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Importing Live Sheep, Goats, and Germplasm into the United States

Last Modified:



USDA APHIS regulates the importation of all ruminants and their germplasm (embryos/oocytes, semen, cloning tissue) to prevent the spread of animal diseases. **Ruminants** include all animals which chew the cud, such as cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats, deer, antelopes, camels, llamas and giraffes.

[View Countries From Which Sheep, Goats, and Their Germplasm May Be Imported](#)

Requirements

[Expand All](#)

Live Sheep and Goats

Australia

A Permit and export health certificate are required.

- Australia (**Import protocol and health certificate being updated**); a permit and export health certificate are required.

New Zealand

A permit and export health certificate are required.

- Protocol [Import of Live Goats and Sheep from New Zealand](#) (219.91 KB) 2024
- [Health Certificate for Live Sheep and Goats from New Zealand to the United States](#)

Sheep and Goat Semen

Miscellaneous

- There are specific post-arrival [requirements for imports of sheep and goat semen from Canada, the European Union, Iceland and the United Kingdom](#) (136.38 KB).
- [Importing Ovine and Caprine Germplasm from Scrapie Affected Countries](#) (5.52 MB)

Australia

Import protocol being updated. A permit and export health certificate are required.

European Union

A permit and export health certificate are required.

ALERT: Due to the recent detections of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in Germany, Hungary, Slovakia, and Austria, import of ovine/caprine semen from these countries is currently **prohibited**.

ALERT: Because of ongoing peste des petits ruminants (PPR) outbreaks in Europe, sheep and goat semen from the following regions, collected on or after the specified dates, is not eligible for importation to the United States:

Greece (July 8, 2024 - present)

Romania (July 15, 2024 - present)

Bulgaria (June 23, 2018 - present)

Hungary (January 24, 2025-present)

1. Importers or their designated agents must provide documentation of the destination facility premise registration premises ID assigned and recorded in the Surveillance Collaborative System/ Scrapie (SCS SCR) with the permit application.
2. There are also [post-import requirements](#) (136.38 KB) for each facility using this commodity.
 - Protocol [Sheep and Goat Semen Import from Member States of the EU](#) (270.76 KB)
 - Model Health Certificate [Sheep and Goat Semen Import from Member States of the EU](#) (246.86 KB)
 - Health Certificate documents for Spain [Sheep and Goat Semen Import from Spain](#) (337.5 KB)
 - Health Certificate for [Sheep and/or Goat Semen from Belgium](#) (377.54 KB)
 - [Health Certificate for Sheep and/or Goat Semen from the Netherlands](#) (105.75 KB)

Iceland

A permit and export health certificate are required.

1. Importers or their designated agents must provide documentation of the destination facility premise registration premises ID assigned and recorded in the Surveillance Collaborative System/ Scrapie (SCS SCR) with the permit application.
2. There are also [post-import requirements](#) (136.38 KB) for each facility using this commodity.

- Protocol [Sheep and Goat Semen Imports from Iceland](#) (274.6 KB)
- Model Health Certificate [Sheep and Goat Semen Import from Iceland](#) (105.71 KB)

New Zealand

A permit and export health certificate are required.

[Sample Health Certificate for Sheep and Goat Semen](#) (mpi.govt.nz)

United Kingdom

[There are specific post-arrival requirements for imports of sheep and goat semen from Canada, the European Union, Iceland and the United Kingdom](#) (136.38 KB).

- [Great Britain Health Certificate](#)
- [Northern Ireland Health Certificate](#)

Sheep and Goat Embryos

[Importing Ovine and Caprine Germplasm from Scrapie Affected Countries](#) (5.52 MB)

Australia

- Protocol is being updated; a permit and export health certificate are required.

New Zealand

A permit and export health certificate are required.

- [Sample Health Certificate for Sheep and Goat Embryo](#) (mpi.govt.nz)

Belgium

- An import permit and export health certificate are required.
***Post Entry Requirements: There are specific [post-entry requirements for imports of sheep and goat embryos from Belgium](#) (176.01 KB).*

1. Eligibility for Import

- Sheep and goat in-vivo embryos or oocytes may only be imported from Belgium:

