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LIVE CATTLE AND BUFFALO: Import Health Requirements into

Sri Lanka

Department of Animal Production and Health Sri Lanka

Version 1.0 | 2026

1. Purpose and Scope

These health requirements are established to prevent the introduction of transboundary animal diseases into Sri Lanka through the importation of cattle and buffalo while facilitating safe international trade. These requirements are based on the standards and recommendations of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) and national policy decisions of Sri Lanka.

These requirements apply to the importation of cattle and buffalo into Sri Lanka. The Department of Animal Production and Health (DAPH), Sri Lanka, shall be the competent authority responsible for regulating the importation of cattle and buffalo.

2. Definitions

For the purposes of this protocol:

- Competent Veterinary Authority: The government authority responsible for animal health and veterinary certification in the exporting country.
- Country-Free Status: Officially certified by the Government Veterinary Authority as free from specified diseases.
- Zone-Free Status: Officially certified by the Government Veterinary Authority as free from specified diseases within a clearly defined area of a country.

3. Pre-import approval

A pre-import approval must be obtained from the Department of Animal Production and Health (DAPH), Sri Lanka, prior to shipment of each consignment of cattle and buffalos.

1. Country Freedom Status for Animal Diseases

The **Government Veterinary Authority** of the exporting country shall certify that the country is free from the following diseases

- Rift Valley Fever and
- or Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) for last ten (10) years (or having negligible risk)

Certification Required:

Official certification by the Government Veterinary Authority confirming that the exporting country has been officially recognized as free from the above diseases in accordance with the **WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code**.

2. Zone Freedom Status for Animal Diseases

The **Government Veterinary Authority** shall certify that the **zone or region of origin** of the animals is free from the following diseases:

- Vesicular Stomatitis
- Buffalo pox
- Lumpy Skin Disease
- Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP)
- Bovine Tuberculosis
- Anthrax
- Hemorrhagic Septicemia (HS)
- Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis / Infectious Pustular Vulvovaginitis
- Foot and Mouth Disease (All serotypes)
- Bovine Viral Diarrhea
- Bluetongue
- Enzootic Bovine Leucosis (EBL)
- Mycoplasma bovis
- Heartwater (Ehrlichia ruminatum)
- Bovine Brucellosis
- Salmonellosis
- Paratuberculosis

Certification Required:

Official certification by the Government Veterinary Authority confirming the disease-free status of the zone or region of origin.

3. Farm Freedom Status for Animal Diseases

The Government Veterinary Authority shall certify that the herd(s) of origin from which the animals are sourced have been free from the following diseases for the specified periods prior to shipment. The supplier shall provide technical evidence to substantiate this certification. It is strongly recommended to source animals from a single farm, or from a maximum of two farms, meeting the following specifications.

During the preceding twenty-four (24) months:

- Trichomoniasis
 - Bovine Genital Campylobacteriosis
 - Chlamydiosis
 - Q Fever
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During the preceding twelve (12) months:

- Black Quarter
- Theileriosis
- Trypanosomiasis
- Malignant Catarrhal Fever
- Bovine Anaplasmosis
- Rabies
- Fascioliasis
- Leptospirosis
- Degnala disease

4. Vaccination

The animals shall have been vaccinated against the following diseases using registered vaccines:

- Foot and Mouth Disease – All circulating serotypes in the exporting country
- Clostridial diseases (against all five serotypes)
- Lumpy Skin Disease
- Hemorrhagic Septicemia

5. Tests

All diagnostic testing shall be conducted during the pre-export quarantine period under the supervision of the Government Veterinary Authority, in accredited laboratories approved by the competent authority of the exporting country for export testing. Laboratory results shall be submitted, and only animals that test negative for the following diseases shall be eligible for import.

