



**TEXAS ANIMAL HEALTH COMMISSION**  
1-800-550-8242, Ext. 777 or 512-719-0777

## **Summary of Texas Requirements**

### **For Intrastate, Interstate and International Livestock (Domestic and Exotic), Poultry and Ratites**

**Note:** The following summary is a condensed version of the Texas Animal Health Commission regulations. The regulations will supersede this summary if there is a dispute between the two.

### **Cattle Requirements (including Bison)**

- I. Intrastate (Cattle moved within the state of Texas)
  - A. All cattle or bison originating in Texas and participating in:
    1. Intrastate shows, fairs, and exhibitions (those functions that require Texas livestock, poultry and ratites of the same species to be housed and exhibited separate and apart from livestock, poultry and ratites from out of state) are exempt from the certificate of veterinary inspection and testing requirements.
    2. Interstate shows, fairs, and exhibitions (those functions that permit livestock and poultry from other states to enter for show or exhibition and held in common facilities with Texas origin livestock and poultry of the same species) are exempt from an entry permit, but must meet the same other requirements as for those species entering from out-of-state and be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection.
      - a. Texas origin dairy cattle are not required to be tested for tuberculosis to participate in a show, fair or exhibition within the state but must be officially individually identified.
  - B. Requirements for Change of Ownership within Texas
    1. All dairy cattle must to be individually identified prior to change of ownership.
    2. All sexually intact cattle, 18 months of age and older, changing ownership within Texas, shall be officially identified within seven days of the change of ownership.
    3. Trichomoniasis Requirements
      - a. All Texas origin bulls sold, leased, gifted, exchanged or otherwise change possession for breeding purposes in the State of Texas shall meet the following testing or certification requirements prior to sale or change of ownership in the state.
        - 1) Be certified as virgin, by the breeder or his representative, on and accompanied by a breeder's certificate of virgin status (up to 24 months and up to 30 months with owner & veterinarian's signature); or
        - 2) If from a herd of unknown status (a herd that has not had a whole herd test), be tested negative on three consecutive culture tests conducted not less than seven (7) days apart or one RT-PCR test conducted within 60 days of sale or movement, be held separate from all female cattle since the test sample was collected, and be accompanied by a Trich test record showing the negative test results.
        - 3) Untested Bulls: Bulls presented for sale without a breeder's certification of virgin status or a Trich test record showing negative test results may:
          - a) Be sold for movement only directly to slaughter; or
          - b) Sold for movement to a feedlot and then to slaughter; or
          - c) Be sold and moved under a Hold Order to such place as specified by the Commission for testing to change status from a slaughter bull to a breeding bull.
            - Such bulls require official permanent individual identification prior to movement; move to the designated location on a VS 1-27 permit, and be held in isolation from female cattle at the designated location for not less than 21 days where the bull shall undergo three culture tests or for not less than 7 days where the bull shall undergo one RT-PCR test.
            - If the results of any test are positive, the bull shall be classified as infected and be permitted for movement only directly to slaughter or to a market for sale directly to slaughter.
    4. Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Requirements
      - No testing is required. Texas is a free state for both diseases.

