

Border Crossing Information

The NABC 9 Committee wants to encourage all Belgian horse exhibitors across North America to plan to attend this great international event celebrating the Belgian breed. In relation to this, the following information regarding Canada/U.S. border crossings has been kindly provided by Don Orr who transports horses to and from the United States on a regular basis. According to Don, while the crossing of the border with horses can at times seem like a daunting task, it is really quite simple as long as the correct documentation is provided to the Customs Officer at time of entry.

One thing that can be done well in advance is getting the proper personal identification for Exhibitors and their crew. It is strongly suggested that you obtain a Passport to make the Border crossing much simpler. At this time Custom Officials may allow entry with enhanced Drivers licence, but that decision can be up to the individual Customs Officer and may change due to ever changing Border Security Policy on both sides.

Horses are required to have a valid Coggins test (Must be less than 6 months to cross border) and a Veterinary Health Certificate for Export of Horses From the United States to Canada. These papers are valid for 30 days from date of issue. Your Veterinarian will know that form to fill out and have them check off the box for COMPETITION/RACING and also the box TEMPORARY. This form is relatively new and all your horses can be listed on this 1 document. This form makes things more economical as it is only 1 endorsement by the Federal Veterinarian as opposed to the old way of individual paper endorsements. It is suggested to list all horses that you may take to the show on the form, those that do not go, can be deleted after endorsement, but not added.

Your Veterinarian will be the source of great assistance and knowledge. Remember that papers are now sent (mailed or couriered) to the Federal Veterinarian's Office which can take a longer return time. Have a talk early on with your Vet and let him/her know what your plans are and dates you would be travelling.

It is important to get the Health Paper stamped by Customs Official on the US side before you cross and by Canadian Customs Official at the Canadian inspection booth. It is also suggested to make a list of your equipment you are bringing, noting serial numbers or identifiable markings.

The NABC 9 Committee will be in contact with both US and Canadian Customs and make them aware of the details of the NABC 9 show being held in London, Ontario and to expect an influx of horses crossing to attend. This was done with success for NABC 5 in 2004 and a liaison was appointed to work with the Committee and Customs Officials on both sides of the border in helping everyone understand the process of crossing the border to attend a show.

It is suggested that American Exhibitors enter Canada at Border points that are familiar with the process of livestock entering to attend shows. There are 2 crossings close to London that qualify. Lewiston, New York / Queenston, Ontario is approx. 2 hrs. from London on the East side and Port Huron, Michigan / Sarnia, Ontario is approx. 1 1/2 hrs. on the west. These 2 ports handle the majority of livestock crossing the border.