

USDA APHIS VETERINARY SERVICES STRATEGY & POLICY PROTOCOL FOR THE IMPORTATION OF DOMESTIC SWINE FROM CANADA

Updated June 2026

This protocol describes the conditions required to import live domestic swine from Canada according to regulations found in the U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations*, [9 CFR Part 93](#).

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- 1.1. A USDA import permit is not required for swine presented for entry into the United States at a land border port designated in [9 CFR 93.503\(b\)](#) for the entry of swine from Canada.

Swine presented for entry into the United States at sea, air, or non-designated land border ports (such as swine entering the State of Alaska) must be accompanied by an import permit issued under the authority of USDA APHIS VS. To receive this permit, importers must apply through the [APHIS eFile](#) system website: [Animal Health Permits | Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service \(usda.gov\)](#).

- 1.2. Swine must be presented by appointment to a U.S. port of entry ([contact VS Field Operations Port Services](#)).
- 1.3. [VS Form 17-29, "Declaration of Importation,"](#) must be presented by the importer or their agent for the use of the port veterinarian.
- 1.4. An official Canadian export health certificate is required for all swine presented for entry from Canada for purposes other than immediate slaughter ("non-slaughter swine"). The official health certificate must be issued by a veterinarian designated (accredited) by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and must be endorsed by a veterinarian employed by CFIA attesting to the certifications required in this protocol.
 - 1.4.1. Under normal conditions, swine imported for immediate slaughter ("slaughter swine") may be imported from Canada without health certification.
 - 1.4.2. In the event of an FAD (foreign animal disease) outbreak in Canada, the official export health certificate (HA 3049) will be required for immediate slaughter swine, as specified in section 3.5.
- 1.5. Farm-raised wild boar (non-zoo source) from Canada are considered by USDA APHIS to be a sub-species of swine. Please refer to [USDA APHIS VS Strategy & Policy Protocol for Importation of Farm Raised Wild Boar from Canada](#). Canada has separate export health certificates for farm-raised wild boar (HA 2228), zoo swine (HA 2230), and domestic swine (HA 1938).
- 1.6. Importers are advised that individual U.S. States may have additional requirements than USDA APHIS.
 - 1.6.1. It is the importer's responsibility to verify and to meet these conditions.
 - 1.6.2. Importers should contact officials in the destination State to determine these requirements ([U.S. State and Territory Animal Entry Requirements | Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service \(usda.gov\)](#)).
 - 1.6.3. These may include a State import permit, additional testing, and/or non-vaccination status.

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2. **CERTIFICATIONS:** The official health certificate must contain the following statements:
- 2.1. Canada is free of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), classical swine fever (CSF), African swine fever (ASF), swine pseudorabies (Aujeszky's Disease [AD]), and swine vesicular disease (SVD), **OR**
 - 2.2. In the event of an outbreak of foreign animal disease in Canada, the swine intended for export to the United States did not originate from, or transit through, a current USDA APHIS-recognized zone or region in Canada established due to the detection of FMD, CSF, ASF, AD, or SVD.
 - 2.3. The swine were part of the national herd of Canada:
 - 2.3.1. The swine were born in Canada or the United States, and have been in no region other than Canada or the United States, or
 - 2.3.2. The swine have been legally imported into Canada from some other region and unconditionally released in Canada and were eligible to move freely within that region without restriction of any kind and have been in Canada after such release for 60 days or longer.
 - 2.4. The swine have not been imported into Canada from countries designated by USDA APHIS as affected with FMD, CSF, ASF, AD, or SVD, nor are they first generation progeny of such imported swine.
 - 2.5. The swine have had no contact with swine or swine products (including imported swine or swine products) that were located in a current USDA APHIS-recognized zone or region established due to the detection of FMD, CSF, ASF, AD, or SVD.
 - 2.6. The swine have not been vaccinated against FMD, CSF, ASF, AD or SVD and are not progeny of vaccinated sows.
 - 2.6.1. The swine have not been vaccinated with any other live or attenuated or inactivated vaccine during the 14 days preceding export to the United States.
 - 2.6.2. Vaccination protocols for swine vary. Using their professional discretion, herd veterinarians develop vaccination protocols for each swine production situation. USDA APHIS will accept vaccination programs recommended by consulting swine veterinarians, published by swine experts, and/or developed by the swine industry for the control of existing swine diseases.
 - 2.7. Gilts or sows implanted with embryos of any type must also meet the same standards required for the import of porcine embryos from Canada as long as the healthy gilts/sows qualified for export to the United States.
 - 2.8. The attesting CFIA-accredited veterinarian has inspected the swine before the date of export and found them to be free of evidence of infectious and communicable diseases, and as far as can be determined, exposure thereto during the preceding 60 days.
 - 2.8.1. For non-slaughter swine, inspection must be within 14 days prior to export.
 - 2.8.2. In the event of an FAD outbreak, all swine (including swine for immediate slaughter) will require veterinary inspection.
 - 2.8.3. In the event of an FAD outbreak, inspection must be within 7 days prior to export.