II. Interstate (Cattle moved into the state from other states)

- A. Any livestock, poultry or raites that are infected, exposed or quarantined in any manner for an infectious, contagious or communicable disease may not enter the state. Contact TAHC at 1-800-550-8242.
- B. An owner-shipper statement may be used in lieu of a certificate of veterinary inspection in some instances (see below).
- C. Entry permits are required as noted in the following section and may be obtained by calling 512/719-0777 (24 hours) or 1-800-550-8242, ext. 777 or by writing the Texas Animal Health Commission, 2105 Kramer Lane, P. O. Box 12966, Austin, Texas 78711-2966.
- D. Entry Requirements for Cattle
  1. Certificate on Veterinary Inspection within 30 days prior to entry, except for the following:
    - a. Female cattle, 18 months of age and over, delivered directly from the farm of origin to slaughter
    - b. Beef breed female cattle, 18 months of age and over, entering from other than a farm of origin may be moved to slaughter, or to an approved feedyard when accompanied by a Form VS 1-27 on which each animal is individually identified. Brucellosis test data, when required, shall be written on the VS 1-27 Form which must include the test date and results.
    - c. Beef breed female cattle, 18 months of age and over, delivered directly to a USDA specifically approved livestock market by the owner or consigned there with an owner-shipper statement.
    - d. Beef breed steers, spayed heifers, beef breed female cattle, under 18 months of age, delivered to slaughter and accompanied by an owner-shipper statement or to a livestock market by the owner or consigned there with an owner-shipper statement; or
    - e. Beef breed steers, spayed heifers and beef breed female cattle, under 18 months of age, delivered to a feedlot for feeding for slaughter by the owner or consigned there with an owner-shipper statement.
  2. Official individual identification is required:
    - a. On all beef cattle over 18 months of age
    - b. On all dairy cattle
    - c. On all breeding bulls more than 12 months of age
    - d. On all cattle and bison used for shows, exhibitions, rodeo or recreational events
    - e. Types of official identification
      - 1) Official Alpha-numeric USDA metal eartags (bangs tags)
      - 2) Official Alpha-numeric USDA metal vaccination tags
      - 3) Official 840 or 900 RFID tags (**900 series tags are no longer official if applied to the animal after March 11, 2015**)
      - 4) Official 840 flap or bangle tags
      - 5) Official individual animal breed registry tattoos or brands
      - 6) National Dairy Fair Tag or Dairy Herd Improvement Association Tag
  3. A permit is not required unless bulls are entering for exhibition and return to the state of origin per the Trichomoniasis requirements section #6 below.
  4. Brucellosis testing / vaccination requirements
    - a. A negative brucellosis test is required within 30 days prior to entry or be from a class free state, area or certified free herd.
    - b. Brucellosis vaccination is required for female cattle between 4 to 12 months of age or be from a class free state, area or certified free herd.
    - c. Brucellosis Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) (applies to all states)
      - 1) Cattle entering Texas directly from the DSA:
        - a) Breeding bulls and sexually intact females shall be tested for brucellosis 60 to 120 days post entry, except:
          - Cattle for immediate slaughter
          - Cattle for feeding for slaughter in a feedlot; and
        - b) Sexually intact females that have not calved must be held until tested negative 30 to 90 days after calving.
        - c) Nonvaccinated sexually intact females between 4 and 12 months of age shall be officially brucellosis vaccinated prior to entry, except:
          - Cattle for immediate slaughter
          - Cattle for feeding for slaughter in a feedlot; and
        - d) All cattle must also meet all applicable entry requirements.
        - e) All breeding bulls and sexually intact females require an entry permit.
      - 2) Cattle entering Texas from Idaho, Montana or Wyoming that do not currently reside in the DSA:
        - a) All breeding bulls and post parturient females shall enter Texas with one of the following statements on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection:

- The cattle represented on this certificate never resided in the DSA; or
- The cattle represented on this certificate tested negative for brucellosis at least 60 days after leaving the DSA.
- b) Sexually intact females that have not calved must enter with an entry permit and be held until tested negative 30 to 90 days after calving or with a statement on the certificate that the cattle never resided in the DSA.
- c) All cattle must also meet all applicable entry requirements.
- 3) Cattle entering Texas from states other than Idaho, Montana and Wyoming that previously resided in the DSA:
  - a) Sexually intact females that have not calved must enter with an entry permit and be held until tested negative 30 to 90 days after calving or with a statement on the certificate that the cattle never resided in the DSA.
  - b) All cattle must also meet all applicable entry requirements.
- 5. Tuberculosis testing requirements
  - a. All sexually intact dairy cattle that are two months of age or older must be tested for tuberculosis per the rules c through e in this section, below.
  - b. All sexually intact dairy cattle that are less than two months of age require an entry permit to a designated facility and held until tested negative at two months of age. Dairy cattle delivered to an approved feedlot and accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection with an entry permit are exempt from testing unless from a restricted herd. Calves from a Modified Accredited Free State must also originate from an accredited free herd or be from a herd that has been tested within 1 year prior to entry.
  - c. Cattle from Accredited Free States or Zones require the following:
    - 1) Beef cattle (including bison), no test is required
    - 2) All dairy cattle require a test within 60 days prior to entry except on sexually neutered cattle or cattle from an accredited free herd.
  - d. Cattle from Modified Accredited Advanced Free States or Zones require:
    - 1) A tuberculosis test within 60 days prior to entry or;
    - 2) Be from an accredited herd that has been tested within 1 year of date of movement or;
    - 3) The cattle or bison are moved directly to an approved slaughtering establishment or;
    - 4) The cattle or bison are sexually intact heifers moved to an approved feedlot (dairy cattle are required to be accompanied by a permit), or are steers or spayed heifers; are either officially identified or identified by premises of origin identification.
  - e. Cattle from Modified Accredited States or Zones require:
    - 1) A whole herd test conducted within 1 year prior from to date of movement and that the individual animals be identified and be individually tested within 60 days prior to entry or;
    - 2) Be from an accredited free herd that has been tested within 1 year date of movement or;
    - 3) The cattle or bison are moved directly to an approved slaughtering establishment or;
    - 4) The cattle or bison are sexually intact heifers moved to an approved feedlot (dairy cattle are required to be accompanied by a permit), or are steers or spayed heifers; are either officially identified or identified by premises of origin identification; and are tested negative within 60 days prior to entry.
  - f. All "M" branded steers, which are recognized as potential rodeo and/or roping stock and used for either feeding or recreation purposes require:
    - 1) A permit prior to entry and;
    - 2) Be tested negative for tuberculosis within twelve months prior to entry.
- 6. Trichomoniasis Requirements:
  - a. A negative Trichomoniasis test is required within 60 days prior to entry on all breeding bulls twelve (12) months of age or older with an official Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test.
  - b. Trichomoniasis samples pooled at the laboratory may qualify as the official test if no more than five total samples are pooled.
    - 1) Exceptions for testing for bulls 12 months of age or older:
      - a) Bulls entering Texas for the purpose of participating in a fair, show, exhibition or rodeo may enter without a Trichomoniasis test as long as a permit is issued prior to entry. The bulls must be isolated from female cattle and stay in the state for less than 60 days.
      - b) Bulls entering Texas directly to a feedyard that has executed a Trichomoniasis Certified Facility Agreement may enter without a Trichomoniasis test. Bulls must be accompanied by a permit issued prior to entry.
      - c) Bulls entering Texas directly to a facility that tests the gain and feed conversions of cattle (bull test station) may enter without a Trichomoniasis test if moved directly to the facility and are isolated from females and accompanied by a permit issued prior to entry.

