Rodeo, Exhibition, or Recreational Cattle Entry Requirements

Entry Documentation
Pursuant to 3 CCR §831.4; FAC 10610
California requires an Interstate Livestock Entry Permit for all cattle entering solely for rodeo, exhibition, or recreational purposes, including one-time event cattle used in team penning, roping, and cutting events.
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 cattle within 30 days before movement into the state.

Official Identification (ID)
Pursuant to 3 CCR §831.3, §831.4; FAC 10610
All rodeo, exhibition, or recreational cattle require official ID, and it must be listed on the CVI.
Acceptable methods or devices for official ID for cattle include:
- Official brucellosis vaccination (“bangs”) tags
- USDA metal “silver brite” tags
- Animal Identification Number (AIN) tags: All cattle born after 3/11/15 must have tags that start with 840.
- Registration tattoos (OR, NV, and WA only)
Steers and spayed heifers on an approved, one-time event special permit, may be exempt from the official ear tag ID requirement. Please call CDFA AHB Headquarters to inquire about exemptions.

Note: Brand inspection requirements remain in effect.

Brucellosis
Pursuant to 3 CCR §753.1; FAC 10326, 10327
California requires official brucellosis calfhood vaccination and a legible brucellosis tattoo for female dairy breed cattle 4 months of age and over and female beef breed cattle 12 months of age and over before entry. Sexually intact cattle of any age moving from a Designated Brucellosis Surveillance Area require a negative brucellosis blood test obtained within 30 days before entry and a Special Entry Permit.

Trichomonosis
Pursuant to 3 CCR §820.3; FAC 10610
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 at least 10 days after last contact with sexually mature cows, and within 60 days before entry. California requires the CVI to include the test date, test type, test result, and 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 include:
- 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.

Tuberculosis (TB)
Pursuant to 3 CCR §758; FAC 9932
California requires a negative TB test for all dairy breeding cattle 6 months of age and older, and beef breeding cattle 6 months of age and older if originating from states/zones that are not classified as “TB Free.” A negative test must be 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 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