



# Rodeo, Exhibition, or Recreational Cattle Entry Requirements

Cattle entering California **solely** for rodeo, exhibition, and recreational purposes (including one-time event cattle used in team penning, roping, and cutting events) require Official Animal Identification (ID), a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI), and an Interstate Livestock Entry Permit. Additional requirements apply to certain classes of cattle for brucellosis vaccination and/or testing for certain diseases.

## Interstate Livestock Entry Permit

Before movement of the cattle into the state, contact the **Animal Health Branch (AHB) permit line at (916) 900-5052** to obtain a California Interstate Livestock Entry Permit. An entry permit is valid for 15 days after being issued.

## Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI)

A completed CVI must list Official ID of each animal, and when applicable, test results. This must be done within 30 days of movement.

## Official Identification

All rodeo, exhibition, or recreational cattle require ID and it must be listed on the CVI. Acceptable methods or devices for Official Identification (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

Steers and spayed heifers on an approved, one-time event special permit, may be exempt from the official ear tag ID requirement.

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



**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](#)

## 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.*

## Tuberculosis (TB)

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.

## Brucellosis Vaccination Requirement

California requires official brucellosis calfhood vaccination and a legible brucellosis tattoo for all female dairy breed cattle more than 4 months of age, and female beef breed cattle more than 12 months of age before movement into the state. If the tag is lost, a "silver brite" tag is acceptable with the vaccination tattoo. For cattle moving from a **Designated Brucellosis Surveillance Area**, California requires a negative brucellosis blood test obtained within 30 days before movement and a special entry permit.

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](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ah)

