



Australian Government
Biosecurity Australia

ATTACHMENT C

9 July 2008

INTERIM QUARANTINE MEASURES FOR THE PERMANENT IMPORTATION OF HORSES FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Administrative Conditions

Importation under these conditions is restricted to horses that have been continuously resident and free of quarantine restriction in the United States or Canada for at least 60 days immediately preceding export to Australia.

Permission to import must be obtained in writing from the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) prior to the export of horses. A full description of each horse (including tattoos, microchips, brands, silhouettes) must be provided with the permit application.

Other administrative conditions, including details of import permit requirements and transport arrangements, are available from AQIS. Contact details are:

Live Animal Imports

AQIS

Phone +61 2 6272 4454

GPO Box 858

Fax +61 2 6272 3110

Canberra ACT 2601

E-mail animalimp@aqis.gov.au

The full conditions can also be viewed on AQIS' Import Conditions database (ICON) at www.aqis.gov.au.

Documentation

Each horse other than an unweaned foal less than 6 months old travelling with its dam will travel with an original international veterinary certificate in accord with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code (the Code), Appendix 4.1.4., signed by an Official Veterinarian* of the country of export.

*Note: *Official Veterinarian* means a veterinarian authorised by the Veterinary Administration of the country to perform certain designated official tasks associated with animal health and/or public health and inspections of commodities and, when appropriate, to certify in conformity with the Certification Procedures of Section 1.2.2 of the Code.

Format of the veterinary certificate

1. The veterinary certificate must:

- . be written in English, and a language understood by the Official Veterinarian of the country of export
- . certify the requirements of the *veterinary certification* section of these conditions
- . provide the identification for each animal (passport details and/or microchip number/site or brand or silhouette) including description, species, sex and age
- . include the name and address of the importer and exporter and the AQIS Import Permit number.

2. The Official Veterinarian must:
 - . provide a separate veterinary certificate for each horse
 - . sign, date and stamp each page of the veterinary certificate and all documents, eg laboratory reports that form part of the extended health certification with the stamp of the government veterinary administration
 - . record his/her name, signature and contact details on the veterinary certificate.
3. AQIS will only accept copies of supporting documents where each page bears the original signature, date and stamp of the Official Veterinarian.

Pre-export quarantine requirements for the importation of horses from the United States

Location

1. The premises must be located in the United States, or part of the territory of the United States, that has been free from African horse sickness, Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis and vesicular stomatitis for two years.
2. For the duration of pre-export quarantine (PEQ), other equines should not be depastured, held or exercised within 100 metres of horses on the premises except as specifically authorised by AQIS.
3. The premises must be conveniently located for supervision by an Official Veterinarian except as specifically authorised by AQIS.

Facilities

1. The premises must be surrounded by two secure stockproof fences at least five metres apart except where the wall of a building forms part of the perimeter.
2. Stables on the premises must be so constructed that they can be readily cleaned and disinfected.
3. For the duration of PEQ, other equines should not be depastured, held or exercised within 100 metres of horses on the premises except as specifically authorised by AQIS.
4. Stables, yards, fences, and feeding and watering arrangements must be so constructed that the horses are protected from injury, and other welfare needs are met.
5. The premises shall have an area for the cleaning and disinfection of vehicles well separated from stables, holding pens and the loading area, and the premises must have facilities for the safe unloading and loading of horses.
6. The premises shall have facilities for veterinary examination and the collection of samples, and facilities for the segregation and isolation of sick or suspect horses.

Operation

1. The premises must be approved **by AQIS and** the Official Veterinarian prior to the commencement of the PEQ period.
2. All operations and procedures are documented and consistent with a HACCP approach. AQIS may audit approved PEQ premises.

