

4.1 Export Veterinary Certification

This module provides information regarding the objectives, the legislative basis, legal basis and the obligations of the accredited veterinarian.

Objectives of Certification

1. The objective of the CFIA's Animal Health Export Program is to ensure that only healthy animals and animal products and by-products that meet the import health requirements of an importing country are exported from Canada and, in the case of live animals, that they are transported in a humane manner.
2. Canadian animals, animal products and animal by-products are recognized around the world on the basis of the Canadian veterinary profession's reputation and integrity, and its performance in disease control and eradication. Accredited veterinarians are an integral component of the CFIA's National Animal Health Program and must ensure that the delivery of the Animal Health Export Program is consistent.

Legislative Basis

3. Under section 69 of the *Health of Animals Regulations*:

(1) Subject to this part, no person shall export out of Canada livestock, poultry, animal embryos or animal semen unless:

(a) the person has obtained a certificate of a veterinary inspector or a certificate of an accredited veterinarian endorsed by a veterinary inspector issued before shipment that clearly identifies the livestock, poultry, animal embryos or animal semen and shows:

(i) that a veterinary inspector or an accredited veterinarian has inspected the livestock, poultry, animal embryos or animal semen and found it to be free from any communicable diseases,

(ii) the date and place of inspection, and

(iii) where tests have been performed, the nature of each test and that the livestock, poultry, animal embryos or animal semen proved negative to such tests; and

(b) the importation requirements of the country to which the livestock, poultry, animal embryos or animal semen are exported have been complied with.

- (1.1) Paragraph (1)(a) does not apply in respect of swine or ruminants exported to the U.S. for immediate slaughter.
Note: This article is under revision.
- (2) No person shall export animal semen out of Canada unless the semen, from the time it was collected, was stored in an animal semen production centre or other place approved by the Minister.
- (3) No person shall export livestock, poultry, animal embryos or animal semen unless the certificate referred to in subsection (1) bears the mark of the official export stamp referred to in subsection (4).
- (4) The official export stamp required by this section shall contain the words “Government of Canada – CANADIAN FOOD INSPECTION AGENCY – Gouvernement du Canada – AGENCE CANADIENNE D’INSPECTION DES ALIMENTS” and it shall be applied on a certificate only by a veterinary inspector or a person authorized by one.

Legal Basis

4. The Accredited Veterinarian Agreement is the legal instrument that authorizes licenced private veterinarians to perform duties such as the completion of international health certification under the authority of *Health of Animals Regulations*.

Obligations of the Accredited Veterinarian

5. Accredited veterinarians should ensure that they meet the highest possible ethical standards in the performance of procedures and in signing documents. Certifying accredited veterinarians must ensure that the information included in the certificates is accurate and only refers to matters that are within their knowledge at the time of signing, or that have been verified by a qualified third party.
6. When a certificate is signed on the basis of supporting documentation, the certifying veterinarian should be in possession of that documentation before signing. The certifying accredited veterinarian should only sign certificates required once they have been completed correctly in full. It is inappropriate and considered a contravention of the Accredited Veterinarian Agreement for veterinarians to sign documents on the basis of information or events that have not yet occurred or to sign blank documents.

7. Accredited veterinarians must perform their duties with all due care and accuracy to maintain the credibility of Canada's inspection and certification mechanisms and to avoid inconvenience or expense to their clients as a result of having animals refused entry by the importing country.
8. When inspecting, testing or certifying animals for export, accredited veterinarians are required to:
 - a. Identify the animal(s) and verify that both the animal(s) and the herd(s) are eligible for export;
 - b. Inspect the animal(s) and certify them free from any communicable disease in accordance with the *Health of Animals Regulations* and any terms and conditions established by the importing country. The herd of origin must also be free from any communicable disease. Where testing is required, the type and results of the test(s) must be recorded on the export certificate along with the date and place of inspection. From time to time, countries modify their terms and conditions of import. Accredited veterinarians are notified of any such changes. It is the responsibility of the accredited veterinarians to avail themselves of the necessary information and ensure that the conditions are met.
 - c. Inform owners/exporters that, in some instances, import conditions above and beyond those required to enter the country may exist. For example, in the U.S. certain states have established conditions that are more stringent than those of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Another example is the Mexican "*hoja de requisitos*" (i.e., a list of requirements to be met and statements to be included on the International Sanitary Certificate). It is the responsibility of exporters to determine whether additional requirements exist, and to ensure that all conditions of import of the importing country are met.
 - d. Ensure that export health certificates are fully completed, accurate, and endorsed by a CFIA veterinary inspector. If accredited veterinarians cannot personally deliver the export health certificate, the completed certificate must be sealed in an envelope for endorsement by the CFIA veterinary inspector.
 - e. Use blue ink to sign export certificates. The name of the accredited veterinarian must appear in printed letters.
9. All animals must be certified fit for transport and meet all requirements of the reporting country.

10. The following conditions may cause animals to be refused entry by the importing country. Accredited veterinarians must look for clinical evidence of these conditions during the physical examination of the animals.

Dermatitis	Ringworm
Warts	Lice
Vaginal discharge	Diarrhea
Mastitis	Lameness
Omphalophlebitis	Hernia
Blindness	Muscle conditions
Recent dehorning	Possibility of parturition during transport

11. Export certification requires veterinary inspection. Some specimen collection may be performed by a fully trained and qualified technician (see [1.4 Special Provisions](#)).
12. According to CFIA policy, only those conditions established by the importing country are certified. Tests other than those required to meet the import requirements do not constitute part of the official certification and are not to appear on the export health certificate; however, the results of such tests may be attached to the export documents.
13. Accredited veterinarians must be specifically authorized to inspect, test and certify a species of animal for export to the U.S. or Mexico. Inspections will always be conducted in accordance with the terms and conditions of their accreditation agreement. The animals must be eligible and fully meet all conditions established by the USDA or SAGARPA for their entry into the U.S. or Mexico.
14. [Valid export certificates](#) are available on the CFIA Web site.