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## Exhibition Permit Protocol for Vermont Shows and Fairs

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**Effective February 2013**

**Updated May 2016**

Horses imported into Vermont for the purpose of exhibition may travel during Vermont's Fair season on an Exhibition Permit. The term "Exhibition" is defined in the *Rules Governing the Importation of Domestic Animals, Including Livestock and Poultry* as the following:

**Exhibition** means any spectator event in which a domestic animal is exhibited or entered in competition and usually receive awards or prizes.

The term "Exhibition Permit" is defined in the *Rules* in the following manner:

**Exhibition Permits:**

1. Persons transporting domestic animals into the state for exhibition or competition during the fair season may obtain an exhibition permit from the commissioner prior to entering.
2. Animals listed on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection will be exempt from the requirement for a new Certificate of Veterinary Inspection every 30 days for the duration of the exhibition permit. All tests listed on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection must be kept current for the duration of the exhibition permit.
3. Exhibition permits will expire in 180 days.

**To obtain an Exhibition Permit for horse importation into Vermont, complete the following steps:**

1. At the owner's request, the licensed, accredited veterinarian must examine the horse(s) and fill out a standard health certificate or Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI), either in electronic or hard copy format, for the horse(s) traveling.
  - a. If the horse originates from out of state and is attending only Vermont events, the destination/consignee address field on the health certificate must state: Vermont Shows and Fairs with current year.
  - b. If the horse originates from out of state and is attending events across New England, the destination/consignee address field on the health certificate must state: "New England Shows and Fairs" with current year.
2. After examining the horse and completing the CVI, the veterinarian must call the Vermont Agency of Agriculture at 802-828-2421 (between 7:45AM and 4:30PM, Monday-Friday) to request an exhibition permit number. When calling, the veterinarian must state they are requesting an **exhibition permit**. This will ensure that the Agency's Animal Health Office issues a permit that is good for 180 days. The veterinarian must also provide:
  - a. The owner's name and mailing address
  - b. The number of horses traveling
3. The exhibition permit number will be issued over the phone by the Agency.
  - a. **Please note: The VT exhibition permit number only applies to importation into VT and does not permit importation of the horse into other states. If the horse is also traveling to other New England state(s) during the same season, permit number(s)**

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**may be needed from each of those other state(s). It is the responsibility of the owner and veterinarian to check with each state of destination to determine other states' import requirements.**

4. The veterinarian must then write the number on the CVI.
  - a. The Vermont Agency of Agriculture no longer mails the exhibition permit to the horse owner so the permit number must be recorded on the CVI.
5. The veterinarian must then provide the animal owner with their copy of the CVI and forward other copies to their state agriculture office within one week as required by law.
6. The horse must travel with the CVI and the exhibition permit number.