PROPOSED QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TEMPORARY IMPORTATION OF HORSES FROM THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES FOR RACING OR OTHER COMPETITION

Conditions of Administration

Conditions of administration, including details of import permit requirements and transport arrangements, are available from the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS). Contact details are:

Live Animal Imports
AQIS                                                   Fax +61 2 6272 3110
GPO Box 858                                      E-mail animalimp@aegis.gov.au
Canberra 2600                                     Phone +61 2 6272 4454

The full requirements can also be viewed on AQIS’ Import Conditions database (ICON) at www.aqis.gov.au/icon32/asp/ex_querycontent.asp

Format of the veterinary certificate

1. An original veterinary certificate that conforms to the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Code) Model International Veterinary Certificate for Equines must accompany each consignment; and must:

   • be written in English, and a language understood by the Official Veterinarian of the country of export
   • meet 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).
   • include description, species, sex and age
   • include the name and address of the importer and exporter
   • include the AQIS Import Permit number

2. An Official Veterinarian of the Government Veterinary Administration 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
   • provide name, signature and contact details on the veterinary certificate
3. AQIS will only accept copies of documents where each page bears the original signature, date and stamp of the Official Veterinarian.

**Pre-export quarantine premises requirements for the temporary importation of horses for competition from the United Arab Emirates (UAE)**

1. Except as specifically authorised by AQIS, the premises must be located, or managed, so that, for the duration of pre-export quarantine (PEQ):
   - camels or livestock are not held, exercised or transported within 200 metres of horses on the premises
   - other equines are not held or exercised within 100 metres of horses on the premises.

2. The premises must be situated near the port of embarkation and be conveniently located for supervision by an Official Veterinarian.

**Facilities**

1. The premises must be surrounded by two secure stock-proof fences at least 5 metres apart, except where the wall of a building forms part of the perimeter, and be insect-screened.

2. The premises must have:
   - an area for cleaning and disinfection of vehicles well separated from stables, holding pens and the loading area
   - facilities for the safe unloading and loading of horses.

3. Stables on the premises must be constructed so that they can be readily cleaned and disinfected.

4. The premises must have facilities for veterinary examination and the collection of samples.

**Operation**

1. The premises must be approved by an Official Veterinarian authorised by the Veterinary Administration prior to the commencement of each PEQ.

2. Stables must be cleaned and disinfected, and exercise yards, holding yards and paddocks cleaned to the satisfaction of an Official Veterinarian, prior to the commencement of each PEQ.

3. The PEQ must be supervised by an Official Veterinarian.

4. The PEQ period will start from the time of entry of the last horse. Horses must not leave the premises during PEQ except for training, under official veterinary supervision in nearby facilities. The training facilities must also be separated by at least 200 metres from where camels or livestock may be held, exercised or transported, and there must be no horses other than those undergoing PEQ within 100 metres, at the time the horses are at those training facilities.

5. During PEQ, the premises must only be occupied by horses of this consignment unless otherwise agreed by the supervising Official Veterinarian and AQIS.

6. All equipment used in feeding, handling and treatment of 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.
7. Personnel attending the horses must wear outer clothing and footwear used exclusively in the premises during PEQ, and wash their hands, before handling the animals.

8. Any health problems affecting animals on the premises during PEQ must be reported within 48 hours to the supervising Official Veterinarian. AQIS must be notified if the incident is of quarantine concern.

9. A detailed health record must be kept for each horse on the premises during the PEQ period. The health record must be available to the supervising Official Veterinarian.

10. Entry to the premises must be prevented unless specifically authorised by the supervising Official Veterinarian. All visitor entries must be recorded.

11. Vehicles for transport of horses from the premises to the port of embarkation must be cleaned and disinfected to the satisfaction of the Official Veterinarian prior to loading.

**Veterinary certification for the temporary importation of horses for competition from the UAE**

1. The horse is accompanied by a current international passport recognised by the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) and/or the Office International Epizooties.

2. For the two months immediately prior to export the horse was continuously resident in the UAE where:
   - African horse sickness, glanders, Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis and vesicular stomatitis are compulsorily notifiable
   - vaccination against African horse sickness or Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis has not been practised during the last 12 months
   - no case of African horse sickness, dourine, glanders, Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis, or vesicular stomatitis had occurred during the last 2 years
   - no case of Borna disease or surra has been reported in equines during the past 12 months.

3. So far as can be determined, for the two months immediately prior to export the horse was continuously resident in the UAE in an establishment or establishments in which no case of the following diseases or any other notifiable disease of equines has occurred during the previous 3 months:
   - contagious equine metritis
   - epizootic lymphangitis
   - equine ehrlichiosis (including disease due to *Neorickettsia risticii* and *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*)
   - equine infectious anaemia
   - equine influenza
   - equine viral arteritis
   - equine piroplasmosis
   - horse pox
- Japanese encephalitis
- Lyme disease
- rabies.

4. During the 6 months before the pre-export quarantine (PEQ) period the horse was vaccinated against equine influenza, using an approved inactivated vaccine:
- once as a booster to a certified primary course
or
- twice at an interval of 4 to 6 weeks.

