



The Live-stock Importation Act, 1898

(ACT NO. 9 OF 1898)

[As on the 15th May, 2026]

LIST OF AMENDING ACTS

1. The Repealing and Amending Act, 1914 (10 of 1914).
2. The Live-Stock Importation (Amendment) Act, 1953 (40 of 1953).
3. The Jammu and Kashmir (Extension of Laws) Act, 1956 (62 of 1956).
4. The Live-Stock Importation (Amendment) Act, 2001 (28 of 2001).
5. The *Jan Vishwas* (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026 (8 of 2026).

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS USED

Cl.,cls.	.	.	.	.	.	<i>for</i>	Clause, clauses.
Ins.	.	.	.	.	.	„	Inserted.
Notifn.	.	.	.	.	.	„	Notification.
S., ss.	.	.	.	.	.	„	Section, sections.
Sch.	.	.	.	.	.	„	Schedule.
Subs.	.	.	.	.	.	„	Substituted.
w.e.f.	.	.	.	.	.	„	with effect from.

THE LIVE-STOCK IMPORTATION ACT, 1898

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

SECTIONS

1. Short title, local extent and commencement.
2. Definitions.
3. Power to regulate importation of live-stock.
- 3A. Power to regulate Importation of live-stock products.
- 3B. Laying of notification before both Houses of Parliament.
4. [*Omitted.*].
5. Protection to persons acting under Act.

THE LIVE-STOCK IMPORTATION ACT, 1898

ACT NO. 9 OF 1898¹

[12th August, 1898]

An Act to make better provision for the regulation of the importation of livestock ²[and live-stock products].

WHEREAS it is expedient to make better provision for the regulation of the importation or live-stock which is liable to be affected by infectious or contagious disorders; It is hereby enacted as follows: —

1. Short title, local extent and commencement.—(1) This Act may be called the Live-stock Importation Act, 1898.

³[(2) It extends to the whole of India ⁴***;] ⁵***,

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2. Definitions.—In this Act unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—

(a) the expression “infectious or contagious disorders” includes tick-pest, anthrax, glanders, farcy, scabies and any other disease or disorder which may be specified by the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette; and

(b) “live-stock” includes horses, kine, camels, sheep and any other animal which may be specified by the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette ;

⁷[(c) “import” means the bringing or taking, by sea, land or air into ⁸[India].]

⁹[(d) “live-stock products” include meat and meat products of all kinds including fresh, chilled and frozen meat, tissue, organs of poultry, pig, sheep, goat; egg and egg powder, milk and milk products; bovine, ovine and caprine, embryos, ova, semen; pet food products of animal origin and any other animal product which may be specified by the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette.]

3. Power to regulate importation of live-stock.—(1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, regulate, restrict or prohibit, in such manner and to such extent as it may think fit, ¹⁰[the import], into ⁷[India] or any specified place therein, of any livestock which may be liable to be affected by infectious or contagious disorders, and of any fodder, dung, stable-litter, clothing harness or fittings appertaining to live-stock or that may have been in contact therewith.

¹¹[(2) A notification issued under sub-section (1) or under section 3A shall operate as if it has been issued under section 11 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962) and the officers of the customs at every port, airport, Inland Container Depot and Land Customs Station shall have the same powers in respect of any live-stock or live-stock product or thing with regard to the importation of which such a

1. The Act has been extended to Goa, Daman and Diu, with modifications by Reg. 12 of 1962, s. 3 and Sch. (w.e.f. 1-2-1965) and to Pondicherry (w. e. f. 1-10-1963) by Reg. 7 of 1963, s. 3 and Sch. I.

2. Ins. by Act 28 of 2001, s. 2 (w.e.f. 5-7-2001).

3. Subs. by Act 40 of 1953, s. 2, for sub-section (2).

4. The words “except the State of Jammu and Kashmir” omitted by Act 62 of 1956, s. 2 and the Sch. (w.e.f.1-11-1956).

5. The word “and” rep. by Act 10 of 1914, s. 3 and Sch. II.

6. Sub-section (3) rep. by s. 3 and Sch. II, *ibid*.

7. Ins. by Act 40 of 1953, s. 3.

8. Subs. by Act 62 of 1956, s. 2 and Sch. for “the territories to which this Act extends” (w.e.f.1-11-1956).

9. Ins. by Act 28 of 2001, s. 3 (w.e.f. 5-7-2001).

10. Subs. by Ad 40 of 1953, s. 4, for “the bringing or taking, by sea or land”.

11. Subs. by Act 28 of 2001, s. 4, for sub-section (2) (w.e.f. 5-7-2001).

notification has been issued and the vessel, aircraft, vehicle and other mode of conveyance containing the same, as they have for the time being in respect of any article the importation of which is regulated, restricted or prohibited by the law relating to customs and the vessel, aircraft, vehicle and other mode of conveyance containing the same; and the enactments for the time being in force relating to customs or any such article or vessel, aircraft, vehicle and other mode of conveyance shall apply accordingly.]

¹[**3A. Power to regulate Importation of live-stock products.** —The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, regulate, restrict or prohibit in such manner and to such extent as it may think fit, the import into the territories to which this Act extends, of any live-stock product, which may be liable to affect human or animal health.]

²[**3B. Laying of notification before both Houses of Parliament.**—All notifications issued under this Act shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament as soon as may be after they are issued.]

4. [*Power for State Government to make rules.*] *Omitted by the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026 (8 of 2026), s. 2 and Sch. (w.e.f. 15-5-2026).*

5. Protection to persons acting under Act.—No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against any person for anything in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act.

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1. Ins. by Act 28 of 2001, s. 5 (w.e.f. 5-7-2001).

2. Ins. by Act 8 of 2026, s. 2 and Sch. (w.e.f. 15-5-2026).

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The importation into one of the seaports of British India of a cargo of horses from Australia which proved to be infected with the tick disease—a disease very fatal to cattle and capable of being conveyed by other animals, such as horses, themselves immune from it—led to an examination of the existing legal powers of the Government to prevent the importation of live-stock liable to be affected by infectious or contagious disorders. As these powers were found to be defective it has been decided, in consultation with the Governments of Madras, Bombay and Bengal to take the necessary powers. Instead of amending the Indian Ports Act (X of 1889), it is thought preferable to proceed by way of a self-contained Act.

2. The provisions of the Bill are general in character, and empower the Governor General in Council to regulate, or prohibit the importation into British India by land or sea of any live-stock which may be liable to be affected by infectious and contagious disorders. The Bill confers necessary powers on officers of Customs at every port, and enables Local Governments to make rules for detention, inspection, disinfection or destruction of such stock, and for the guidance of officers appointed under the rules.

3. It is not intended to interface with the inland trade, except so far as to prevent the removal of live-stock, the importation of which has been prohibited, from one part of British India to another.

The 13th July, 1898.

C.M. RIVAZ.