



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.

Exemptions:

- *Dairy breed feeder steers do not need ID listed on the CVI.*

Acceptable methods or devices for Official ID of cattle include:

- Official brucellosis calthood 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, and/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.

Brucellosis

California requires official brucellosis calthood 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, sampled 10 days after last contact with sexually mature cows, and within 60 days before movement into California. California requires a **Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI)** issued within 30 days before entry with 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:

- *Bull movement to a certified semen collection facility for artificial insemination.*
- *Bulls 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 slaughter facility.*

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 more information on the Animal Health Branch, please visit:
www.cdffa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal_health

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](#)