



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

State Regulations

Last Modified. November 11, 2024

Health Requirements Governing the Admission of Animals into Puerto Rico

For More Information on Current Regulations Please Contact:

Dr. Alejandro Perez
State Animal Health Officer
Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture
Veterinary Services & Animal Health
#9 Road 693, Dorado, PR 00646-3445
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Tel. 787-278-8421

Website:

<https://www.agricultura.pr.gov>

NOTICES

Due to High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 virus in Livestock (Lactating Dairy Cattle).

Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture, Cattle Movement Information.

Cattle from premises that have had animals confirmed positive for Bovine Associated Influenza A (H5N1) Syndrome are, until further notice, restricted from importation into Puerto Rico without written permission from the Commissioner of the Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture.

Until further notice, the importation of lactating dairy cattle into Puerto Rico must meet testing and movement requirements as outlined by the USDA APHIS Federal Order (effective April 29, 2024) which can be found at the link below.

ICVIs for all dairy cattle must also include a statement with the following information:

- 1. The lactation status of the cow (lactating or non-lactating)**
- 2. Because all lactating dairy cattle must test negative for Bovine Associated Influenza A (H5N1) from a NALHN laboratory within 7 days before importation, test results including laboratory name, accession number, and test date must be included on the ICVI.**



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3. All import requirements for livestock are still in force (see section “Cattle”)

For additional information on testing guidelines and requirements, see the USDA APHIS Federal Notice at the following link.

www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/aphis-requirements-recommendations-hpai-livestock.pdf

Due to High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) domestic poultry detections.

The Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture (PRDA) is requiring that all Live Poultry (Poultry is defined as chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, guinea fowl, pea fowl, pigeons, doves, quail, partridges, and pheasants) Hatching Eggs, and Table Eggs, moving from any Control Area and Out of Control Area reported by USDA APHIS, need a certificate inspection approved by USDA and performed by an USDA accredited veterinarian, before PRDA assign an official import permit number.

Whenever the laws and regulations concerning the movement and health of livestock, poultry, birds, and other animals into the territory of Puerto Rico are more restrictive than the laws and regulations of the Federal Government, the laws and regulations of Puerto Rico shall apply in addition to those of the Federal Government.

No livestock, poultry, birds or other animals that are affected with or have been exposed to an infectious, contagious, communicable disease, or ectoparasites or which originated in an area quarantined by a Territory, State, or the Federal Government because of such disease or parasites shall be permitted to be introduced into Puerto Rico except with a permit issued by the SAHO of the Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture.

Each animal or bird that applies for entry to Puerto Rico must be accompanied by an official certificate of veterinary inspection, signed by an accredited veterinarian in the state or territory of origin and will be valid for 30 days from the inspection date. An Import Permit is required prior to shipment of the animals or birds.

All applications for an import permit must be directed to the SAHO, PRDA Veterinary Diagnostic Lab. #9 Rd. 693, Dorado, PR 00646-3445, and the following information must be included (see attachment #001-06/12/2024):



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1. Name and address of consignor and consignee.
2. Species and number of animals
3. Exact description of the animals or birds including an official individual identification (microchip for horses and birds), dogs and cats (collar with metallic Id tag or microchip). Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags for livestock (cattle, sheep, goats, other), age, sex and race.
4. Point of origin
5. The date and results of laboratory or another test.
6. Dates of vaccinations and vaccines administered.
7. Proposed date of shipment.
8. Destination and local address.
9. Means of transportation.
10. Reason for shipment and use of animals.
11. A health certificate stating that the animals are free of symptoms of infectious or contagious diseases or have been exposed to any diseases.

Contact the PRDA SAHO office for information on Import Permit Requests and charges. See annex included in this site for additional information.

All livestock, poultry, birds, and other animals entering Puerto Rico under permit shall be consigned to an individual who is a resident of Puerto Rico or to a legal entity authorized by law to do business within Puerto Rico.

All livestock must be isolated (quarantined) for 15 days immediately after entering Puerto Rico at the destination facility to allow for further testing by the Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture.

Any livestock, poultry, birds, or other animals that enter the territory of Puerto Rico which is found to be affected, a carrier of or been recently exposed to any infectious, contagious, or communicable disease, shall be returned to its point of origin or destroyed and disposed of as directed by the office of Veterinary Services & Animal Health of PRDA or an authorized representative, at the expense of the owner or importer. The Government of Puerto Rico in no way shall render any compensation for any animals so destroyed.

