Equine Entry Requirements

These requirements apply to horses, ponies, mules, donkeys, burros, and zebras.

California requires a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) within 30 days before entry into the state (FAC 9641.5).

- California also accepts the six (6) month Extended Equine Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (EECVI) in lieu of the standard 30-day CVI.
- If you have horses used for livestock husbandry or for other ranch-related activities, please call the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Animal Health Branch (AHB) permit line at (916) 900-5052 to inquire about a Working Horse Permit, which is used in lieu of a CVI.

California requires evidence of negative Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) test performed at a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)-approved laboratory within 12 months before entry into the state (FAC 9641.5).

Note:

- An EIA test “pending” result does not meet the entry requirement.
- The CVI must list the date of the EIA test, name of laboratory that performed the test, laboratory accession number, and the test result.

Official Methods of Equine Identification Include:

- A description to identify the individual equine including, but not limited to, name, age, breed, color, gender, distinctive markings, and unique permanent forms of identification (e.g. brands, tattoos, scars, cowlicks, blemishes, or iris scans),
- Digital photographs sufficient to identify the individual equine (pictures of both sides, front, and back), and/or
- Microchips:
  * USDA-compliant 134.2 kHz microchips, or
  * All 125 kHz and 128 kHz microchips implanted prior to March 2014.

See CDFA’s Fact Sheet “Equine - Official Identification Options” for detailed information on options for official ID for equids.

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

EIA Test Exemption
Nursing foals less than six (6) months of age being moved with an EIA test negative dam.

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.