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- 2.9. The official health certificate must include:
- 2.9.1. Region/country of origin
 - 2.9.2. Name and address of exporter
 - 2.9.3. Address or other means of identifying the premises of origin and any other premises where the animals resided immediately prior to export
 - 2.9.4. Name and address of the importer
 - 2.9.5. Physical address of destination in the United States
 - 2.9.6. In the event of an FAD outbreak in Canada, the physical location of the APHIS-approved slaughter establishment and the applicable Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) establishment number for swine for immediate slaughter
 - 2.9.7. Species, breed, and number of animals to be imported
 - 2.9.8. Purpose of importation
 - 2.9.9. Individual identification (see 2.10 below)
 - 2.9.10. Description of the animals, including age, sex, and breed (if applicable)
- 2.10. Before export, all swine (except those for immediate slaughter; see below) were individually identified with a unique indicator/ID option approved under Canada's official national identification system for swine developed by CFIA, the Livestock Identification and Traceability Program (PigTRACE), administered by the Canadian Pork Council (CPC). Two types of indicators/ID options are approved: official ear tags and officially designated herd mark tattoos. Microchips may be approved on a case-by-case basis (see reference chart, section 4).
- 2.10.1. Official ear tags are obtained from the CPC; various styles (shapes, colors) of official tags exist for different ages and purposes of swine.
 - 2.10.1.1. Ear tags bear a unique 15-digit number that follows the ISO 11784 standard format. These can be either electronic (RFID) or non-electronic, **OR**
 - 2.10.1.2. Ear tags bear an official CPC-designated 5-digit alpha-numeric herd mark unique to the production site. These ear tags will have a secondary unique herd management identification number on the same tag when used for breeding animals.
 - 2.10.1.3. Official ear tags may be used for breeding swine of any age but are required for all animals greater than 70 days of age.
 - 2.10.1.4. Official ear tags may be used for feeding swine of any age but are required for all animals greater than 70 days of age.
 - 2.10.1.5. In the event of an FAD outbreak in Canada, official ear tags must be used for swine for immediate slaughter.

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- 2.10.2. Officially designated herd mark tattoos consist of 5 alpha-numeric characters and correspond to an identification number assigned by the CPC to animals originating from the same production site.
 - 2.10.2.1. Official herd mark tattoos may be used for feeding swine less than 70 days of age.
 - 2.10.2.2. Official herd mark tattoos may be used for breeding swine less than 70 days of age.
- 2.10.3. Subcutaneous microchip implants* in swine are NOT allowed for the purposes of import. U.S. Federal regulations do not allow the use of microchips in swine undergoing interstate movement. Electronic (RFID) ear tags are permissible.

NOTE: *There may be rare instances when use of a microchip for pet pigs, research swine, zoological swine, or swine used for entertainment purposes (performing swine) may be considered. The importer should contact Live Animal Import staff (LAIE@usda.gov) who will review the situation in consult with APHIS Swine Health staff and State Animal Health Officials.
- 2.10.4. A secondary identification in the form of a plastic ear tag or permanent, clearly readable tattoo may be used and is strongly recommended.
- 2.10.5. Electronic ear tags can be used as the sole identifier if they can be read without restraining the animals or causing biosecurity concerns.

