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 calfhood 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 calfhood 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.cdfa.ca.gov/ah

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