

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND BIOSECURITY
Animal Industry Division
Animal Disease Control Branch
99-941 Halawa Valley Street
Aiea, HI 96701-5602
Phone: (808) 483-7100 Fax: (808) 483-7110

To import water buffalo and bison into Hawaii, the following requirements shall be met prior to entry. Water buffalo and bison that **do not meet pre-entry requirements may be refused entry into the state and returned to their point of origin at the importer's expense.**

An **import permit** issued by the Animal Disease Control Branch is required for **ALL** water buffalo and bison being imported into Hawaii.

Water buffalo and bison are classified as restricted species and **require an additional permit from the Plant Quarantine Branch** to enter the state. A Plant Quarantine Branch permit must be obtained **prior to receiving an import permit from the Animal Disease Control Branch**. For more information on importing restricted species from the Plant Quarantine Branch, visit <https://dab.hawaii.gov/pi/pq/import-program/plant-quarantine-application-for-permits/> or call (808) 832-0566.

Update: New World Screwworm was detected in the United States on June 3, 2026.

Pre-Shipment Requirements for Water Buffalo and Bison Entering Hawaii

1. Herd Quarantine Status: Water buffalo and bison must originate from a herd that is **not under quarantine**.
2. Health Status: Water buffalo and bison must be free from external parasites, transmissible diseases, and recent exposure to infectious or contagious diseases.
3. Identification: Water buffalo and bison must be uniquely identified using a USDA-APHIS approved official identification method.
 - a. National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES): Includes Brucellosis vaccination tags (Bangs) or silver tags (Bright tags).
 - b. Animal Identification Number (AIN): Includes radio frequency identification (RFID) or visual ear tag, with a unique 15-digit number starting with "840" and featuring the US shield.
 - c. Official Individual Animal Breed Registration Tattoo: Must be accompanied by the breed registry certificate.
4. Brucellosis and Anaplasmosis Tests: Water buffalo and bison must be tested within 30 days of shipment by a licensed and USDA-accredited (Category II) veterinarian. Water buffalo and bison must test negative for Brucellosis, verified through an official brucellosis test conducted at a USDA-approved laboratory, and for Anaplasmosis, confirmed through a c-ELISA test at an approved laboratory.
5. Tuberculin Test: Water buffalo and bison must test negative to an intradermal tuberculin test at the **caudal fold location** performed by a licensed, USDA-accredited (Category II) veterinarian within 30 days of shipment.
6. Trichomoniasis Test: All non-virgin bulls and bulls aged 12 months or older must test negative for Trichomoniasis through polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing conducted

within 30 days of shipment. Pooled samples from up to five bulls may be tested if performed at laboratories that approve pooled PCR testing.

- a. Tested bulls must not breed cows 10 days prior to testing, and must not breed cows after testing until they arrive in the state.
7. Tick Treatment: Water buffalo and bison must be treated under the supervision of a veterinarian with an approved pesticide at a concentration effective to kill ticks within 7 days of shipment.
8. Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI): A CVI must be issued by a licensed, USDA-accredited (Category II) veterinarian.
 - a. **Required items on the CVI:**
 - i. Issuance: The CVI must be issued with **seven (7) days** of shipment, with the issue date recorded.
 - ii. Veterinarian Information: Name, address, phone number, and signature of the USDA-accredited (Category II) veterinarian.
 - iii. Consignor and Consignee Information: Names, addresses, and phone numbers of the shipper (consignor) and receiver (consignee)
 - iv. Animal Description: Age, sex, breed, color, brands (if present), and all ear tag numbers.
 - v. Test Results: Negative test results for all required pre-entry testing.
 - b. **Required statements on the CVI:**
 - i. Water buffalo and bison are free from external parasites, transmissible diseases, and recent exposure to infectious or contagious diseases.
 - ii. **All animals were inspected and found free of evidence of New World Screwworm infestation.**
 - iii. Water buffalo and bison have been dipped or completely sprayed by the veterinarian or under the supervision of the veterinarian with an approved pesticide at a concentration effective to kill ticks within 7 days of shipment.
 - iv. For water buffalo and bison from states affected by Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) during outbreaks, include the statement:
“I have examined all the animals identified on this certificate within 72 hours of shipment date and found them to be free from signs of Vesicular Stomatitis (VS). During the last thirty (30) days, these animals have not been exposed to VS nor located on a VS confirmed or VS suspected premises.”
9. Import Permit:
 - a. Request a **Water Buffalo or Bison Import Permit** from the Animal Disease Control Branch by submitting copies of the CVI and official test(s) for review. Please contact the Animal Disease Control Branch:
Email: DAB.ADC@hawaii.gov
Phone: (808) 483-7100
Fax: (808) 483-7110
After-Hours Phone (Weekdays, Weekends, and Holidays): (808) 837-8092
 - b. Once pre-shipment requirements are met, a Water Buffalo or Bison Import Permit will be issued. The review of documents and issuance of permits are conducted daily during business hours.

- c. The **import permit, CVI, and official test chart(s) must accompany the shipment.**
10. Entry Inspection: It is the responsibility of the owner or their authorized agent to present a **COMPLETE, LEGIBLE, ORIGINAL hard copy** of the **import permit, CVI, and official test chart(s)** to comply with the State of Hawaii's pre-shipment requirements at the time of the entry inspection.

Post-Arrival Requirements for Water Buffalo and Bison Entering Hawaii

1. Isolation: Newly imported water buffalo and bison must remain isolated at the premise designated on the Water Buffalo or Bison Import Permit. **Isolation from other bovines** is required until post-arrival testing is complete.
2. Post Arrival Testing:
 - a. Water buffalo and bison must be tested for **Anaplasmosis, Brucellosis, and Tuberculosis** between **60-90 days** after arrival.
 - b. Testing and sample collection must be conducted by a licensed, USDA-accredited (Category II) veterinarian in Hawaii.
 - c. Samples should be submitted to the Hawaii State Veterinary Laboratory for processing.
 - i. If your veterinarian submits samples to a laboratory other than the Hawaii State Veterinary Laboratory, they are **required** to forward copies of the test results to the Animal Disease Control Branch.