



# Dairy Cattle Entry Requirements

California requires an **Interstate Livestock Entry Permit** for **all** dairy breed cattle (including steers and slaughter 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.

California requires a **Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI)** for **all** cattle within 30 days before movement into the state.

## Exemptions:

- *Cattle moving directly to slaughter are exempt from the CVI requirement if brand documents or owner/shipper statements accompany the shipment.*

## Official Identification

All dairy breed cattle must have Official Identification (ID) and it must be listed on the CVI (*dairy breed feeder steers do not need ID listed on the CVI*).

Acceptable methods or devices for Official ID of cattle include:

- Official brucellosis calfhood vaccination tags
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) metal “silver brite” tags
- Tags conforming to Animal Identification Number (AIN) system, commonly known as 840 tag
- A tamper-proof location-based numbering system tag. This tag combines a state issued location identification (LID) number or USDA-issued premises identification number (PIN) with a unique producer livestock production numbering system
- USDA-approved back tag—for slaughter cattle to be slaughtered within 3 days of arrival
- Registration tattoos if the animal health officials in the shipping and receiving state agree on their use

**Note: Brand inspection requirements remain in effect.**

## Brucellosis

California requires official brucellosis calfhood vaccination and a legible brucellosis tattoo for all female cattle over 4 months of age before movement into the state. If the tag is lost, a “silver brite” tag is acceptable with the tattoo. For cattle movement from a **Designated Brucellosis Surveillance Area**, California requires a negative brucellosis blood test obtained within 30 days before movement and a special entry permit.

## Trichomonosis

California requires a negative individual 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 California. 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 to a certified semen collection facility for artificial insemination.*
- *Bulls used for exhibition, confined to exhibition location without access to mature female cattle, and that will return directly to the state of origin after the exhibition.*
- *Bulls moving directly to a recognized slaughtering facility, or to a feedlot for feeding (no grazing or exposure to female cattle) and then to slaughter.*

## Tuberculosis (TB)

California requires a negative TB test for dairy breeding cattle 6 months of age and over, obtained within 60 days before movement into the state.

If you are transporting livestock into California with an electronic CVI, please print and present a hard copy to the Inspector at the Border Protection Station. This will prevent future follow up by CDFA personnel to verify the authenticity and accuracy of the document.

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

## 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 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](#)

For more information on the Animal Health Branch, please visit, or scan:  
[www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal\\_health](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal_health)

