

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Marketing and Regulatory Programs
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Veterinary Services

VS Bulletin 2023.1

Bovine Tuberculosis Testing Requirements for Cattle Imported to the United States from Mexico

1. Purpose and Background

This document outlines the bovine tuberculosis (TB) requirements for cattle imported from various regions within Mexico that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has not yet classified for TB as described in [title 9, Code of Federal Regulations \(9 CFR\) 93.438](#). APHIS establishes import TB requirements for cattle originating from these regions in accordance with the criteria outlined in [9 CFR 93.437](#), [93.438\(a\)](#), and [93.439](#).

This document does not address additional import requirements related to cattle fever ticks or brucellosis. Those requirements are in [9 CFR 93.427](#), paragraphs (b)(1) and (b)(2), and [9 CFR 93.442](#), respectively. Additional protocols for importing cattle and bison from Mexico into the United States address other import requirements.

Pursuant to the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. § 801 et seq.), the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs designated this rule as a non-major rule, as defined by 5 U.S.C. § 804(2).

2. Document Status

- A. Review date: 07/01/2023.
- B. This document replaces Veterinary Services Bulletin 2022.1.

3. Reason for Reissuance

On March 3, 2023, APHIS published a final rule which formally classified the TB status of all of Mexico except one eligible region, San Luis Potosí Zone A1 (SLPA1)¹, which remains unclassified pending further APHIS review. As indicated in the final rule, APHIS is temporarily allowing importation of cattle from eligible foreign regions to continue under administrative measures such as this Bulletin while completing the notice-based regulatory process to formally classify their TB status.

Veterinary Services (VS) has updated this document to remove references to the eligible regions classified in the March 2023 final notice: Chihuahua (Level III), Coahuila (Level IV), Durango (Level III), Huasteca (Level III), Sonora (Level II), Tamaulipas (Level IV), and the Yucatán Peninsula (Level III). The final rule classified the rest of Mexico, except San Luis Potosí Zone A1, as Level V for TB. APHIS also classified Nuevo León as Level IV in the final notice but subsequently downgraded that region to Level V effective December 1, 2023 after detecting substantial TB program deficiencies. San Luis Potosí Zone A1 may continue

¹ For purposes of this Bulletin, VS is treating SLPA1 as equivalent to Level IV under the classification system set forth in 9 CFR 9 CFR 93.437 and 9 CFR 93.439.

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to export cattle to the United States in accordance with this Bulletin until such time as APHIS formally classifies the region under the TB regulations.

4. Authority and References

A. Authorities (*Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR)):

[7 CFR 371.4](#)

[9 CFR 93.400](#)

[9 CFR 93.437](#)

[9 CFR 93.438\(d\)](#)

[9 CFR 93.439](#)

B. Definitions:

- 1) The following terms used throughout this document are further defined in [9 CFR 93.400](#) and in individual import protocols found on the [APHIS website](#):
 - Accredited Herd
 - Herd of Origin
 - Whole Herd Test (WHT)
- 2) Level IV (previously accreditation preparatory) regions: This classification defines the area (a State or a zone within a State with split status) that meets the requirements for Level IV status as outlined in [9 CFR 93.439](#). If a State contains more than one Level IV zone, the zones are referred to numerically (e.g., Level IV zones 1 and 2).

5. Audience

VS employees, other Federal and State agencies, and members of the public.

6. Direction

A. Import Testing Requirements

TB classification and testing requirements for Mexican regions classified under current regulations can be found in [9 CFR 93.439](#); classified regions are listed on the [APHIS Animal Health Status of Regions webpage](#).

Cattle for immediate slaughter can originate from accredited or nonaccredited regions. However, Mexico requires that these animals be TB tested before export to the United States. TB test charts must accompany the shipment at the time of presentation for entry to the United States. Note: When APHIS published this Bulletin it had not approved any immediate slaughter establishments for Mexican-origin cattle. APHIS will list any subsequently approved establishments on its website.

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B. Cattle from States and Zones with Level IV Status

The following information pertains to eligible Mexican regions that have not yet been classified under the current regulations.

San Luis Potosí Zone A1*

NOTE: All TB testing for export, including any required whole herd tests, must be performed by a veterinarian who meets the minimum standard for caudal fold tuberculin (CFT) testing. Mexican Federal authorities maintain an online list of veterinarians eligible to conduct CFT testing for export ([Lista de Desempeño de la PPC con Fines de Exportación a EUA](#)).

| Type of Cattle | Import Requirements |
|--|--|
| Steers and spayed heifers | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. One negative individual TB test within sixty (60) days of import.2. Negative TB test within the past twelve (12) months for the herd of origin. |
| Steers and spayed heifers from TB accredited-free herds | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. One negative individual TB test within sixty (60) days of import.2. The port veterinarian must receive proof of TB accredited-free herd status. |
| Sexually intact cattle | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. One negative individual TB test at the border.2. Two negative whole herd tests for tuberculosis for the herd of origin. Tests must be conducted no less than nine (9) months and no more than fifteen (15) months apart, with the second whole herd test conducted no less than sixty (60) days and no more than twelve (12) months prior to export. |
| Sexually intact cattle from TB accredited-free herds | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. One negative individual TB test at the border.2. The port veterinarian must receive proof of TB accredited-free herd status. |
| Wild-caught rodeo or roping steers and spayed heifers (also known as Corriente cattle) | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. One negative TB test of entire lot of assembled cattle at the beginning of the isolation period.2. Negative individual TB test conducted a minimum of one hundred and twenty (120) days after the first test. The cattle must be exported within sixty (60) days of the last test. |

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*VS has regionalized the State of San Luis Potosi into two zones: One San Luis Potosi AP zone (A1) consisting of the twenty-five (25) municipalities listed below, and one San Luis Potosi NA zone consisting of the remaining municipalities in the State.

Municipalities Comprising San Luis Potosí AP Zone (A1):

Alanquines
Aquismon
Axtla
Cardenas
Ciudad del Maiz
Ciudad Valles
Coxcatlan
El Naranjo
Huehuetlan
Lagunillas
Matlapa
Rayon
San Antonio
San Martin Chalchicuatla
Santa Catarina
San Vicente Tancuayalab*
Tamasopo
Tamazunchale
Tampacan
Tampamolon
Tamuin*
Tancanhuitz
Tanlajas
Tanquian de Escobedo
Xilitla

*Municipality split into separate AP and NA zones.

7. Inquiries

Please contact the Veterinary Services Live Animals Imports staff, at 301-851-3300, Menu option 2; LAIE@usda.gov with any questions.