

Import Alert: Pre-Shipment Approval Requirement for Bison from Canada

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Effective September 26, 2016, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services (VS) is requiring confirmed pre-shipment approval for Canadian breeding and feeder bison imports. This change is being implemented due to a lack of adequate inspection facilities to safely inspect such animals at the port. Therefore, inspection will be deferred to the destination facility, and the following steps are required to gain pre-shipment approval:

1. Importation of breeding and feeder bison requires pre-shipment approval from the destination USDA APHIS VS Service Center (SC).
2. The importer must notify the Service Center at least **7 days** in advance of the proposed shipment, providing the address of the destination premises and the scheduled date and time of arrival. The Service Center will then arrange an inspection or assessment of the destination facility, as appropriate, to approve the facility. Service Center will verify that VS personnel are available to perform the inspection of the bison on the proposed date of arrival.
3. Once approved, the Service Center will immediately email notification of the approval to the importer. The importer can then schedule an appointment at the port for clearance.
4. A copy of the email approval notice from the Service Center must be presented to the Port VMO along with the completed VS Form 17-29.
5. The shipment will not be allowed entry without written (email) notification of approval.
6. After clearance at the port, the Port VMO will email notification to the Service Center that the bison are en route under seal to the destination premises for inspection.

Contact information for the USDA APHIS VS Service Centers can be found at the following website: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/downloads/nies_contacts/sc.pdf

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