



IMPORTATION OF CATTLE

Conditions for Importation:

The permit is issued subject to the conditions stated below. The veterinary authority of the Virgin Islands reserves the right to render this permit void at any time when in its judgment, such is deemed necessary.

- 1) Animal(s) must be accompanied by a **health certificate** issued by the ***veterinary authority** of the country of origin stating:-
 - a) The country of origin has been free of Foot and Mouth Disease and other Vesicular Diseases, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, Peste Des Petits Ruminants, Blue Tongue, Rabies, Contagious Pleuropneumonia, Rinderpest or other serious infectious diseases affecting cattle for at least twenty-four (24) months immediately before shipment.
 - b) The cattle were examined and found to be in good health and free from symptoms of infectious diseases; that they were selected from farms with no reports of clinical Leptospirosis, Anthrax, Brucellosis, Tuberculosis and Paratuberculosis.
 - c) Animal(s) must be tested negative for Tuberculosis and Brucellosis within thirty (30) days before exportation.
 - d) Animal(s) was/were treated for internal and external parasites with appropriate pharmaceuticals, including insect vectors.
 - e) That animal(s) was/were kept in a facility frequently visited by a veterinarian and certified to be of acceptable standards.
- 2) In transit to the port of exportation, the cattle have not passed through any area in which Foot and Mouth Disease or other contagious and infectious diseases has occurred within six (6) months before the date of exportation.
- 3) That cattle have undergone a period of quarantine of not less than thirty (30) days at a specified export quarantine station in the country of origin immediately before exportation.
- 4) With Blue Tongue (BT) endemic countries, animal(s) must be kept in a quarantine station; BT free establishment for forty (40) days before the shipment and was/were subjected to a diagnostic test for BT with negative results during this period.
- 5) Animal(s) must be found healthy on arrival.
- 6) Upon submission of the application, the specified fee schedule will be applied.

All required conditions must be met, and all relevant documents (import permit, veterinary health certificate, vaccination certificate, lab test results, etc.) must be presented at the port of entry to facilitate veterinary clearance and to avoid the otherwise unpleasant, but necessary measures such as animals being kept in a facility, deportation or euthanasia.

The Veterinary Division must be given at least 24 hours notice of confirmed arrival date, time, airline/vessel and the port of entry. This will facilitate unnecessary delays, and avoid detention of animal(s) for veterinary clearance at the port of entry.

Therefore, the granting of permits for animals to be presented for inspection to enter the Virgin Islands does not signify automatic entry.

***An official health certificate is a document issued and certified by a veterinarian working full time with the government of the country of origin (e.g. USDA, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, DEFRA, etc.). The document may be filled out and signed by a licensed veterinarian, but must also be endorsed by a government veterinarian.**

Please be advised, these requirements are subject to change since animal disease status in various countries is dynamic. Therefore, the granting of permission for animals to enter the Virgin Islands does not signify automatic entry. It is your responsibility to contact the Veterinary Division, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to confirm these conditions are current.

Last Updated: February 2020