- d) A Texas bull that is enrolled in an out-of-state facility for the purpose of testing gain and feed conversions of cattle (bull test station) may enter without a Trichomoniasis test as long as the bull is moved directly to the Texas premises of origin. The certificate of veterinary inspection must state the bull was enrolled in a bull test station and was isolated from female cattle.
  - e) Bulls enrolled at an out-of-state Certified Semen Services certified artificial insemination facility (CSS facility) that isolates the bull from female cattle at all times may enter without a Trichomoniasis test as long as the bull is moved directly from the CSS facility into the state. The certificate of veterinary inspection shall state the bull was enrolled in a CSS facility.
  - f) Bulls originating from a herd that is enrolled in a Certified Trichomoniasis Free Herd Program or other certification program that is substantially similar may enter without a Trichomoniasis test.
  - g) The bull can move to a federally approved livestock market as long as a permit is issued prior to entry.
- 2) The official identification number and age of bull shall be written on the certificate of veterinary inspection.
  - 3) Any bull, that has had contact with a female subsequent to the initial test, must be retested within 60 days prior to entry.
  - 4) Female cattle from a known Trichomoniasis herd or are exposed to a known Trichomoniasis positive bull are prohibited from entering Texas unless permitted to an approved slaughtering establishment.
  - 5) All bison are exempt from meeting the above Trichomoniasis testing requirements.

III. International (Cattle moved into the state from foreign countries)

- A. Any livestock, poultry or ratites that are infected, exposed or quarantined in any manner for an infectious, contagious or communicable disease may not enter the state. Contact TAHC at 1-800-550-8242.
- B. Entry permits are required as noted in the following section and may be obtained by calling 512/719-0777 (24 hours) or 1-800-550-8242, ext. 777 or by writing the Texas Animal Health Commission, 2105 Kramer Lane, P. O. Box 12966, Austin, Texas 78711-2966.
- C. Entry Requirements from Foreign Countries
  1. USDA Importation Certificate (VS 17-30) within 30 days prior to entry.
  2. Branding Requirements
    - a. Sexually intact cattle destined for an approved feedyard/pen must be "S" branded prior to or upon arrival at the approved feedyard/pen.
    - b. Spayed heifers shall be identified by branding prior to entry.
    - c. All cattle moved into Texas from Mexico shall be identified with an "M" brand prior to moving to a destination in Texas.
  3. Permit Requirement
    - a. Sexually intact cattle must obtain an entry permit if for other than direct to slaughter or approved feedyard/pens.
    - b. The permit number must be entered on the Importation Certificate (VS Form 17-30).
  4. Brucellosis Requirements
    - a. All sexually intact cattle from any foreign country or part thereof with no recognized comparable brucellosis status:
      - 1) Vaccination Requirement
        - a) Non-vaccinated sexually intact female cattle between 4 and 12 months of age entering for purposes other than immediate slaughter or feeding for slaughter in an approved feedyard/pen shall be placed under quarantine on arrival and officially brucellosis vaccinated.
        - b) The quarantine may be released after a negative test is conducted 30 days after they have had their first calf.
      - 2) Testing Requirements for Bulls
        - a) Bulls entering for purposes other than immediate slaughter or feeding in an approved feedyard/pen shall be tested at the port of entry into Texas under the supervision of the port veterinarian, and placed under quarantine and retested 120 to 180 days after arrival.
        - b) The quarantine will be released following a negative brucellosis test.
      - 3) Testing Requirements for Females
        - a) All sexually intact female cattle entering for purposes other than immediate slaughter or feeding for slaughter in an approved feedyard/pen shall be tested at the port of entry into Texas under the supervision of the port veterinarian, and placed under quarantine on

arrival and retested for brucellosis in no less than 120 days nor more than 180 days after arrival for release of the quarantine however, if the sexually intact female cattle have not had their first calf prior to the 120 to 180 day post entry test, the quarantine will not be released until a second negative test for brucellosis is conducted no sooner than 30 days after the animal has had its first calf and the second negative test has been confirmed.