For animals that originate from outside of the United States or its territories, Federal Import Regulations are in effect. For more information, please go to www.aphis.usda.gov



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DOGS AND CATS

- **Dogs and cats do not need a PRDA import permit for interstate movement.**
- All dogs and cats entering Puerto Rico shall be accompanied by an official health certificate stating that the animal did not originate from an area quarantined for rabies. An official certificate veterinary inspection signed by an accredited veterinarian in the state or territory of origin and will be valid for 30 days from the inspection date. (This is not a standard form. Each state of origin may use or provide different interstate forms, CVI, (Global Vet-Link or AGview are approved) which can be used for interstate.
- All dogs and cats over four (4) months of age must be vaccinated against rabies within six (6) months prior to the date of shipment, shall be properly identified and accompanied by a certificate of vaccination against rabies.
- Treatment for external parasites within 72 hrs. prior to entry and so stated on the health certificate by the accredited veterinarian.
- An official individual identification (**microchip or a collar with metallic ID Tag**).

NOTE: For additional information on the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) new entry requirements for international travel, visit www.cdc.gov/dogtravel

PSITTACINE BIRDS

(Permit Fee; \$50 USD) *

- All psittacine birds must have a prior import permit, issued by the SAHO of PRDA, upon entry into Puerto Rico.
- The birds must also be accompanied by an official health certificate stating that the birds are free of Psittacosis, Avian Influenza, New Castle Disease, and did not originate from a quarantined area for any infectious or contagious diseases of the species.

REQUIRED TESTS

The birds must be subjected to individual tests with negative results prior to shipment for:

- **Avian Influenza (AGID) (HI) or (PCR) test**
- ***Chlamydia psittaci*: (complement fixation or ELISA).**

Exotic bird species must meet any requirements stipulated by the Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources (DRNA). For more information, contact DRNA at 787-999-2200 ext. 2750 or fax 787-999-2268.



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POULTRY & HATCHING EGGS

(Permit fee; \$50 USD) *

Poultry is defined as chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, guinea fowl, pea fowl, pigeons, doves, quail, partridges, and pheasants.

- Shipping hatching eggs, newly hatched chicks, and poultry less than five (5) months of age must be accompanied by a certificate issued by the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP), indicating that the birds come from flocks classified as **“U.S. Pullorum-Typhoid Clean, U.S. Mycoplasma Gallisepticum Clean, Avian Influenza Clean and Newcastle Disease Clean”**

HORSES

(Permit Fee \$10 USD each animal) *

- All Equidae 6 months of age or older entering Puerto Rico must be vaccinated against *Equine Encephalomyelitis* (eastern and western) vaccine, Influenza and Herpes virus vaccine within six (6) months prior to the date of shipment.
- All Equidae must have passed a negative *Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) Virus Antibody* test (AGID), -**Coggins** test-within six (6) months prior to the arrival to Puerto Rico.
 - The EIA-AGID test must be performed by a USDA approved laboratory, with samples being collected by an accredited veterinarian or State or Federal regulatory personnel.
 - The results of the AGID -**Coggins** test- shall be indicated on the official health certificate, stating the name and address of the laboratory performing the test, the date, and the results of the test.

SWINE

(Permit Fee \$50 USD) *

The entry of live swine to Puerto Rico is prohibited until further notice. For special import permit requests contact the PRDA SAHO office.



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SMALL RUMINANTS

(Permit Fee \$5 USD, each animal) *

The small ruminants are defined as sheep and goats. All sheep and goats entering Puerto Rico shall be accompanied by an official health certificate stating:

- That they originated in a State or territory officially declared free of Scrapie.
- That they are from herds that are not quarantined for any contagious or communicable disease.
- That they are not the progeny of scrapie infected animals.
- That they were found negative to a test for tuberculosis and brucellosis within 30 days prior to date of shipment.
- The health certificate must also contain negative tests for goats of *Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis* (CAE) and for sheep of *Ovine Progressive Pneumonia* (Maedi-visna).
- Treatment for external parasites within 72 hrs. prior to entry and so stated on the health certificate by the accredited veterinarian.

