AQIS
AUSTRALIAN QUARANTINE AND INSPECTION SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY - AUSTRALIA

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QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TEMPORARY IMPORTATION OF HORSES FROM JAPAN FOR RACING OR OTHER COMPETITION

(originally adopted 1August 1995, piroplasmosis disease amendment 2 March 2000)

1. GENERAL

1.1 Each horse must be accompanied by a copy of a valid "Permit to Import". The Permit is obtainable from the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) office in the State of Australia to which the importation is to be made. A processing fee will be charged for the permit. A list of CQO(A) addresses is available from AQIS.

1.2 Each horse must undergo pre-export quarantine (PEQ) in approved premises for a minimum period of 14 days. The PEQ premises must meet AQIS standards and be approved by the Veterinary Administration of the exporting country. AQIS standards are at Appendix 1.

1.3 Each horse, must be accompanied by an Animal Health Certificate signed by an Official Veterinarian. An *Official Veterinarian* means a veterinarian authorised by the Veterinary Administration of the exporting country to perform animal health and/or public health inspections of commodities and, when appropriate, perform certification in conformity with the provisions of the OIE Code. The Certificate is to be stamped on each page with an Official stamp.

1.4 The Animal Health Certificate should be in accordance with the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) Animal Health Code [Code] Model Certificate No. 6. It must provide details of the certifying authority, identification of the horse, premises of origin of the horse, consignor and consignee, destination and means of transport. The certificate must be in English and in a language understood by the certifying Official Veterinarian.

1.5 Each horse must also be accompanied by a current international passport recognised by the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) and/or the OIE.

1.6 In the event of any animal arriving in Australia without the correct certification or in any other way not having met these requirements, that animal and any in-contact animals may be detained in quarantine or returned to the country of origin at the importer's expense.

1.7 The importer or the agent coordinating the importation must be Australian based and must nominate a person who will be accessible to AQIS officers.

1.8 Costs associated with the selection, testing, transport, quarantine (including any extension to the quarantine period for whatever reason) and any Australian Government veterinary supervision of the animals during each quarantine period and during transport to Australia will not be met by the Australian Government.

1.9 Conditions of importation may be varied or reviewed at any time at the discretion of AQIS.

2. CERTIFICATION

Each horse, must be accompanied by an Animal Health Certificate signed by an Official Veterinarian. An Official Veterinarian is a civil service veterinarian or a specially appointed veterinarian as authorised by the Veterinary Administration of the exporting country. The Certificate is to be stamped on each page with an Official stamp.

The Animal Health Certificate should be in accordance with the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) Animal Health Code [Code] Model Certificate No. 6. It must provide details of the certifying authority, identification of the horse, premises of origin of the horse, consignor and consignee, destination and means of transport. The certificate must be in English and in a language understood by the certifying Official Veterinarian.

The Animal Health Certificate must attest that:

2.1 So far as can be determined the horse was continuously resident for the two months immediately prior to export:

. in Japan where:

- African horse sickness, surra, glanders, Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis and vesicular stomatitis are compulsorily notifiable; and

- vaccination against African horse sickness or Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis has not been practised during the past 12months; and

- no case of African horse sickness, dourine, glanders, Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis or vesicular stomatitis had occurred during the past 2 years; and

- no case of Borna disease or surra has been reported in equines during the past 12 months; and

- an establishment or establishments in which no case of contagious equine metritis, epizootic lymphangitis, equine ehrlichiosis (*Ehrlichia equi* and *Ehrlichia risticii*), equine infectious anaemia, equine influenza, equine paratyphoid (Salmonella abortus equi), equine viral abortion, equine viral arteritis, equine piroplasmosis, horse pox, Japanese encephalitis, Lyme disease, rabies or any other notifiable disease of equines has occurred during the previous three months.

Note: equine viral abortion means disease due to infection with equine herpesvirus type 1 and includes central nervous disease.

2.2 Equine Influenza

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

2.3 During the 12 months before the pre-export quarantine period, the horse was vaccinated against Japanese encephalitis, using an approved inactivated vaccine.

2.4 The horse received no vaccinations during the pre-export quarantine period.

2.5 The horse is not pregnant.

2.6 The horse was continuously held in pre-export quarantine premises which comply with standards set by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, and which were approved by an Official Veterinarian for holding horses for export to Australia, for a minimum period of 14 days immediately prior to export.

2.7 The horse was thoroughly examined by an Official Veterinarian, or under the direct supervision of an Official Veterinarian on arrival into PEQ 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 on arrival into PEQ all horses in the PEQ premises were immediately treated with a parasiticide effective against ticks.

2.8 During the period of pre-export quarantine:

. samples were taken from the horse and subjected to a Coggins test or an approved ELISA for equine infectious anaemia, and an indirect fluorescent antibody test (IFAT) for *piroplasmosis (*Babesia equi* and *B caballi*) at an Official laboratory, with negative results in each case; and

*Note: horses that test positive for piroplasmosis may be permitted temporary import under the attached conditions (Appendix 3)

. all horses in the pre-export quarantine premises remained free from evidence of infectious or contagious disease, and had no contact with equines not of the same certified health status; and

. all horses were treated with a parasiticide effective against ticks according to the manufacturer's recommendations within 7 to 2 days prior to shipment unless ticks found on arrival and the horses have been treated.