Note: HACCP is the Hazard Analysis of Critical Control Points.
3. Stables must be cleaned and disinfected with exercise and holding yards and paddocks cleaned to the satisfaction of an Official Veterinarian prior to the commencement of each PEQ.
4. The PEQ must be supervised by the Official Veterinarian.
5. The PEQ period will start from the time of entry of the last horse. Horses must not leave the premises during PEQ without permission of the supervising Official Veterinarian and AQIS.
6. During PEQ, the premises must be occupied only by horses of the export consignment unless otherwise agreed by AQIS. All horses in PEQ must be of equivalent quarantine status.
7. **A blood sample must be taken from each horse during PEQ. Half of this sample must be stored in the country of export under suitable conditions for antibody preservation in a laboratory approved by the competent authority. The importer must arrange for the other half of the sample (no less than 2.5 ml of serum) to be despatched to the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL). Both parts of the samples must be retained for at least three months.**
8. During PEQ each horse of the export consignment must have rectal temperatures measured and recorded twice daily and such records are to be made available to AQIS on request.
9. The Official Veterinarian must provide certification, in the form of a checklist, that health certificates and health records including measurement of rectal temperatures have been inspected. If rectal temperatures were unable to be obtained from a horse this is to be noted on the checklist.
10. All equipment used in feeding, handling and treating the horses in PEQ must be new or cleaned and disinfected before use and must be used only in the premises for the duration of the PEQ.
11. Personnel attending the horses **must shower and change outer clothing and footwear before entering the PEQ premises.**
12. Any health problems affecting animals on the premises during PEQ must be reported within 48 hours to the Official Veterinarian. AQIS must be notified if the incident is of quarantine concern.
13. A detailed health record must be kept for each horse in quarantine. The health record must be available to the Official Veterinarian.
14. Entry to the premises must be prevented unless specifically authorised by the Official Veterinarian. Details of all visitor entries must be recorded.

15. **Complete certification documentation must be made available by the importer for inspection by the Official Veterinarian at the port of loading for export to Australia. It must include evidence that each horse has been:**
 - . **vaccinated in accordance with the requirements for veterinary certification**
 - . **had a blood sample taken complying with (7.) above**
 - . **tested with negative results by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or an antigen enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for influenza A.**
16. Vehicles and containers for transport of horses from the premises to the port of export must be cleaned and disinfected to the satisfaction of the Official Veterinarian prior to loading.
17. **Before a horse is loaded on an aircraft or vessel for carriage to Australia, the importer must make available to AQIS sufficient evidence for AQIS to verify the existence of veterinary certification and compliance with the required import conditions up to the time the horse arrives at the airport of departure. This will be done by facsimile or electronic communication with AQIS officers in Australia. Where the shipment will be loaded outside Australian business hours, prior arrangements must be made with AQIS for receipt of the necessary documentation.**

Veterinary certification for the importation of horses from the United States

1. For the 60 days immediately prior to export the horse was continuously resident and free of quarantine restriction in the United States or Canada where :
 - . African horse sickness, contagious equine metritis, dourine, surra (USA only), glanders, Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis (VEE), and vesicular stomatitis are compulsorily notifiable
 - . vaccination against African horse sickness has not been practised during the past 12 months
2. For the 60 days immediately prior to export the horse was continuously resident and free of quarantine restriction in the United States or Canada in which:
 - . no case of African horse sickness, dourine, glanders, Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis has occurred during the past two years
 - . no case of Borna disease or surra has been reported in equines during the past 12 months
 - . no case of vesicular stomatitis has been reported within a 15 kilometres radius during the past 12 months.
3. So far as can be determined, for the 60 days immediately prior to export the horse was continuously resident in the United States or Canada in premises where no case of the following diseases or any other notifiable disease of equines have occurred during the previous three months:
 - . equine influenza
 - . epizootic lymphangitis
 - . equine ehrlichiosis (*Neorickettsia risticii*, formerly *Ehrlichia risticii* and *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*, formerly *Ehrlichia equi*)

- . equine herpesvirus 1 (EHV-1) infection associated with central nervous disease or abortion
 - . equine infectious anaemia
 - . equine viral arteritis
 - . equine piroplasmosis (*Theileria equi* or *Babesia caballi*)
 - . horse pox
 - . Japanese encephalitis
 - . equine encephalomyelitis
 - . Lyme disease
 - . rabies
 - . contagious equine metritis.
4. The horse was held in PEQ for at least 21 days immediately prior to export in premises that met the physical and operational requirements specified in the 'Pre-export quarantine requirements' above.
 5. During the 12 months before, but not during, the pre-export quarantine period, the horse was vaccinated against equine encephalomyelitis (Eastern and Western) using an approved vaccine according to the manufacturer's recommendations.
 6. During the 12 months before, but not during, the pre-export quarantine period, the horse was vaccinated against West Nile virus (WNV) using an approved inactivated vaccine according to the manufacturer's recommendations.
 7. So far as can be determined the horse has not been vaccinated for Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis (VEE), or if vaccinated for VEE, the horse was vaccinated at least 60 days prior to export using an approved inactivated vaccine according to the manufacturer's recommendations.
 8. During the 6 months before the commencement of PEQ, the horse was vaccinated* against equine influenza (not using a vaccine containing live equine influenza virus) on at least two occasions:

The first vaccination, given not more than 6 months and not less than two months prior to commencement of PEQ, was given either

- . as a booster to a primary course**

OR

- . as the second vaccination of a primary course** administered in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations

The second vaccination was given between 21 and 14 days prior to the commencement of PEQ.

