

Movement Permits Within Namibia & Across borders

Moving Permits in Namibia

If you move livestock, you generally need a **livestock movement permit** issued through the **State Veterinary Office / NamLITS** (depending on the movement).

From official NamLITS guidance:

- A movement permit is a **legal document** allowing movement **from one place to another**
- Valid for **14 days**
- Must be **returned** to the nearest state veterinary office **after use** (single movement)

Typical requirements to apply (practical checklist)

NamLITS guidance lists:

- **Stock brand card/certificate**
 - **Valid ID**
 - **Registered establishment name (on NamLITS)**
 - Application via **NamLITS Online** or at the **local state veterinary office**
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Cross-Border Movement of Livestock

Namibia ↔ Other Countries (Especially South Africa) – 2026

This section is governed mainly by:

- **Animal Health Act 1 of 2011 (Namibia)**
- **Import & Export Veterinary Regulations**
- **State Veterinary Services (Namibia & importing country)**
- **NamLITS**
- **International animal health rules (WOAH / former OIE)**

⚠️ Important truth upfront:

There is **NO single standard rule** for all animals or all countries.

Requirements depend on:

- **species**
- **disease status at the time**
- **country you are exporting to or importing from**
- **area you are moving from (e.g. FMD zones)**

1. FIRST RULE: You Cannot Move Livestock Across Borders Without State Vet Approval

If you want to:

- export animals **out of Namibia**
- import animals **into Namibia**
- transit animals **through Namibia**

You **must** work through:

☞ **State Veterinary Services (Directorate of Veterinary Services – DVS)**

Private vets cannot approve cross-border movement on their own.

2. Core Documents REQUIRED for Cross-Border Movement (Non-Negotiable)

Every legal cross-border movement will require **ALL** of the following:

■ 1. Veterinary Import / Export Permit

Issued by:

- **Exporting country's State Vet**
- PLUS approval by the **importing country's veterinary authority**

This permit states:

- species
- number of animals
- origin
- destination
- required tests & vaccinations
- quarantine conditions

⚠️ Without this permit, movement is illegal.

■ 2. Official Veterinary Health Certificate

Issued by:

- **State Veterinarian** (not just a private vet)

Confirms:

- animals are clinically healthy
- animals originate from a disease-free area (where required)
- required vaccinations and tests were done
- animals were inspected before movement

This certificate travels **with the animals**.

■ 3. Movement Permit (Namibia)

In addition to export permits, animals must still have:

- **Namibian livestock movement permit**
- linked to **NamLITS**
- valid for the specific movement

■ 4. Identification & Traceability

Animals must be:

- correctly **identified** (brand / ear tags)
- traceable to a **registered holding**
- compliant with NamLITS records

Unidentified animals **will not be approved**.

3. Vaccinations & Tests for Cross-Border Movement (Very Important)

This is where farmers often assume wrong things.

! Key rule

Vaccinations and tests are **NOT optional**

They are dictated by:

- the **importing country**
- current **disease risk**
- official veterinary protocols

Common examples (NOT exhaustive):

☒ Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)

- Animals **may NOT move** from restricted FMD zones
 - Additional testing or waiting periods may apply
 - In some cases, movement is **completely prohibited**
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☒ Brucellosis (Cattle)

Often required:

- Negative blood test
 - Test done within a specified time window (e.g. 30 days before export)
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☒ Tuberculosis (Cattle)

May be required:

- TB testing
 - Herd status confirmation
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📌 Rabies

For certain species and destinations:

- Vaccination proof
 - Waiting period after vaccination
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⚠️ Critical AgriPulse message:

Never vaccinate “just in case” before speaking to the State Vet.
Some vaccines affect test results and can DELAY export.

4. Quarantine Requirements

Depending on species and destination:

- Animals may need:
 - **pre-export quarantine**
 - **post-import quarantine**
- Quarantine period is set by:
 - importing country’s veterinary authority
- Quarantine facilities must be:
 - approved
 - inspected

5. Step-by-Step: How a Farmer Should Do It (THIS IS GOLD)

✓ Step 1: Contact Your Local State Veterinary Office

Before buying, selling, or advertising animals for export.

Tell them:

- species
- number
- destination country
- purpose (breeding, slaughter, auction)

✓ Step 2: Get the Official Import Requirements

The importing country sets the rules, not you.

State Vet will confirm:

- required tests
- vaccinations
- quarantine
- timelines

✓ Step 3: Apply for Export Permit

Through State Veterinary Services.

No permit → no movement.

✓ Step 4: Do Tests & Vaccinations (Only What Is Required)

- Follow exact timelines
- Use approved vets
- Keep records

✓ Step 5: Final Veterinary Inspection

State Vet inspects animals and issues:

- **Veterinary Health Certificate**

✓ Step 6: Move Animals With All Documents

Driver must carry:

- export permit
- health certificate
- movement permit
- identification records

Roadblocks **do check**.

6. What Happens If You Skip Steps

If animals move without correct permits:

- animals can be **confiscated**
- movement reversed
- animals quarantined at your cost
- fines or prosecution
- export bans placed on farms or areas