- Bovine Viral Diarrhoea – Antibody and Antigen ELISA
 - IBR – Antibody ELISA – two testing three weeks apart
 - Brucellosis – CFT
 - Enzootic Bovine Leukosis (EBL) – Antibody ELISA
 - Chlamidiosis (Chlamidia abortus) - ELISA antibodies
 - Heartwater – PCR
 - Q fever - Antibody ELISA
 - Trypanosomiasis PCR
 - Salmonella Dublin – Antibody ELISA test
 - Leptospirosis – MAT/ antibody ELISA
 - Campylobacteriosis – Antibody ELISA
 - Trichomoniasis – Antibody ELISA for females / PCR for preputial washings – males)
 - Theileriosis – PCR
 - Anaplasmosis – PCR
 - Babesiosis - PCR
 - Trematodes - Fecal sedimentation test
 - Nematodes, Cestodes and Coccidia– McMaster test
 - Paratuberculosis - Antibody ELISA
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6. Anti-parasitic Treatments

External parasites: Two treatments with a registered broad-spectrum ectoparasiticide/s, should be done. The 1st treatment shall be done prior to entering pre-export quarantine and the 2nd treatment shall be given three (3) days prior to embarkation. No visible external parasites shall be present on the day of shipment. The name/s of drug/s and treatment dates shall be specified.

Internal parasites: The 1st treatment shall be administered prior to entering pre-export quarantine. Two treatments 10–14 days apart with a registered broad-spectrum antiparasitic drug/s effective against helminths and mature and immature stages of flukes (*Fasciola* spp.), should be given during the quarantine period. The 2nd treatments shall be given within three (3) days prior to embarkation. The name/s of drug/s and treatment dates shall be specified.

7. General Requirements

1. Each animal intended for export shall be individually identified with a Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) under the conditions laid down by WOA (Chapter 4.3 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, 2023) to enable traceability for health, production, and genetic background related to the origin of the animals.
2. The animals shall have been kept since birth in the exporting country. The certificate of the country of origin should be certified by the relevant authority.
3. The animals should have been kept on registered farms for at least one year.
4. The animals shall never have been fed with feed prepared using ruminant protein, whether locally manufactured or imported.
5. The animals shall be examined on the day of embarkation and certified to be in good health, free from deformities, skin lesions, wounds due to screw worm infestation external parasites, deficiency signs of (Cobalt, Copper, Selenium, polioencephalomalacia)-, poisoning signs (nitrate, Oxalate) and any clinical signs of infectious or contagious diseases, and fit for transport.
6. Breeding female cattle shall preferably be seronegative for *Neospora caninum* infection by ELISA, or otherwise originate from herds with no history of abortion outbreaks attributable to neosporosis and have no exposure to canid definitive hosts.
7. The pre-export quarantine facility shall be free from vectors and intermediate hosts (Eg; snails) and shall be approved by the Government Veterinary Authority. The animals shall be held in quarantine for thirty (30) days immediately prior to embarkation.
8. The selected animals must be AI-born, with semen originating from government-approved semen collection centres.
9. Within three (3) days prior to the scheduled date of shipment, individual animals should be examined and found to be in good health, and fit for transport.
10. The animals shall be transported under conditions laid down by WOA (Chapter 7.2 or 7.4 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, 2019) and International Air/Sea Transport Association (IATA/IASA) regulations.
11. Bedding accompanying the animals during transport shall be new, clean, and unused, free from contaminants, and shall not pose a biosecurity risk.



8. Veterinary Health Certification

Each consignment shall be accompanied by an original International Veterinary Health Certificate issued by the Government Veterinary Authority of the exporting country, which shall attest that the cattle and buffalo complies with all requirements contained in this protocol.

9. Inspection on Arrival

All consignments shall be subject to inspection by Animal Quarantine Officers at the port of entry. Non-compliant consignments will be re-exported or destroyed at the importer's expense.

10. Suspension of Imports

The Department of Animal Production and Health (DAPH), Sri Lanka reserves the right to suspend, revoke, or amend pre-import approvals, or prohibit the importation **of the commodity covered under this protocol** from the exporting country or zone at any time, particularly where there is evidence of an outbreak or an increased risk of any infectious or transboundary animal disease that may pose a threat to animal or public health in Sri Lanka.

11. Protocol Amendments

These health requirements may be amended from time to time in accordance with the disease status reported to WOAHA and the prevailing animal health situation in the exporting country.



Dr. K. K. Sarath

Director General

21.04.2026

