# Application and permit to transit or tranship horses

All horses transiting or transhipping through Australian ports must have **prior written approval from the department office where the transit/transhipment will occur**. Airlines cannot transit or tranship with animals through an Australian airport without approval.

Complete all details on this form and email to the relevant department office as per below table **at least seven working days prior to date of intended transit/transhipment.**

| Port/airport | Contact |
| --- | --- |
| **Melbourne** | **horsesmelbourne@agriculture.gov.au** |
| **Sydney** | **horsessydney@agriculture.gov.au** |

The department must be advised in writing of any variation to the indicated flight schedule. Additional approval and charges will apply. If the flight arrival time changes within 24 hours of the scheduled landing, both written advice must be given and mobile phone contact must be made with the nominated department biosecurity officer.

**For animal welfare reasons, transit/transhipment times must be kept to less than six hours.**

## Conditions for transit/transhipment

If approval is granted, the following general conditions apply:

* The horses must remain in air stables on the plane whilst it is on the ground in Australia unless transhipment or unloading is approved by the department.
* Horses must not leave the Border Force controlled area of the first point of entry.
* The temperature in the cargo hold where the horses are carried must not exceed 28°C, and the horses must be transported according to International Air Transport Association (IATA) guidelines.
* Any waste associated with the horses must remain on the plane and must leave Australia with the consignment.
* At least one biosecurity officer will directly supervise horses from New Zealand while in transit/transhipment for all or part of the duration.
* At least two biosecurity officers will directly supervise horses from other countries while in transit/transhipment for all or part of the duration.
* A representative of the airline or transit agent must be available and contactable at all times while the horses are in transit/transhipment (representatives name and contact number must be provided to the relevant office as per above table).
* A veterinarian with experience in equine medicine must be identified, notified and on-call to respond to animal health and/or welfare problems for all shipments of horses (veterinarian’s name and contact numbers must be provided to the relevant regional office).
* The horses must depart Australia within six hours of the aircraft’s arrival (longer transits/transhipments may be approved, but must be assessed, and will be subject to the first two dot points above).
* All transits and transhipments must have a contingency plan in case of an extended delay to the outgoing flight/voyage. For horses from New Zealand, this may be to import the horses on a valid import permit. For all other countries, transits/transhipments must include a detailed plan for a prolonged stay (up to three days) at the first point of entry until export can be arranged.
* A copy of the health certification accompanying this consignment, issued by the certifying authority in the country of origin, must be provided.
* In the event of any alteration to this protocol, or to the flight schedule, the department must be contacted immediately.
* In event of any alteration to this protocol, and should all practical flight/contingency alternatives fail, the department may require that the horses be euthanased or exported immediately to the country of origin at the discretion of the department.
* Payment of all costs associated with department assessment, supervision and treatment of this consignment are to be met by the applicant. These fees are payable through a booking and billing AIMS entry generated through the relevant regional department office.
* Horses should not be loaded in the exporting country if departure has been delayed and they are unlikely to make the connecting flight in Australia.

Department approval for the transit or transhipment of consignments of horses through an Australian first point of entry is on a case-by-case basis. Approval of this shipment does not constitute a guarantee that future applications for transit/transhipment will be approved.

## Application to transit/tranship

| Country of export (origin): |  |
| --- | --- |
| Port for transit/transhipment: |  |
| Country of import (destination): |  |
| Airway bill number: |  |

## Applicant

| Company name: |  |
| --- | --- |
| Address: |  |
| Phone: |  |
| Mobile: |  |
| Fax/email: |  |
| Attention: |  |

## Transit agent in Australia

| Transit agent: |  |
| --- | --- |
| Address: |  |
| Phone: |  |
| Mobile: |  |
| Fax/email: |  |

**Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence.**

**(See section 137.1 of the Criminal Code)**

## Details of transit/transhipment

| Inbound flight number: |  | **Arrival date:** |  | **Arrival time:** |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Outbound flight number: |  | **Departure date:** |  | **Departure time:** |  |

| Number of horses: |  |
| --- | --- |
| Identification of horses (name, type, colour, sex, markings): Attach additional information if required. |  |
| Australian port/airport of transit/transhipment: |  |

Does the flight schedule require the horses to:

remain on the plane while in Australia

change planes while in Australia.

### Contingency plan

A contingency plan in the event of a delay in the outgoing flight or an injured/sick horse is attached and contains:

Details of the location and nature of the facilities that will accommodate and isolate the horses, including how welfare and security requirements will be met.

Relevant approval from the airport authority to hold the horses at the proposed location.

Arrangements for personnel attending the horses, including accommodation, decontamination facilities and necessary access authorisations (for example: border force/immigration clearance and airport security clearances).

Demonstrated booking of approved cleaning contractors for the incoming flights.

Procedures to ensure all biosecurity requirements are met, including secure waste disposal or storage for export with the horse.

Details of the veterinarian/s that will provide emergency treatment to the horses if required. The department should be advised of any prior arrangements for provision of emergency surgery.

**Note**: Horses that are not eligible for import to Australia will not be permitted to leave the secure side of the airport for any veterinary treatment, including emergency surgery. Veterinary treatment that can be conducted within the stall (for example: intravenous fluids, analgesics) will be permitted. The treating veterinarian will be required to decontaminate (including a 3-minute shower) and have their equipment appropriately decontaminated.

Written agreement from the country of export (and any relevant transit countries) to accept the return of the horses should this be required.

**Note**: Please note separate confirmation may be required from the destination country that they will accept import of animals that have transited or transhipped through an Australian airport/port.

Acknowledgement that should all practical flight/contingency alternatives fail, the department may require that the horse be euthanased and disposed of as biosecurity waste.

Copy of the import conditions and permit (if permit is required) for the country of import (destination) is attached.

| Signature of Australian agent: |  |
| --- | --- |
| Printed name: |  |
| Date: |  |

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## Approval

This permit is: granted ornot granted.

| Biosecurity/veterinary officer: |  |
| --- | --- |
| Signature: |  |
| Date: |  |

## Document information

The following table contains administrative metadata.

| Instructional Material Library document ID | Instructional material owner |
| --- | --- |
| IMLS-12-2525 | Director, Horses, Livestock, Bird Imports program |

## Version history

The following table details the published date and amendment details for this document.

| Version | Date | Amendment details |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1.0 | 13/03/2012 | New form for national consistency and effective implementation of biosecurity measures. |
| 2.0 | 09/05/2016 | Updated with revised policy and legislation requirements. |
| 3.0 | 08/08/2016 | Removed the official biosecurity stamp and adding the department logo to each page. |
| 4.0 | 3/11/2017 | Updated to accommodate updated transit and transhipment policy for horses. |
| 5.0 | 20/12/2017 | Updated to accommodate new developments in the transit and transhipment policy for horses. |
| 6.0 | 18/02/2020 | * Updated to remove special Hong Kong provisions and insect net requirements. * General improvements to readability. |