

Importing horses into the U.S.?

The importation of horses into the United States present challenges and obstacles that can possibly delay importation if the proper documentation is not completed prior to arrival at the border. In addition to U.S. Customs Border and Protection (Customs) clearance, horses must be approved for importation by the Animal Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) division of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The following information provides a general overview of the requirements and documentation needed to import horses and/or other horse-related equipment and essentials. Reach out to the experienced staff at Farrow for help and guidance in navigating the requirements to successfully import your horse(s) into the United States.

SITUATION 1: TEMPORARY IMPORT OF 30 DAYS OR LESS

When horses are accompanied by their owner, temporary entry will generally be granted without the filing of a formal entry with U.S. Customs.

Horses are required to possess an official Veterinary Health Certificate endorsed by a salaried veterinarian of the Canadian Government. Horses must also possess a negative equine infectious anemia test.

Horses imported in cannot be sold in the U.S. and remain behind. The sold horse must return to Canada within 30 days of entry and sale arrangements be handled as a new import.

Persons transporting horses unaccompanied by their owner should seek the advice of a licensed U.S. Customs Broker to review their specific situation. Contact with a broker must be made in advance of crossing to allow for the necessary setup of accounts and/or import registrations.



SITUATION 2: TEMPORARY IMPORT OF 30 DAYS OR LESS, WITH ADDITIONAL COMMODITY

Situation 1 above with additional commodity applies only to horses being imported.

Equipment imported along with the horses must be entered with U.S. Customs by a Licensed Customs Broker as either a Formal Entry and/or Temporary Importation Bond. The entry process for equipment will be determined by intent of sale or intent to return to Canada.

Equipment may include but is not limited to:

- Carts
- Show harnesses
- Saddles
- All tack related supplies

The advice of a licensed U.S. Customs Broker to review your specific situation is required prior to arrival. Contact with the broker must be made in advance of crossing to allow for the necessary setup of accounts and/or import registrations.

The transport carrier is required to be registered with the National Motor Freight Traffic Association (NMFTA) (secure.nmfta.org) and possess an active Standard Carrier Alpha Code (SCAC). The carrier must also be an active ACE e-Manifest Participant, as this is a requirement of the Pre-Arrival Processing System enforced by U.S. Customs.

SITUATION 3: HORSES ENTERING THE U.S. PERMANENTLY

Horses with or without equipment entering the U.S. to be sold and/or otherwise remain in the U.S. longer than 30 days must be entered with U.S. Customs by a Licensed Customs Broker as a Formal Entry.

In addition to the veterinary certificates required for importing situations 1 and 2,

horses are subject to veterinary inspection at the border by United States Department of Agriculture Veterinary Services staff. Note that appointment scheduling and services fees will apply for this inspection.

The advice of a licensed U.S. Customs Broker to review your specific situation is required prior to arrival. Contact with the broker must be made in advance of crossing to allow for the necessary setup of accounts and/or import registrations.

The transport carrier is required to be registered with the National Motor Freight Traffic Association (NMFTA) (secure.nmfta.org) and possess an active Standard Carrier Alpha Code (SCAC). The carrier must also be an active ACE e-Manifest Participant, as this is a requirement of the Pre-Arrival Processing System enforced by U.S. Customs.

REQUIREMENT CONSIDERATIONS PRIOR TO ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES

- Brokerage account and entry importation documents need to be established in advance of importation.
- Continuous Bond and/or approval for a Single Transaction Bond required (broker will facilitate).
- Veterinary appointment at port of arrival to be scheduled in advance, and charges by USDA will apply. Appointments are generally made Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM EST. Overtime appointments are allowed for an additional fee (in some ports).
- The carrier of the horse and/or equipment is required to be an ACE e-Manifest participant, as this is a requirement of the Pre-Arrival Processing Service requirement to import into the U.S.

For further information, get in touch:

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