- 4) Testing Requirements for Sexually Intact Cattle moving directly to an approved feedyard/pen.
  - a) All sexually intact cattle destined for feeding for slaughter in an approved feedyard/pen must be tested at the port of entry into Texas under the supervision of the port veterinarian. These cattle must be "S" branded prior to or upon arrival at the approved feedyard/pen, and may move to the approved feedyard/pen only in sealed trucks with a VS 1-27 permit issued by a representative of TAHC or USDA personnel.
  - b. All other cattle from foreign countries, foreign states or zones within foreign countries with comparable brucellosis status, would enter by meeting the requirements for a state with similar status.
5. Tuberculosis Requirements
  - a. All sexually intact cattle, from any foreign country or part thereof with no recognized comparable tuberculosis status:
    - 1) To be held for purposes other than for immediate slaughter or feeding for slaughter in an approved feedyard/pen, must be tested at the port of entry into Texas under the supervision of the port veterinarian, and shall be under quarantine on the first premise of destination in Texas pending a negative tuberculosis test no earlier than 120 days and no later than 180 days after arrival. The test will be performed by a veterinarian employed by the TAHC or APHIS/VS.
    - 2) When destined for feeding for slaughter in an approved feedyard/pen, cattle must be tested at the port of entry into Texas under the supervision of the port veterinarian; moved directly to the approved feedyard/pen only in sealed trucks; accompanied with a VS 1-27 permit issued by TAHC or USDA personnel; and "S" branded prior to or upon arrival at the feedyard.
  - b. All other cattle from foreign countries, foreign states or zones within foreign countries with comparable tuberculosis status, would enter by meeting the requirements for a state with similar status.
  - c. Cattle originating from Mexico
    - 1) Regardless of reproductive status, test history, or Mexican state of origin, Holstein and Holstein cross cattle are prohibited from entering Texas.
    - 2) All sexually intact cattle shall meet the requirements provided for in this section above.
    - 3) Steers and spayed heifers from Mexico shall meet the federal importation requirements as provided in Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 93, Section 93.427, regarding importation of cattle from Mexico. In addition to the federal requirements, steers and spayed heifers must be moved under permit to an approved pasture or to an approved feedyard/pen.
    - 4) Cattle utilized as rodeo and/or roping stock shall meet the requirements set out in this section and the applicable requirement below:
      - a) All sexually intact cattle shall be retested annually for tuberculosis at the owner's expense and the test records shall be maintained with the animal and available for review, *or*
      - b) All sexually neutered horned cattle imported from Mexico are recognized as potential rodeo and/or roping stock and must:
        - Be tested for tuberculosis at the port of entry under the supervision of the USDA port veterinarian, and
        - Be moved by permit to a premise of destination and remain under Hold Order until permanently identified, and retested for tuberculosis between 60 and 120 days after entry at owner's expense. The cattle may be allowed movement to and from events/activities in which commingling with other cattle will not occur and with specific permission by the TAHC until confirmation of the negative post entry retest for tuberculosis can be conducted, and
        - Be retested for tuberculosis annually at owner's expense and the test records shall be maintained with the animal and available for review.
    - 5) A copy of the certificate issued by an authorized inspector of the USDA, APHIS, for the movement of Mexico cattle into Texas, must accompany such animals to their final destination in Texas, or so long as they are moving through Texas.
6. Trichomoniasis Requirements

All breeding bulls entering from foreign country, shall enter on and be moved by an entry permit, to a premises of destination in Texas and shall be placed under Hold Order and officially tested for Trichomoniasis with not less than three official culture tests conducted not less than seven days apart,

or an official Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test, within 30 days after entry into the state.

All bulls shall be isolated from female cattle at all times until tested negative for Trichomoniasis.

The Hold Order shall not be released until all other post entry disease testing requirements have been completed.

All bulls tested for Trichomoniasis shall be officially identified at the time the initial test sample is collected. The Identification shall be recorded on the test documents.

7. International (Cattle moved into the state from foreign countries)

- Contact USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) for additional international animal requirements.