5. The horse received no vaccinations during the PEQ period.

6. The horse is not pregnant.

7. The horse was held in PEQ for at least 14 days immediately prior to export in premises that met the physical and operational requirements specified in the ‘Pre-export quarantine premises requirements’. During the PEQ period the horse was stabled in insect screened stables except during officially supervised training sessions. The horse was sprayed with an approved insect repellent on each occasion prior to leaving the stables for training or any other purpose.

8. During the period of PEQ:
- each horse on the PEQ premises was treated with a parasiticide effective against ticks according to the manufacturer’s recommendations at the commencement of PEQ
- samples were taken from the horse and subjected, at an Official Laboratory, to a Coggins test or an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for equine infectious anaemia, an indirect fluorescent antibody test (IFAT) for piroplasmosis* (Babesia equi and B caballi) and an antibody ELISA for surra with negative results in each case
- all horses in the PEQ premises remained free from evidence of infectious or contagious disease, and had no contact with equines not of the same health status.

* Horses that test positive for piroplasmosis may be permitted temporary import under the additional post-arrival quarantine and surveillance requirements detailed below. The certificate must be amended to record that the horse is seropositive.

9. 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
- free of external parasites
- fit to travel.

10. The vehicle for the transport of the horse to the port of export was cleaned and disinfected prior to loading this and other animals of the same consignment. Prior to loading the horse it was sprayed with an approved insect repellent, or the container for transport was screened to prevent the entry of insects.

11. During transport to the port of export the horse had no contact with equines not of the same certified health status.
12. The compartment of the aircraft or vessel to be occupied by the horse and all removable equipment, penning and containers including loading ramps were cleaned and disinfected prior to loading.

13. At the time of loading the horse was healthy and fit to travel.

**Post-arrival quarantine requirements for the temporary importation of horses for competition from the UAE**

1. Each imported horse must undergo post-arrival quarantine (PAQ) in a Government animal quarantine station or other quarantine approved premises (QAP) for 14 days. The stables at the quarantine premises must be fumigated with an insecticide prior to the horses arriving at the premises and during PAQ according to manufacturer’s instructions. The horse must be treated with an insect repellent on each occasion prior to being taken out of the stables for exercise.

2. After completion of PAQ, each horse imported under these conditions will be held under quarantine surveillance until exported. Export shall be within two months following import unless otherwise agreed by AQIS. The imported horse must be denied any opportunity to mate while in quarantine or under quarantine surveillance.

Detailed conditions of quarantine surveillance are available from AQIS in the State in which surveillance is to be undertaken.

3. During PAQ and while the imported horses remain under quarantine surveillance, they may be subjected to an antigen detection test for equine influenza, or any other testing or treatment prescribed by AQIS at the importer’s expense.

4. If any horse fails a test or shows signs of disease, that horse and any other horses in the PAQ premises may be:
   - detained in quarantine for further testing and observation
   - exported at the importer's expense
   - destroyed without recompense.

**Additional post-arrival quarantine and surveillance requirements for horses that are seropositive for piroplasmosis**

1. All horses irrespective of serological status must be thoroughly examined for ticks within 48 hours of arrival in Australia under the direct supervision of an AQIS officer. A systematic approach must be taken with close examination of ears, false nostrils, under-body areas (axilla, inguinal, submandibular), perineum, mane and tail.

If ticks are found the whole consignment must be treated with an approved acaricide according to manufacturer's recommendations (any tick found must be identified).

2. Seropositive horses must be easily identified (for example by an unique colour coded disc on their head collar and bridle) and under official supervision whilst in Australia. Access to seropositive horses will be restricted.

3. Post-arrival quarantine (PAQ) and competition sites must be approved by AQIS to hold seropositive horses. This may involve a survey for ticks. PAQ must be conducted in areas free of *Boophilus microplus*. 


4. Seropositive horses must remain on approved PAQ premises and competition sites. Movement between these sites must be controlled.

5. Grass in exercise areas of PAQ and competition sites must be kept very short.

6. Seropositive horses may compete and remain in areas where *B. microplus* is present for a maximum of 7 days.

7. Seropositive horses must be maintained in a separate building from other horses on the PAQ and competition sites in a clearly demarcated area except at the actual time of training, competition, exhibition or racing.

8. Seropositive horses and all other horses on the same site including those in separate buildings as seropositive horses must be examined daily for ticks by an AQIS officer or under the supervision of an AQIS Officer until export of these horses.

9. Seropositive horses must be washed weekly with a permethrin based insecticidal product.

10. Measures must be taken to prevent iatrogenic spread of the disease including the use of disposable equipment, to ensure there is no risk of cross-contamination to other animals.

11. Bedding for seropositive horses must be rubber, wood shavings or shredded paper. If straw is used for stable bedding for seronegative horses located at the same site as seropositive horses it must be sourced from *B. microplus* free areas.

12. Hay, chaff and any other feedstuffs not heat treated for seropositive horses and all horses on site with seropositive horses must be sourced from *B. microplus* free areas.

13. Seropositive horses must be exported within 10 days of the completion of the competition, exhibition or racing event for which they were imported unless otherwise approved by AQIS.