

What documents/paperwork does a U.S. citizen or permanent resident (adult/child) need for International travel?

If you are traveling in the Western Hemisphere (Canada, Mexico, Caribbean, Central and South America):

ALL persons*(see LPR and military exceptions below), including U.S. citizens, traveling by air between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Bermuda are required to present a valid passport, Air NEXUS card, or U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Document.

As of June 1, 2009 all U.S. and Canadian citizens who are 16 and older traveling between the U.S. and Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Bermuda by land or sea (including ferries), will be required to present a valid passport, passport card, Frequent Traveler card (NEXUS, SENTRI, FAST), Enhanced Driver's License (for residents in states that issue them) or Military ID with travel orders (see below). U.S. and Canadian citizens who are 15 years old or younger may travel with just a copy of their birth certificate, as may teens between the ages of 16-18 if they are part of an adult supervised school, religious, cultural or athletic group.

Crossing into Canada and back into US with horses not owned by hauler should have a permission slip from owner or health papers in haulers name.

What documents/papers do you require to cross the USA/Canada Border with your horse to show in Canada?

Every horse crossing the US/ Canada border must have a current Coggins and International Health Certificate.

1) Coggins Test

- A blood sample must be taken and a Coggins for (EIA Serum test report) filled out by an accredited veterinarian.
- Coggins certificates are valid for 6 months from the date that the blood sample was taken.

2) Health Certificate

- If a Coggins has just been taken, it must be back in the hands of the veterinarian before a Health Certificate can be issued.
- Must be signed by a Department of Agriculture Veterinarian prior to shipping.
- The International health certificate is valid for 30 calendar days from the date of issue and multiple crossings can be made with the same certificate within this 30 day period.

Border crossings with livestock fall into two basic categories depending on the length of stay outside the country of origin.

Less than 30 days:

1) Documentation

- Negative Coggins certificate
- Signed Health certificate

2) Procedure (Canada to US)

- Go to US Border/any lane
- Give documentation to customs officer, stating that intended duration of animals stay outside Canada is less than 30 days.
- Within 30 days return to Canadian border (no inspection is required)

The procedure for US to Canada crossings is the same as above except that you should start at the Canada Customs Office on the agricultural side.

Hours of operation

Canadian Veterinarian (for US to Canada crossings or for signing of health papers)

- 8:00 am to 10:00 am and 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday (Pacific Border Crossing at 176th St.) **Pacific Highway**: Surrey, BC / Blaine, WA

US veterinarian (for Canada to US crossings)

- 8:00 am to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday (Sumas Crossing) **Huntingdon:**Huntingdon, BC / Sumas, WA

Hours of operation for both the Canadian and American Border veterinarians are subject to change and it is therefore advisable to call ahead to confirm these times. Some border crossings will also examine horses by appointment outside of office hours or on weekends, however, there is a fee for this service.

Agriculture Canada:

- Pacific Border Crossing (604) 541-3364
- Sumas Border Crossing (604) 854-8034

US Veterinary Inspection Station:

- Sumas (360) 988-5715

Both Canada and the United States now have a users fee for crossing the border with horses. Agriculture Canada charges for the service of signing health papers. This is billed directly to the issuing veterinarian and is included in the cost of your health certificate.

The US Veterinary Inspection Station collects this fee at the border.

Hang on to your Coggins Certificate! It is the only valid copy of the document that is acceptable at all border crossings.

Happy traveling and remember - you will rarely win an argument with a customs official. It is much easier to be properly prepared.

Allow 3 weeks for health papers on horses crossing from the US to Canada. Check with your vet and make sure he or she is familiar with the required forms.

Coggins Certificates not in the name of the person hauling the horse should have a permission slip from owner to transport.