CATTLE

(Permit Fee, \$10 USD each animal) *

Due to detections of **Tropical Bont Ticks** in St. Croix, USVI, the Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture is requiring that all livestock (horses, cattle, small ruminants, swine) movements from US Virgin Islands (St. Croix, St. John & St. Thomas) be accompanied by a certificate of ectoparasite inspection and treatment with an approved product by USDA and performed by an USDA accredited veterinarian, within 72 hours prior to shipment.

- All cattle, dairy or beef, entering Puerto Rico must be permanently identified by an US official Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) ear tag. Treatment for external parasites within 72 hrs. prior to entry and so stated on the health certificate by the accredited veterinarian.

Brucellosis

- All dairy or beef cattle entering Puerto Rico must be completely negative to a serum agglutination tube test or card test or equivalent test for brucellosis within 30 days prior to the date of shipment.



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- Cattle must originate from certified brucellosis free herds. Exception can be allowed if they are calves less than 6 months of age, or animals officially brucellosis vaccinated dairy heifers under 20 months and beef heifers under 24 months of age.

Animals that origin from areas that are classified as modified free certified brucellosis status need to have a negative lab test within twelve months prior to the date of shipment without showing reactors. All dairy or beef cattle more than thirteen (13) months of age must have a negative brucellosis test within thirty (30) days prior to the date of shipment. A certificate of freedom of ecto-parasites and treatment within 72 hours with approved USDA acaracide must be included.

Tuberculosis

- All cattle upon entering Puerto Rico must have been found to be negative to a tuberculosis test within 30 days prior to the date of entry.
- Also, they must have originated from a tuberculosis free accredited herd or State or Territory or a modified accredited area from a herd tested negative within twelve (12) months.
- The date and results of the tuberculin test must be recorded on the health certificate.
- All cattle arriving to Puerto Rico will be quarantine at the destination of the consignee until it has completed a brucellosis test within thirty (30) days of arrival and a second Tuberculosis test within ninety (90) days of their arrival.

*****RABBITS*****

(Permit Fee, \$50 USD) *

- All rabbits that apply for entry to Puerto Rico must be accompanied by an official health certificate signed by an accredited veterinarian in the state or territory of origin and will be valid for 30 days from the inspection date.
- Special requirements are that all animals need to come from premises which are **Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus 2 (RHDV2) Free**.
- An Import Permit is required prior to shipment of the animals.



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*****ZOO, FUR-BEARING, & OTHER WILD ANIMALS*****

(Permit Fee, \$50 USD) *

Exotic species (Zoo, Fur-Bearing and other Wild Animals) must meet any requirements stipulated by the Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources (DRNA). For more information, contact DRNA at 787-999-2200 ext. 2750 or fax 787-999-2268.

An Import Permit is required prior to shipment.

*****SEMEN & FROZEN EMBRYOS*****

(Permit Fee \$50 USD) *

Contact the PRDA SAHO for requirements and import permit instructions.

An Import Permit is required prior to shipment.

*****BIOLOGICS, MICROORGANISMS, & PARASITES*****

(Permit Fee \$50 USD) *

No microorganism or parasite specimens or samples shall be permitted entry into Puerto Rico without the written approval of the PRDA SAHO.

An Import Permit is required prior to shipment.

*** Pay fee (check or money order) Addressed, "Secretario de Hacienda"**

***Send to;**

Área Servicios Veterinarios

#9 Carretera 693

Dorado, PR 00646-3445

Contact email address:

zcolon@agricultura.pr.gov

aperez@agricultura.pr.gov

obenvenuti@agricultura.pr.gov



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GOBIERNO DE PUERTO RICO

Departamento de Agricultura

REQUEST FOR INTRODUCTION OF PRODUCTS TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO

Date: _____

Application No.: _____

No. Import: _____
(for internal use)

(for internal use)

INFORMATION FROM THE IMPORTER:

Name: _____

Physical Address: _____

Postal Address: _____

Residential Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Office Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

PRODUCTS TO BE IMPORTED:

Species: _____ Breed: _____

Quantity: _____

State or Territory of origin: _____

Arrival date: _____ Time: _____

Maritime or Air company: _____

Flight or vessel number: _____

Port or airport of arrival: _____

FINAL DESTINATION IN PUERTO RICO:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Physical Address: _____