3. IMMEDIATE SLAUGHTER SWINE

- 3.1. Identification
 - 3.1.1. Animals are required to be individually identified with an official ear tag, official herd mark tattoo, or PigTRACE identification accepted for immediate slaughter, including slap tattoos.
 - 3.1.2. Tattoos must be clearly readable; see [Tattooing Traceability EN.pdf \(cpc-ccp.com\)](#).
- 3.2. Swine imported from Canada for immediate slaughter must be consigned from the port of entry directly to an [APHIS-approved slaughter establishment](#) and be slaughtered there within 2 weeks (14 days) from the date of entry.
 - 3.2.1. Slaughter swine may be imported from Canada without certification but shall be subject to the provisions of [9 CFR 93.507](#), [93.516](#), and [93.518](#).
 - 3.2.2. The Declaration of Importation ([VS 17-29 form](#)) is the only required document for immediate slaughter swine of any age originating in Canada, except in the event of an FAD outbreak in Canada.
 - 3.2.3. The route of travel to the immediate slaughter facility must be declared.
- 3.3. Slaughter swine must be visually inspected, and conveyances sealed with USDA seals at the port of entry. The animals must then move directly to an APHIS-approved slaughter establishment.

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- 3.4. Except for emergency situations, the seals may be broken only at the APHIS-approved slaughter establishment by an authorized USDA representative. If the seals must be broken due to an emergency, USDA APHIS VS Northern Border Ports Veterinarian in Charge or designee should be contacted as soon as possible at the time of the emergency.
- 3.5. In the event of an FAD outbreak in Canada, official health certificates and official identification of each animal will be required for immediate slaughter swine.
- 3.6. Under certain circumstances, restricted-entry immediate slaughter swine may be approved for import into the United States with a special health certificate. APHIS may also require an import permit.
 - 3.6.1. This would permit the import of swine exposed to certain viruses that would not affect immediate slaughter approval and processing by USDA FSIS.
 - 3.6.2. APHIS will assess these situations on a case-by-case basis prior to the import being permitted, after discussions with CFIA and State Animal Health Officials. A completed protocol, with the required documents, will be established prior to the movement.

4. INSPECTION AT U.S. PORT OF ENTRY

- 4.1. All swine presented for any purpose will be visually inspected onboard the conveyance by USDA APHIS VS personnel at the port of entry. Port personnel will observe the basic principles of biosecurity to reduce the potential for cross contamination between loads of swine.
- 4.2. Non-slaughter swine: The port veterinarian will perform a general visual health and fitness to travel inspection onboard the conveyance and will verify that appropriate official individual animal identification matches that listed on the health certificate.
 - 4.2.1. If individual swine do not meet VS requirements for entry (identification, health certification), or if there is any concern about the health status/fitness to travel of any swine in the shipment, the individual swine in the shipment may be refused entry, or the entire load may be refused entry, and returned to Canada, at the discretion of the port veterinarian.
 - 4.2.2. If there are any swine exhibiting clinical signs of infectious disease, the entire load should be refused entry.
 - 4.2.3. If swine presented for non-slaughter purposes meet all requirements for entry, the port veterinarians will issue VS Form 17-30, "Report of Animals, Poultry or Eggs Offered for Importation."
- 4.3. Swine for Immediate Slaughter: The port veterinarian shall perform a general visual health and fitness to travel inspection onboard the conveyance.
 - 4.3.1. If any swine are found to be exhibiting clinical signs of infectious disease, or if there are other concerns about the health status of swine for immediate slaughter, the entire load should be refused entry.
 - 4.3.2. If the swine for immediate slaughter meet all requirements for entry, the port veterinarian will seal the vehicle and issue VS form 17-30, "Report of Animals, Poultry or Eggs Offered for

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Importation” and VS form 17-33, “Animals Imported for Immediate Slaughter.” These documents will accompany the slaughter swine from the port of entry directly to an APHIS-approved immediate slaughter facility.