***Note: Vaccines used must contain the following or equivalent strains in accordance with the recommendations of the OIE Expert Surveillance Panel for equine influenza:**

an A/eq/South Africa/4/2003 (H3N8)-like virus (American lineage)¹ and

an A/eq/Newmarket/2/93 (H3N8)-like virus (European lineage)²

****Note: A primary course comprises at least two doses administered in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.**

9. In the case of a colt or stallion, each horse:

· was subjected to a virus neutralisation test for equine viral arteritis (EVA) on a blood sample collected during PEQ with negative results

OR

· was subjected to a diagnostic test for EVA on a blood sample with negative results, immediately vaccinated for EVA and regularly revaccinated in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations

OR

· was subjected to virus isolation tests as described in the OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals on two separate semen samples collected during PEQ with negative results.

10. In the case of a mare:

· *she is not pregnant

OR

· *so far as can be determined she is less than seven months pregnant and has been continuously resident during the past 12 months in an establishment or establishments in which no case of contagious equine metritis (CEM) or EHV-1 associated with abortion has occurred during the past 12 months.

*Note: One to be deleted

11. *Taylorella asinigenitalis*, *Taylorella equigenitalis*

Note: This certification requirement does not apply to geldings or unweaned foals accompanying their dams.

So far as can be determined, the horse is not known to have been infected with *Taylorella equigenitalis* or *Taylorella asinigenitalis* or mated with another horse known to have been infected with *T. equigenitalis* or *T. asinigenitalis* and has not, during the past two months, been resident on any property on which contagious equine metritis has been confirmed in the previous two years.

¹ A/eq/Ohio/2003 is acceptable as A/eq/South Africa/4/2003-like virus

² A/eq/Suffolk/89 and A/eq/Borlänge/91, currently used vaccine strains, continue to be acceptable

AND

During the 60 days prior to export, the horse was tested for *T. asinigenitalis* and *T. equigenitalis*, with negative results by culture of samples collected on three occasions (*insert dates*) at an interval of 7–9 days from:

- . colts and stallions: the urethra, urethral fossa and penile sheath
- . fillies and non-pregnant mares: the clitoral fossa including the clitoral sinuses and, on at least one occasion (*insert date*), from the endometrium or deep cervix during oestrus.

The samples were set up for culture within 48 hours of collection. The horse was not mated after collection of the first samples for culture.

Note: All testing must be conducted at an Official laboratory, with results attached to the health certification.

12. During the period of PEQ:

- . an agent detection test for influenza A, either a PCR or an antigen ELISA, was conducted with negative results on each of two nasopharyngeal swabs taken from the horse 7 to 10 days apart during PEQ, the second being taken within 7 days of departure
- . the horse was subjected to a Coggins test or an approved ELISA for equine infectious anaemia with negative results
- . the horse was subjected to indirect fluorescent antibody tests (IFAT) for piroplasmosis (*Theileria equi* and *Babesia caballi*) with negative results in each case
- . the horse was subjected to a serum neutralisation test or complement fixation test (CFT) or competitive ELISA (C-ELISA) for vesicular stomatitis (New Jersey and Indiana strains) with negative results.

Note: All testing must be conducted at an Official laboratory, with results attached to the health certification.

