



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES COMMISSIONER WILTON SIMPSON

Colorado Remains Affected by Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) New Mexico is Now Free

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(Updates in blue)

New Mexico is free of VS. Currently, Colorado is the only state affected by the virus. Hoofed livestock entering Florida from Colorado must comply with additional VS entry requirements.

VS can cause blisters and sores in the mouth and on the tongue, muzzle, teats or hooves of horses, cattle, swine, sheep, goats, llamas, and a number of other animals. Lesions usually heal in two to three weeks. Because of the contagious nature of VS and its resemblance to other diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), animal health officials urge livestock owners and caretakers to report these symptoms to their veterinarian immediately. Most animals affected by VS recover with supportive care by a veterinarian.

VS REQUIREMENTS: All livestock, including horses, imported into Florida from a VS affected state must meet additional import requirements of Florida Administrative Code 5C-3.002(5), <https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ChapterHome.asp?Chapter=5C-3>.

Florida VS Requirements:

5C-3.002(5) Vesicular Stomatitis

(a) Certification for Vesicular Stomatitis (VS)

1. All hoofed animals, including horses, ruminants, swine, exotic and wild hoofed animals, originating from non-affected premises and not within 10 miles of an affected premises in a VS affected state, must be accompanied by an OCVI, dated within five (5) days of entry or reentry into Florida. The OCVI must be signed by an Accredited Veterinarian.
2. The following statement must be written on the OCVI by the examining Accredited Veterinarian: "All animals susceptible to Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) identified and included in this OCVI for shipment have been examined and found to be free from clinical signs and vectors of VS and have not been in contact with VS-affected animals and have not been within ten (10) miles of a VS-affected premises within the last thirty (30) days."

- (b) Prior Permission Number. Animals originating from non-affected premises in a VS-affected state will require a prior permission number. The prior permission number must be written on the OCVI. Prior permission numbers can be obtained online, at any time at: <https://flanimalmovementrequests.fdacs.gov/>. Instructions for obtaining a VS prior permission number are available at [Florida Animal Movement Permit Requests Portal Information and Tutorials / Animal Industry / Divisions & Offices / Home - Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services](#). Additional support for prior permission numbers can be obtained by calling 850-410-0900 from 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday.

Exemption: Hoofed livestock originating from a USDA Approved Livestock Market in a VS-affected state **and** consigned to a USDA Approved Slaughter Facility in Florida, are exempt from VS requirements 5C-3.002(5)(a) stated above. A prior permission number is still required and must be listed on the accompanying import documentation.

All Florida origin shipments returning to the state must return with the original Florida OCVI dated within five (5) days of entry and include a prior permission number or meet the import requirements listed in 5C-3.002(5).

For additional information on VS, please refer to the USDA website at: [Disease Alert: Vesicular Stomatitis](#).