



# Equine Interstate Movement

## Questions and Answers

### 1. What are the California entry requirements for equine movement into California?

A Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) issued within 30 days before entry and evidence of a negative Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) test, performed at a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)-approved laboratory within 12 months before entry are required for the interstate movement of horses and other equine species in California.

### 2. Do the entry requirements apply to mules and donkeys?

Yes. The equine interstate movement requirements apply to all equids (horses, ponies, mules, donkeys, burros, and zebras).

### 3. When did federal requirements for horse movements change?

The federal Animal Disease Traceability Rule was published in the Code of Federal Regulations on January 9, 2013, and became effective on March 11, 2013.

### 4. Are there any exemptions to the requirement for a CVI?

The federal Animal Disease Traceability Rule exempts the CVI requirement for the following equine movements:

- Horses used as a mode of transportation for travel to another location then back to the original location (e.g. horse and buggy and trail rides),
- Horse movement for veterinary examination or treatment and returned to the same location without change of ownership,
- Horse movement directly from a location in one state through another state to a second location in the origin state (e.g. a horse that originates in California, trailers through Nevada and is offloaded at a different destination location in California), and
- Horse movement with a document other than a CVI, as approved between shipping and receiving state animal health authorities (e.g. valid equine interstate passport or a California Working Horse Permit. At this time, no other documents are approved for use by animal health authorities in states bordering California).

### 5. Does California accept equine passports for entry in California?

California accepts valid approved Extended Equine Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (EECVI), aka equine passports, issued by practitioners via Global Vet Link.

### 6. Does California issue equine passports?

As of January 2020, California allows practitioners to utilize the six (6) month extended Equine Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (EECVI) issued through Global Vet Link.



### 7. What is a California Working Horse Permit?

A California Working Horse Permit is a permit authorizing the movement of working horses across state borders, from one business location to another location of the same business, for use in livestock husbandry or other ranch-related activities. The permit is used for interstate movement instead of a CVI. It is not used for show or exhibition horses.

### 8. How long is a California Certificate of Veterinary Inspection valid?

California CVIs are valid for 30 days from the date of inspection. However, in cases of a Vesicular Stomatitis or other disease outbreak, a CVI may be valid for less than 30 days (e.g., seven [7] days for Vesicular Stomatitis).

### 9. Several times a month, I travel from California to Oregon with my horses for shows and trail rides. Do I need a CVI for each trip?

No. If all destination locations are in the same state and the movements are to occur within 30 day timeline of the valid CVI, only one California CVI is necessary, provided that a list of each destination location and anticipated travel dates are documented on the CVI at the time of issue.

**10. Is there still a 14 day exemption for California horses?**

No. The federal Animal Disease Traceability Rule does not allow an exemption for California horses returning to California within 14 days of departure. **All** interstate horse movements into California require: (1) a valid CVI, valid equine passport, or Working Horse Permit **and** (2) evidence of a negative EIA test within 12 months of entry.

**11. I travel frequently from California to several western states in a single month, do I need a CVI for each movement?**

No. If the movements are to occur within the 30 day timelines of the valid CVI, only one California CVI is necessary provided that a list of each destination location in each state and anticipated travel dates are documented on the CVI at the time of issue.

**12. If I travel to Oregon for a day to train, to trail, or to show, and return to California on that same day, what paperwork do I need?**

**All** interstate horse movements into California require: (1) a valid CVI, valid equine passport, or Working Horse Permit **and** (2) evidence of a negative EIA test within 12 months of entry.

**13. Who will check my equine movement paperwork?**

For California, border station personnel request interstate movement documentation. CDFA staff may also request copies of movement documentation after arrival.



**14. What will happen if I don't have a CVI for all horses entering California?**

Failure to comply with California entry requirements is a violation of both California and Federal laws, which, may result in an issue of a Notice of Violation and assessment of fines up to \$25,000 per violation.

**15. My EIA test result is still pending. Can I ship my horse to California?**

No. An EIA test "pending" result does not meet entry requirement.

**16. Is there an EIA test exemption for foals?**

Nursing foals less than six (6) months of age moving with an EIA test negative dam are exempt from an EIA test.



If you are transporting livestock into California with an electronic CVI, please have the information readily available on your device or print and present a hard copy to the Inspector at the Border Protection Station.

**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) 947-5932

For more information on the Animal Health Branch, please visit:  
[www.cdfa.ca.gov/ah](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ah)



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](#)