- . the horse was treated with a broad spectrum anthelmintic (date and treatment schedule stated on certification)
- . on arrival in PEQ, the horse was thoroughly examined by an Official Veterinarian or under the direct supervision of an Official Veterinarian and found to be free of ticks. A systematic approach was undertaken with close examination of ears, false nostrils, under body areas (axilla, inguinal, under jawbone), perineum, mane and tail. If any horse in the consignment was found to have ticks during PEQ, all horses in the PEQ premises were immediately treated with a parasiticide effective against ticks
- . within 2-7 days of departure, each horse on the PEQ premises was treated with a parasiticide effective against ticks according to the manufacturer's recommendations, unless ticks were found on arrival and the horses have been treated (date and treatment schedule stated on certification)
- . the horse was not vaccinated
- . the horse was not mated
- . all horses in the PEQ premises remained free from evidence of infectious or contagious disease, and had no contact with equines not of equivalent quarantine status

. **a blood sample was collected from each horse during PEQ with half of this sample retained in the country of export in a laboratory approved by the Competent Authority and the other half (no less than 2.5 mL of serum) despatched to AAHL.**

Note: Certifications 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 12, do not apply to unweaned foals, under 6 months old, travelling with their dams. **With the exception that all foals must be tested for influenza A with negative results** and must be treated with a broad spectrum anthelmintic and parasiticide.

13. The horse was examined by an Official Veterinarian within 24 hours prior to leaving the PEQ premises for the port of export and was found to be:
 - . free from evidence of infectious or contagious disease
 - . visibly free of external parasites
 - . fit to travel.
14. The vehicle for the transport of the horse to the port of export was cleaned and disinfected with a prescribed disinfectant to the satisfaction of the Official Veterinarian prior to loading the animals.
15. During transport to the port of export the horse had no contact with equines not of equivalent quarantine status.
16. The compartment of the aircraft or vessel to be occupied by the horse and all removable equipment, penning and containers including loading ramps were satisfactorily cleaned and disinfected prior to loading.
17. At the time of loading the horse was healthy and fit to travel.

Transport

1. The horse must be consigned to Australia by a route approved by AQIS. It may be accompanied by other animals only with the approval of AQIS. Any transshipment requires the approval of AQIS. Stops on route will need approval from relevant authorities in the countries of transit and transshipment.
2. An Australian or New Zealand quarantine veterinarian may be required to accompany the shipment to Australia at the importer's expense. AQIS must receive adequate notice of the intention to import so that arrangements can be made.
3. The use of hay or straw as bedding during transport is not permitted; treated wood shavings, sterilised peat and soft board may be used.
4. The design of the containers, the recommended species requirements, the preparation for transport, and the disinfection of the interior of the aircraft, removable equipment, penning and containers must be in accordance with the recommendations of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code and International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animal Regulations unless otherwise agreed by AQIS.

Post-arrival quarantine requirements for the importation of horses from the United States

1. Each imported horse must undergo post-arrival quarantine (PAQ) in a Government animal quarantine station or other quarantine approved premises for 14-21 days.

Note: For mixed consignments (horses originating from multiple PEQ premises), each imported horse must undergo PAQ in a Government animal quarantine station or other approved premises for a minimum period of 21 days. For horses originating from a single PEQ premises, each imported horse must undergo 14 days PAQ.

AQIS standards for approved PAQ premises are at Appendix 1.

2. During PAQ each horse in the consignment must
 - . be identified on arrival and accompanying health certification and passport examined and checked
 - . undergo examination including measurement of rectal temperature, on arrival and again within 4 hours and twice daily thereafter during PAQ. If at any time the rectal temperature is 38.5°C or higher, a nasopharyngeal swab is to be taken for a PCR test for influenza A virus (or equine influenza virus) and the AQIS Veterinarian notified
 - . have a blood sample collected for reference serum and despatched for storage within 24 hours of arrival
 - . be thoroughly and systematically examined for the presence of ticks. Detection of ticks will result in further testing and/or treatment in PAQ.
3. A PCR for influenza A virus (or equine influenza virus) with negative results for each horse must be conducted on nasopharyngeal swabs taken within 24 hours of arrival and five days after the last horse arrives in PAQ. **Swabs will also be subject to a 'rapid' immuno-assay test to detect influenza A.**
4. **Each horse must be tested negative for equine influenza within the last three days of the PAQ period using an agent detection test for influenza A (either a PCR test or an antigen ELISA) before release from quarantine.**
5. After completion of PAQ, each pregnant mare imported under these conditions will be held under quarantine surveillance until she has foaled and subsequently been tested with negative results for *Taylorella equigenitalis* by culture of swabs collected from the clitoral fossa including the clitoral sinuses and from the endometrium or deep cervix during oestrus.

