



Beef Cattle Entry Requirements

Entry Permit

California requires an **Interstate Livestock Entry Permit** for **all** classes of cattle. To obtain an Interstate Livestock Entry Permit, please call the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) **Animal Health Branch (AHB) permit line at (916) 900-5052**. Permits are valid for 15 days after being issued.

Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI)

California requires a **Certificate of Veterinary Inspection** for **all** cattle within 30 days before movement into the state except:

- *Cattle moving directly to slaughter, if brand documents or owner-shipper statements accompany the shipment.*
- *Beef breeding herds moving on a Pasture to Pasture permit.*

Brucellosis

California requires official brucellosis calfood vaccination (with a legible brucellosis tattoo) for female breeding cattle over 12 months of age:

- Beef heifers under 6 months of age can enter, non-vaccinated.
- Non-vaccinated heifers 6-12 months of age require a **special entry permit** to: be vaccinated or spayed after arrival, or move to a registered feedlot or slaughter pen/terminal feedlot.
- Non-vaccinated female cattle over 12 months of age can only enter for slaughter, or on a **special entry permit** to: be spayed after arrival, or move to a registered feedlot (if under 18 months) or slaughter pen/terminal feedlot.

Sexually intact cattle of any age moving from a **Designated Brucellosis Surveillance Area** require a **special entry permit** and a negative brucellosis blood test obtained within 30 days before movement.

Official Identification (ID)

All beef cattle require individual official ID except:

- *Beef feeder steers,*
- *Beef female cattle under 6 months of age, and*
- *Beef bulls under 18 months of age (unless non-virgin and needing an official test)*

Official ID must be listed on the CVI unless the cattle are:

- *Moving from an approved livestock marketing facility directly to a recognized slaughtering establishment.*
- *Sexually intact beef breed under 18 months.*
- *Steers or spayed heifers.*

Note:

- **Cattle used for rodeo, exhibition/show, or recreation require official ID, and it must be listed on the CVI.**
- **If official ID is not required, the CVI must state the exemption that applies.**
- **If official ID is required, but listing it is not, the CVI must state "all animals are officially identified".**

Official Identification devices/methods of cattle include:

- Official brucellosis calfood vaccination tags.
- USDA metal "silver brite" tags.
- Animal Identification Number (AIN) system tags, commonly known as 840 tags or RFID.
- USDA-approved back tag—for slaughter cattle to be slaughtered within 3 days of arrival.
- Registered brands or registration tattoos if the animal health officials in the shipping and receiving state agree on their use.

Note: Brand inspection requirements remain in effect.

Trichomonosis

California requires a negative individual PCR trichomonosis test on bulls 18 months of age and over and non-virgin bulls less than 18 months of age, sampled 10 days after last contact with sexually mature cows, and within 60 days before movement into the state. California requires the **CVI** to include the statement, **"Trichomonosis has not been diagnosed in the herd of origin within the past 24 months."**

Test results from pooled samples are not acceptable.

Exemptions:

- *Bulls moving directly to a recognized slaughter facility, or to a feedlot for feeding (no grazing or exposure to female cattle) and then to slaughter.*
- *Bulls used solely for exhibition, confined to exhibition location without access to mature female cattle.*
- *Bulls moving to a certified semen collection facility.*

Tuberculosis (TB)

A negative TB test is required for beef breeding cattle 6 months of age and over within 60 days before movement into the state, **if** originating from states/zones not classified as "TB Free."

Animal Health Branch Permit Line: (916) 900-5052

For California entry requirements of other livestock and animals, please visit the following:

[Information About Livestock and Pet Movement](#) or [Animal Health Entry Requirement Interactive Website](#)

Animal Health and Food Safety Services Animal Health Branch

Headquarters - (916) 900-5002
Redding District - (530) 225-2140
Modesto District - (209) 491-9350
Tulare District - (559) 685-3500
Ontario District - (909) 947-4462

For more information on the Animal Health Branch, please visit: www.cdffa.ca.gov/ah