- For transfer to recipient females in the U.S. if the flock or herd where the recipients reside is listed in the National Scrapie Database; or
 - To an APHIS-approved embryo storage facility where they may be kept until being transferred to recipient females in a flock or herd in the U.S. listed in the APHIS National Scrapie Database.
2. **Import Permit:** An import permit is required. The application, VS Form 17-129 “Application for Import or in Transit Permit”, may be filed electronically using the [eFile system](#). Please allow 7-10 business days for permit processing.
- When applying for an import permit, the following information must be provided:
 - Documentation confirming the flock identification number of the destination flock/premises.
 - Documentation confirming the premises identification number of the destination flock/premises as listed in the National Scrapie Database.
 - Signed confirmation that the importer has read, understands and will ensure the [post-entry requirements](#) (176.01 KB) are met.
3. **Export Health Certificates:**
- [Health Certificate for Ovine and Caprine in Vivo Embryos from Belgium to the United States](#)
4. **Post-Entry and Additional Requirements:**
- Post-entry requirements pertaining to the imported embryos/oocytes and resulting offspring apply and will need to be met by the importer of record. These requirements will be outlined in the import permit and can also be found in detail at [Post-entry Requirements for Imported Sheep and Goat Embryos from Belgium](#) (176.01 KB).
 - Additional Requirements: Importers are advised that individual states may have additional import requirements. It is the importer's responsibility to verify these conditions and to meet them. The importer should contact the U.S. State veterinarian ([State Regulations and Import Requirements](#)) of the destination state to determine these regulations.

United Kingdom

- An import permit and export health certificate are required.

****Post Entry Requirements:** There are specific [post-entry requirements for imports of sheep and goat embryos from the United Kingdom](#) (176.01 KB).

1. Eligibility for Import

- Sheep and goat in-vivo embryos or oocytes may only be imported from the United Kingdom:
 - For transfer to recipient females in the U.S. if the flock or herd where the recipients reside is listed in the National Scrapie Database; or
 - To an APHIS-approved embryo storage facility where they may be kept until being transferred to recipient females in a flock or herd in the U.S. listed in the APHIS National Scrapie Database.

2. Import Permit: An import permit is required. The application, **VS Form 17-129** “Application for Import or in Transit Permit”, is best filed electronically using the [eFile system](#). Alternatively, Form 17-129 can be obtained by downloading from the APHIS web site, or emailing laipermits@usda.gov. Please allow 7-10 business days for permit processing.

- When applying for an import permit, the following information must be provided:
 - Documentation confirming the flock identification number of the destination flock/premises.
 - Documentation confirming the premises identification number of the destination flock/premises as listed in the National Scrapie Database.
 - Confirmation that the importer has read and understands the [post-entry requirements](#) (176.01 KB).

3. Export Health Certificates:

- [Great Britain](#) (publishing.service.gov.uk)
- [Northern Ireland](#) (publishing.service.gov.uk)

4. Post-Entry and Additional Requirements:

- Post-entry requirements pertaining to the imported embryos/oocytes and resulting offspring apply and will need to be met by the importer of record. These requirements will be outlined in the import permit and can also be found in detail at [Post-entry Requirements for Imported Sheep and Goat Embryos from the United Kingdom](#) (176.01 KB).
- Additional Requirements: Importers are advised that individual states may have additional import requirements. It is the importer's responsibility to verify these conditions and to meet them. The importer should contact the

U.S. State veterinarian ([State Regulations and Import Requirements](#)) of the destination state to determine these regulations.

[Importing Sheep, Goats, and their Germplasm from Canada](#)

[View requirements for importing live sheep and goats and sheep and goat semen](#)



What You Need To Know

- U.S. transits are classified as shipments presented to a U.S. port of entry for conveyance purposes to then be transported to a destination country shortly after. [Notice Regarding APHIS Live Animal Import and Third-Country Import Transit Permits](#) (272.29 KB).
- Please note that any animals and their germplasm transiting the United States must not transit countries with questionable disease statuses prior to reaching a U.S. port of entry.
- All transits require a contingency plan. Please submit your contingency plan with your permit application ([VS 17-129](#) (211.74 KB)) to laipermits@usda.gov. To submit an import permit electronically, visit [APHIS eFile](#).

If you are applying to import live animals, semen, and embryos, you may submit applications by email to laipermits@usda.gov

Contact Us

[Download contacts](#)

Live Animal Imports

For questions about import permits or permit applications:

Live Animal Import Permit Team

Email: laipermits@usda.gov

Phone: [301-851-3300](tel:301-851-3300)

For general questions related to the import of a live animal:

Live Animal Import and Export

Email: laie@usda.gov

Phone: [301-851-3300](tel:301-851-3300)

[All Contacts](#)

[Print](#)