5. IMPORT SWINE ID REFERENCE CHART

A secondary identification in the form of a plastic tag or tattoo may be used.

Swine category	Official indicator/ID option (required)	Secondary ID (recommended)	Notes
Breeding < 70 days	Official ear tag or official herd mark tattoo	Plastic ear tag or tattoo	Official herd mark tattoo allowed <u>only</u> in swine < 70 days and must be clearly readable
Breeding > 70 days	Official ear tag	Plastic ear tag or tattoo	
Feeding , subcategory: Isoweans (swine <21 days of age)	Official ear tag or official herd mark tattoo	Plastic ear tag or tattoo	Tattoo must be clearly readable
Feeding , subcategory: swine > 21 days of age and < 70 days	Official ear tag or official herd mark tattoo	Plastic ear tag or tattoo	Official herd mark tattoo allowed only in swine < 70 days and must be clearly readable
Feeding > 70 days	Official ear tag	Plastic ear tag or tattoo	
Special category swine: research, entertainment, zoological, or pet/companion	Official ear tag, official herd mark tattoo, or if approved by APHIS on a case-by-case basis microchip implants with an ISO 11784 identification	Plastic ear tag or tattoo	Note: If approved electronic ear tags or microchips are used as permanent individual identifiers, secondary identification may be needed
Immediate slaughter	Official ear tag, official herd mark tattoo, standard PigTRACE identification accepted for immediate slaughter, including slap tattoos	Plastic ear tag or tattoo	Official ear tag must be used during an FAD outbreak in Canada. All tattoos must be clearly readable

6. ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES

Please check the animal health regulations of the importing state of destination for possible additional regulations and requirements for the proposed import ([U.S. State and Territory Animal Entry Requirements | Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service \(usda.gov\)](#)).

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Notifications for Canadian accredited veterinarians:

Swine for immediate slaughter to the U.S.

Inspection, testing, or certification is not required for swine consigned from the port of entry directly to a slaughter facility. A statement signed by the exporter showing the farm(s) of origin and the approved U.S. slaughter establishment to which the load is consigned must be presented to the port veterinarian at the port of entry. Although the [United States Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\)](#) permits the import of sealed loads of Canadian-origin swine without health certification requirements ([9 CFR 93.517](#)), the swine imports must meet other general requirements of these regulations, including official identification ([9 CFR 93.501](#)). Animals are required to be individually identified with an official ear tag, official herd mark tattoo, or other PigTrace identification acceptable for use for domestic immediate slaughter movements, including slap tattoos. Tattoos must be legible. In cases where pigs are moved to an intermediate site (e.g., assembly yard) prior to export, these pigs must meet domestic identification requirements for such movement.

Swine for immediate slaughter to the United States that have been exposed to Seneca Virus A (SVA)

Seneca Virus A (SVA) disease is neither a CFIA-regulated, nor a World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH)-listed disease. Rapid investigation and differential diagnosis of every suspect SVA case displaying vesicular lesions remains imperative because the clinical signs and gross lesions of SVA disease are indistinguishable from CFIA-regulated foreign animal diseases (foot-and-mouth disease, swine vesicular disease and vesicular stomatitis).

USDA APHIS requires that inspection and certification using the HA 3184 health certificate be performed for pigs from a pre-export premises (e.g., farm, assembly yard) anytime there have been two or more loads from that premises refused entry at the U.S. border for vesicular lesions and/or APHIS has initiated two or more foreign animal disease investigations because of vesicular lesions detected in pigs originating from a premises at slaughter establishment in the United States within a 2-week timeframe. Once implemented, the health certificate requirement for the affected premises will remain in place for a minimum of 3 months and until at least 60 days has passed with no detection of vesicular lesions in pigs from these facilities.

This certificate cannot be used without prior approval from CFIA. CFIA will determine, in consultation with the USDA APHIS, when the certificate is required. Contact your [local district office](#) to receive a copy of this certificate. Swine exported to the United States from an SVA-affected premises also require a USDA import permit (refer to [5.8 Swine - inspection.canada.ca](#)).

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