

CEM Country Equine Importation

Requirements for Horses to be Permanently Imported into the United States from Countries Affected with Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM)

Stallions and mares over 731 days of age presented for permanent import from countries affected with Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) must meet the general requirements for import, and must be tested negative for CEM and certified in the country of origin as described below.

Stallions and mares 731 days of age or less which have been bred must be tested for CEM in the country of origin as described below.

Stallions and mares under 731 days of age are exempt from CEM testing if the horse has never been bred. Geldings of any age are exempt from CEM testing.

Countries Affected with Contagious Equine Metritis

All Member States of the European Union (including Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom [England, Scotland, Wales, Isle of Man, and Northern Ireland]) Countries of the former Yugoslavia (includes Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonian, Slovenia, Serbia and Montenegro)

Guinea Bissau

Japan

South Africa

Switzerland

Health Certificate Requirements

All horses must be accompanied by an official health certificate written in English. The official health certificate must be endorsed by a full-time veterinary officer of the National Government of the country of export.

The official health certificate must state that:

1. The horse has been in the region for 60 days immediately preceding shipment to the United States. If not, the horse is to be accompanied by a health certificate issued by a full-time salaried veterinary officer of the National Government of each country in which the horse has been during the 60 days immediately preceding shipment to the United States.
2. The horse has been inspected and found free of contagious diseases, and insofar as can be determined, exposure thereto during the 60 days immediately preceding exportation.

3. The horse has not been vaccinated with a live or attenuated or inactivated vaccine during the 14 days immediately preceding exportation.
4. The horse has not been on a premises where African horse sickness, dourine, glanders, surra, epizootic lymphangitis, ulcerative lymphangitis, equine piroplasmosis, equine infectious anemia (EIA), Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis (VEE), or vesicular stomatitis has occurred during the 60 days immediately preceding exportation nor have these diseases occurred on any adjoining premises during the same period of time.
5. The horse has been inspected and found to be free from ectoparasites.

Pre-Exportation Testing for CEM

In addition to the health certificate information above, for all stallions and mares over 731 days of age, and for stallions and mares under 731 days of age which have been bred, the official health certificate must include the following attestations:

1. For stallions: culture specimens taken from the prepuce, urethral sinus, fossa glandis (including the diverticulum of the fossa glandis) and distal urethra have been cultured with negative results.

For mares: culture specimens taken from the clitoral sinuses and clitoral fossa, and if the mare is not pregnant, the distal cervix or endometrium have been cultured with negative results.

[The dates and time of specimen collection and culturing, and the results of such cultures with the name of the laboratory must be recorded on the health certificate.]

2. All specimens were collected within 30 days of the date of export, and were received within 48 hours of collection by a laboratory approved by the animal health authorities of the National Veterinary Service of the region of export.
3. The horse has not been bred naturally or by artificial insemination from the period of time after specimen collection until the horse was exported.

If any specimen collected is found to be positive for CEM, the stallion or mare must be treated for CEM in a manner approved by the National Veterinary Service of the region of export. After the treatment is completed, at least 21 days must pass before the horse will be eligible to be tested again. All test results, treatments performed, and the dates of the treatments must be recorded on the health certificate.

General U.S. Entry Requirements

1. Horses imported into the United States from regions affected with CEM must be quarantined at the port of entry while tests for dourine, glanders, equine piroplasmiasis, and Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) are conducted at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories. The official tests are the complement fixation test (CFT) for dourine and glanders, competitive enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (cELISA) and CFT for piroplasmiasis, and agar gel immunodiffusion (AGID, Coggins test) for EIA. Horses that are positive to tests for any of these diseases will be refused entry.

Horses must remain in quarantine until test results are returned, and the horse is certified as free from clinical evidence of disease. The quarantine period is a minimum of 42 hours.

2. Upon completion of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) import quarantine and testing requirements, stallions and mares 731 days of age or less which have been bred, and all stallions and mares over 731 days of age, must be consigned to a CEM testing facility in a State approved to receive mares and stallions from CEM-affected countries to undergo the prescribed treatment and testing requirements.

[States Approved to Conduct CEM Testing](#) (pdf 68kb)