date of entry to the U.S. (this may be in the form of a USDA import inspection certificate (VS Form 17-30) or a customs stamp, or, as a last resort, the date of endorsement of the certificate can be used as the last day in Canada). The EIA test date must be valid that is less than 180 days on re-entry to Canada.

25. The requirements for the certification of foals to enter Canada differ from the U.S. requirements. Occasionally, foals under six months of age can enter Canada without testing, but will be refused entry when returning to the U.S. because the dam's test was done after the foal was born. The USDA port veterinarian should be consulted.

U.S.-origin Horses Returning to the U.S.

26. Horses with a USDA certificate may return to the U.S.:
 - i) without veterinary inspection, if they return to the U.S. within 30 days of the date of issuance indicated on the certificate;
 - ii) with USDA veterinary inspection, if they return to the U.S. within 90 days of the date of entry to Canada for the purposes of participating in a recognized show in accordance with *5.11 U.S.-Origin Animals Returning from a Recognized Exposition in Canada to the U.S.* The EIA test must be valid upon entry to the U.S.

Horses to the U.S. for Immediate Slaughter

27. A visual inspection is performed on the horses before loading. Only horses that appear clinically healthy and fit to travel are to be certified.
28. Known EIA reactors or horses under quarantine for any disease **MUST NOT** be certified for export (for immediate slaughter).
29. Horses that fail to meet inspection criteria (e.g. clinical evidence of disease, impending parturition, unfit to travel) must be removed from the shipment.
30. There are **NO** test requirements for slaughter horses.
31. Horses **MUST** be consigned directly to a USDA-recognized slaughter establishment.
32. The HA 1084 health certificate is to be issued by the accredited veterinarian inspecting the animals.
33. The completed certificate will be submitted to a CFIA veterinary inspector to review and endorse it if all requirements are met. The "Reference number" is attributed by the CFIA district office. Incomplete export certificates will be returned to the accredited veterinarian for completion. A fee will be charged for CFIA endorsement.

Equine Semen to the U.S.

34. On October 20, 2000, the USDA deregulated the importation of horse semen. U.S. Customs will accept a verbal declaration concerning this product, and the traveller will **not** be directed to the USDA for inspection of the product.

References

Copies of export health certificates [HA 1963](#), [HA 1964](#) and [HA 1084](#) can be found on the CFIA Web site.