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Importing Live Cattle and Bison From Countries Other Than Canada and Mexico to the United States

Last Modified:



USDA APHIS regulates the importation of all ruminants and their germplasm (embryos/oocytes, semen, cloning tissue) to prevent the spread of animal diseases. **Ruminants** include all animals that chew the cud, such as cattle, buffaloes, sheep,

goats, deer, antelopes, camels, llamas, and giraffes.

View Countries From Which Bovines and Their Germplasm May Be Imported

Requirements

Due to the recent detection of Shamonda virus Europe in the European Union (EU), European Free Trade Association Countries, and the United Kingdom, bovine germplasm (semen, embryos, oocytes, and cloning tissue) collected on or after June 5, 2026, is **not** eligible for importation into the United States**.**

Expand All

Live Domestic Cattle and Bison

Australia

- Contact APHIS; live bovine and bovid imports are not possible at this time.

New Zealand

- Contact APHIS; live bovine and bovid imports are not possible at this time.

Bovine Embryos

A permit and export health certificate are required to import bovine embryos from the countries listed below.

Australia

- Health Certificate: Bovine Embryo Import From Australia
- *Protocol is being updated.*

European Union

- Model Health Certificate: Bovid Embryo Import From the European Union
  - This health certificate also allows the import of water buffalo embryos from the European Union.

Due to the recent detections of Foot-and-Mouth (FMD) disease in Hungary, Slovakia, Cyprus and Greece, import of bovine embryos from these countries is currently **prohibited.** Import of bovine embryos collected in Germany between November 3, 2024, and March 6, 2026, is also **prohibited.** Import of bovine embryos produced using semen collected in Germany between November 3, 2024, and March 6, 2026, is also **prohibited.**

Because of ongoing lumpy skin disease outbreaks in Europe, bovine embryos from the following regions, collected on or after the specified dates, are not eligible for importation to the United States:

- Greece (August 4, 2015–present)
- Bulgaria (March 29, 2016–present)
- Croatia (August 8, 2016–present)
- Italy (March 6, 2025–present)
- France (April 30, 2025–present)
- Switzerland (July 19, 2025-present)
- Spain (August 8, 2025 - present)

Netherlands

- Health Certificate: Bovine Embryo Import From Netherlands

New Zealand

- Health Certificate: Bovine Embryo Import From New Zealand

Norway

- Health Certificate: Bovine Embryo Import From Norway (63.6 KB)

Switzerland

- Health Certificate: Bovine Embryo Import From Switzerland (946 KB)

Spain

- Health Certificate Bovine Embryo Import from Spain (142.96 KB) - April 2026

United Kingdom

- Health Certificate: Bovid Embryo Import From Great Britain
- Health Certificate: Bovid Embryo Import From Northern Ireland

Bovine Semen

Bovine semen may only be imported from the countries listed on this page, with an import permit as designated.

Australia

- Health Certificate: Bovine Semen From Australia
- *Protocol is being updated.*

European Union

- Approved European Bovine Semen Sex Sorting Facilities
- Model Health Certificate: Bovid Semen Import From the European Union
    - This certificate allows the import of water buffalo semen from the European Union.

Due to the recent detections of Foot-and-Mouth (FMD) disease in Hungary, Slovakia, Cyprus, and Greece, import of bovine semen from these countries is currently **prohibited**. Import of bovine semen collected in Germany between November 3, 2024, and March 6, 2026, is also **prohibited.**

Because of ongoing lumpy skin disease outbreaks in Europe, bovine semen from the following regions, collected on or after the specified dates, are not eligible for importation to the United States:

- Greece (August 4, 2015–present)
- Bulgaria (March 29, 2016–present)
- Croatia (August 8, 2016–present)
- Italy (March 6, 2025–present)
- France (April 30, 2025–present)
- Switzerland (July 19, 2025-present)
- Spain (August 8, 2025 - present)

Czech Republic

- Health Certificate: Bovine Semen Import From Czech Republic

Netherlands

- Health Certificate: Bovine Semen Import From Netherlands

New Zealand

- Health Certificate: Bovine Semen Import From New Zealand

Norway

- Approved European Bovine Semen Sex Sorting Facilities
- Health Certificate: Bovine Semen Import From Norway (313.91 KB) (July 2025)

Spain

- Health Certificate Bovine Semen Import from Spain (225.38 KB) - April 2026

Switzerland

- Approved European Bovine Semen Sex Sorting Facilities
- Health Certificate: Bovine Semen Import From Switzerland (963.05 KB)

United Kingdom (Great Britain, Northern Ireland)

- **A permit and export health certificate are required.**
- Approved European Bovine Semen Sex Sorting Facilities
- Health Certificate: Bovine Semen Import From Great Britain
- Health Certificate: Bovine Semen Import From Northern Ireland

What You Need To Know

- U.S. transits are classified as shipments presented to a U.S. port of entry for conveyance purposes to then be transported to a destination country shortly after.
    - Notice Regarding APHIS Live Animal Import and Third-Country Import Transit Permits
- Please note that any animals and their germplasm transiting the United States must not transit countries with questionable disease statuses prior to reaching a U.S. port of entry.
- All transits require a contingency plan. Submit your contingency plan with your permit application (VS 17-129 (211.74 KB)) to laipermits@usda.gov. To submit an import permit electronically, visit APHIS eFile.
- If you are applying to import live animals, semen, and embryos, you may submit applications by email to laipermits@usda.gov.

Contact Us

Live Animal Imports

For questions about import permits or permit applications:

Live Animal Import Permit Team

Email: laipermits@usda.gov

Phone: 301-851-3300

For general questions related to the import of a live animal:

Live Animal Import and Export

Email: laie@usda.gov

Phone: 301-851-3300

All Contacts
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