

California Entry Requirements for Sheep

To Protect the Health of Our Livestock

An **Interstate Livestock Entry Permit** is required for all sheep imported into California. Requests for permits must be made before movement into California and are valid for 15 days after issuance. Please call the Permit Line at (916) 651-6278 to request an entry permit.

Exception:

- Sheep less than 18 months of age that are moving directly to a state or federally approved slaughter facility that have not lambed, not aborted or are not pregnant.

A **Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI)** is required for all sexually intact breeding sheep imported into California.

Exceptions:

- Sheep less than 18 months of age that are moving directly to a state or federally approved slaughter facility that have not lambed, not aborted or are not pregnant.
- Sheep moving for grazing without change of ownership.
- Sheep over 18 months of age moving directly to a state or federally approved slaughter facility.
- Low-risk commercial sheep*.

All sheep imported into California require **Official Identification (ID)****. Below are acceptable methods of ID:

- Electronic implants
- Official Eartags***
- USDA or official premises ID backtags
- Official registry tattoo, if recorded in a Purebred Registry Association Book
- Premises identification eartags or tattoos

Exceptions:

- Sheep less than 18 months of age that are moving directly to a state or federally approved slaughter facility that have not lambed, not aborted or are not pregnant.
- Castrated sheep less than 18 months of age, except those for exhibition.
- Sheep moving for grazing without change of ownership.

Rams 6 months of age and over, imported into California, require a negative **Brucella ovis test** within 60 days of entry or must have originated from a *Brucella ovis* free flock. The CVI must include the official ID number, test results, name of the approved laboratory, date of the test or the "*Brucella ovis* free flock number".

Exceptions:

- Rams that are moving for grazing purposes without a change in ownership.
- Rams that were entered in a show or sale outside of California where ownership changed and are now returning to California.

All sheep changing ownership in California require official ID, except:

- Sheep less than 18 months of age moving directly to a state or federally approved slaughter facility that have NOT lambed, aborted or are pregnant.
- Castrated sheep less than 18 months of age NOT for exhibition.



Additional Resources

Animal Health Branch Main (916) 900-5002
Entry Permit Line (916) 900-5052

Redding District Office (530) 225-2140
Modesto District Office (209) 491-9350
Tulare District Office (559) 685-3500
Ontario District Office (909) 947-4462

USDA/APHIS/VS (916) 854-3900 or 877-741-3690

Livestock Movement Information

http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/Permits

Eradicate Scrapie: National Scrapie Education Initiative

<http://www.eradicatescrapie.org/>

USDA Veterinary Services Scrapie Program

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/scrapie/

CDFA Scrapie Regulations

http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/Scrapie_info.htm

***Low-Risk Commercial Sheep:** Low-risk commercial sheep may only exist in a state where scrapie has not been diagnosed in the previous 10 years in commercial whitefaced, whitefaced cross or commercial hair sheep that were not commingled with female blackface sheep.

****Official Identification (ID):** Means an identification mark or device approved by APHIS for use in the Scrapie Eradication Programs.

*****Official Eartag:** An identification tag providing unique identification for the individual animals. An official eartag must bear the US shield. The tags must be tamper resistant and have a high retention rate, and must conform to one of the following numbering systems: National Uniform Ear-tagging System, Animal Identification Number or Premises Identification Number.