Detailed conditions of quarantine surveillance are available from AQIS in the State in which surveillance is to be undertaken.
6. If any horse fails a test or shows signs of disease, it may be subjected to testing or treatment prescribed by AQIS at the importer's expense. If any horse does not meet these conditions, or exotic disease is diagnosed, that horse, and any or all horses in the PAQ premises, may be:
 - . detained in quarantine for further testing and observation
 - . exported at the importer's expense
 - . destroyed without recompense.

AQIS STANDARDS FOR POST-ARRIVAL QUARANTINE PREMISES FOR HORSES FOR EXPORT TO AUSTRALIA

1. ENTRY AND POST-ARRIVAL QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS

- 1.1 The process from the time horses arrive at the airport to the completion of post-arrival quarantine (PAQ) must be auditable.
- 1.2 Vehicles transporting imported horses from the port of arrival in Australia to the PAQ premises have been cleaned and disinfected prior to loading the horses. Appropriate biosecurity procedures must be implemented for transport vehicles, freight containers, equipment and associated personnel, including transport operators, before, during and after the transport of horses to the PAQ premises.
- 1.3 Vehicles transporting imported horses are not permitted to leave the PAQ premises until thoroughly cleaned and disinfected (**including the cabin if contaminated**) and the health checks of the imported horses have been completed.
- 1.4 Each imported horse must be identified upon arrival in Australia and accompanying health certification/passport examined and checked.

2 LOCATION OF PAQ FACILITIES

- 2.1 The premises must be located in an area that has been free from equine infectious anaemia for 12 months.
- 2.2 For the duration of PAQ, other equines should not be depastured, held or exercised within 100 metres of horses on the premises.
- 2.3 The premises should be close to the port of arrival and be conveniently located for supervision by an AQIS Veterinarian.

3 FACILITIES

- 3.1 The premises must be surrounded by two secure stockproof fences at least five metres apart except where the wall of a building forms part of the perimeter.
- 3.2 The premises shall have an area for the cleaning and disinfection of vehicles well separated from stables, holding pens and the loading area, and facilities for the safe unloading and loading of horses.
- 3.3 Stables on the premises must be so constructed that they can be readily cleaned and disinfected.
- 3.4 Stables, yards, fences, and feeding and watering arrangements must be so constructed that the horses are protected from injury, and other welfare needs are met.
- 3.5 The premises shall have facilities for veterinary examination and the collection of samples, and facilities for the segregation and isolation of sick or suspect horses.

4 OPERATION

- 4.1 The premises must be approved by an AQIS Veterinarian prior to the commencement of each PAQ. All procedures with regard to the operation of the quarantine premises are documented, consistent with a HACCP approach and are subject to audit, including operating procedures for veterinarians, handlers and visitors.
- 4.2 Stables must be cleaned and disinfected, and exercise yards, holding yards and paddocks cleaned to the satisfaction of an AQIS Veterinarian, prior to the commencement of each PAQ.
- 4.3 The PAQ premises must be under the direct supervision of an AQIS Veterinarian.
- 4.4 The PAQ period shall be deemed to start from the time of entry of the last horse. Horses must not leave the premises during PAQ without permission of AQIS.
- 4.5 During the PAQ the premises must only be occupied by horses of the import consignment unless otherwise agreed by AQIS.
- 4.6 All equipment used in the feeding, handling and treatment of the horses in PAQ must be new or cleaned and disinfected before use and must be used only in the premises for the duration of the PAQ. On completion of PAQ, the equipment must be disinfected to the satisfaction of AQIS prior to removal.
- 4.7 All personnel (including grooms) attending the horses must shower when arriving at the PAQ premises. They must shower and change outer clothing and footwear before leaving the PAQ premises. Personnel approved entry must be limited to those deemed by AQIS to have essential management duties and understand appropriate biosecurity procedures.
- 4.8 **Grooms attending the horses must have no contact with horses outside the premises during PAQ.**
- 4.9 Any health problems affecting horses or other stock on the premises during PAQ must be promptly reported to the supervising AQIS Veterinarian. AQIS must be notified if the incident is of quarantine concern.
- 4.10 A detailed health record must be kept for each horse on the premises during the PAQ period and it must be available to the supervising AQIS Veterinarian.
- 4.11 Unauthorised access to the premises should be prevented. All visitor entries should be recorded.
- 4.12 Vehicles used to transport the horses from the port of arrival to the premises must be cleaned and disinfected to the satisfaction of an AQIS officer before leaving the premises.