



Information Note for Exporters attending the Desert International Horse Park (DIHP) event in Thermal, CA Vesicular Stomatitis in the United States

Please note that due to the current outbreak of Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) in certain states¹ in the United States, the importation of horses, swine and ruminants is suspended from these states until further notice.

OPTION 1 FOR ALL CANADIAN HORSES RETURNING TO CANADA:

These horses will not be able to enter Canada after a stay in a VS infected state in the last 21 days. They will have to be moved to a non-infected state, stay there for at least 21 days and be certified by USDA as follows:

All states in which the animal(s) have resided in the past twenty-one (21) days have been free from clinical and epidemiological evidence of vesicular stomatitis during the twenty-one (21) days immediately prior to export to Canada.

Various U.S. states may also prohibit movement into state without permit/certification/testing/post-entry testing. The Canadian horse owner should check state requirements before movement.

OPTION 2 FOR CANADIAN HORSES RETURNING TO CANADA AFTER EXPORT TO THE USA TO COMPETE AT DESERT INTERNATIONAL HORSE PARK (DIHP) AND REMAINED AT THE CFIA PRE-APPROVED COMPETITIVE EVENT UNTIL THEIR RETURN:

A CFIA Import Permit is required and the importer must apply well in advance of their planned return to Canada.

The horses must go directly from the point of origin in Canada to the DIHP event, must stay at the DIHP event and return directly to the point of destination in Canada. The horses must be inspected by a CFIA veterinarian at the Canadian port of entry (POE) and successfully complete a detailed inspection. An appointment for CFIA inspection must be made at least 5 business days in advance and inspections must take place Monday to Friday, during business hours only. All import documentation (permit and certificates) must be submitted to the POE for review prior to leaving the pre-approved competitive event. All horses must be easily accessible to allow the CFIA veterinarian to conduct the detailed inspection of the horses in the trailer.



The horses must be accompanied by the following documents:

1. CFIA Import Permit
2. A copy of the Canadian export certificate² that was issued for the export of the horse(s) to the USA to attend the CFIA pre-approved event.
3. An original of the zoosanitary export certificate³ from the USA (must be issued by an official of the USDA, or issued by a veterinarian and endorsed by an official of the USDA)
4. Addendum with VS test results. The addendum must be endorsed by USDA and includes additional statements regarding VS including that all premises on which **the horses have resided in the past 21 days must have been free from clinical and epidemiological evidence of VS during the 21 days immediately prior to movement off the premises, and this disease has not occurred on any premises within a 25 mile (40 km) radius during the same period of time**⁴. In addition, within the 7 day period immediately prior to export to Canada, the horses must test negative for VS using a c-ELISA test, be inspected and found to be free of clinical signs of VS and be protected against vectors prior to export to Canada and during transport to Canada.

¹Your local district office can update you on the current infected states. Please note that additional states might be added on a daily basis.

²It is important that the exporter retains a copy of their Canadian export certificate at the time of entry into the USA

³Please note that the USDA zoosanitary export certificate includes a statement that the horse tested negative for equine infectious anemia using the agar gel immunodiffusion (Coggins) or ELISA test within (6) months immediately preceding the date of importation. This statement is not required for Canadian horses returning to Canada after a stay in the USA of 60 days or less. Separate Import Permits will be issued by CFIA for: a) horses returning after a stay in the USA of 60 days or less and b) those exported to the USA more than 60 days before returning to Canada. The importer must indicate the length of stay in the USA at the time of application for a CFIA Import Permit and apply for an amendment to any issued permit, prior to return, should their length of stay in the USA change.

⁴Please note that the USDA will not be able to certify this requirement if a case of VS is suspected or confirmed on or within a 25 mile (40 km) radius of the DIHP event. Under these circumstances, importers must wait until they meet this requirement or move to a non-infected state for 21 days to return to Canada (Option 1).

Please contact your local district office for any questions on this matter.

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