2.9 The horse was examined by an Official Veterinarian within 24 hours prior to leaving the pre-export quarantine premises for the port of export and was found to be free from evidence of infectious or contagious disease and external parasites and fit to travel.

2.10 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.

2.11 During transport to the port of export the horse had no contact with equines not of the same certified health status.

2.12 The compartment of the aircraft or vessel to be occupied by the horse and all removable equipment, penning and containers including loading ramps were satisfactorily cleaned and disinfected prior to loading.

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

3. TRANSPORT

3.1 The horse must be consigned to Australia by a route approved by the Director. It may be accompanied by other animals only with the approval of the Director. Any transhipment requires the approval of the Director. Approval from relevant authorities will also be required in the countries of transit and transhipment on route.

3.2 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.

3.3 The design of the containers, the recommended species requirements, the preparation for transport, and the disinfection of the interior of the aircraft or vessel, removable equipment, penning and containers must be in accordance with the recommendations of the OIE International Animal Health Code 6th Edition and International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animal Regulations unless otherwise agreed by the Director.

The use of hay or straw as bedding during transport by air is not permitted; treated wood shavings, sterilised peat and soft board may be used.

4. ENTRY AND POST-ARRIVAL QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Each imported horse must undergo post-arrival quarantine (PAQ) in a Government animal quarantine station or other approved premises for a minimum period of 14 days. AQIS Standards for approved PAQ premises are at Appendix 2.

4.2 Each imported horse must be thoroughly examined for ticks within 48 hours of arrival in Australia under the direct supervision of a Quarantine Officer. A systematic approach must be taken with close examination of ears, false nostrils, under-body areas (axilla, inguinal, under jawbone), perineum, mane and tail

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

4.3 After completion of PAQ each uncastrated male horse and each female horse imported under these conditions will be held under quarantine surveillance until exported, or until tested for contagious equine metritis and/or equine viral arteritis, to the satisfaction of the CQO(A). Export shall be within 2 months following import unless otherwise agreed by the CQO(A). 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 the CQO(A) in the State in which surveillance is to be undertaken.

4.4 During PAQ and while the imported horses remain under quarantine surveillance, they may be subjected to any testing or treatment prescribed by the Director at the importers expense.

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

4.6 The importer will be charged for services provided by the Australian Government. If any animals die or are destroyed during any period of control, compensation will not be paid by the Australian Government.

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APPENDIX 1

AQIS STANDARDS FOR PRE-EXPORT QUARANTINE PREMISES FOR HORSES FOR EXPORT FROM JAPAN TO AUSTRALIA

1. LOCATION

1.1 The premises must be located in a Japan, or part of the territory of Japan, that has been free from African horse sickness, Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis and vesicular stomatitis for 2 years.

1.2 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.

1.3 The premises must be within 240 km of the port of embarkation and should be conveniently located for supervision by an Official Veterinarian, except as specifically authorised by AQIS.

2 FACILITIES

2.1 The premises must be surrounded by two stockproof fences at least 5 metres apart except where the wall of a building forms part of the perimeter.

2.2 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.

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

2.4 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.

2.5 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.

3 OPERATION

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

3.2 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.

3.3 The PEQ must be supervised by an Official Veterinarian.

3.4 The PEQ period shall be deemed to 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.

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

3.6 All equipment used in the 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.

3.7 Personnel attending the horses must don outer clothing and footwear used exclusively in the premises during PEQ, and wash hands, before handling the animals.

3.8 Any health problems affecting horses or other stock on the premises during PEQ must be promptly reported to the supervising Official Veterinarian. AQIS must be notified if the incident is of quarantine concern.

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

3.10 Entry to the premises should be prevented unless specifically authorised by the supervising Official Veterinarian. All visitors entries should be recorded.

3.11 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.

3.12 The owner or person in charge of the premises must not be the owner or vendor of any of the horses undergoing pre-export quarantine except as specifically authorised by AQIS.

APPENDIX 2

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

1. LOCATION

1.1 The premises must be located in an area that has been free from equine infectious anaemia for 12 months.

1.2 For the duration of post-arrival quarantine (PAQ), other equidae should not be depastured, held or exercised within 100 metres of horses on the premises.

1.3 The premises should be close to the port of arrival and be conveniently located for supervision by an AQIS Veterinarian.

2 FACILITIES

2.1 The premises must be surrounded by two secure stockproof fences at least 5 metres apart except where the wall of a building forms part of the perimeter.

2.2 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.

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

2.4 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.

2.5 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.

3 OPERATION

3.1 The premises must be approved by AQIS prior to the commencement of each PAQ.

3.2 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.

3.3 The PAQ must be supervised by an AQIS Veterinarian.

3.4 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.

3.5 During the PAQ the premises must only be occupied by horses of the import consignment unless otherwise agreed by AQIS.

3.6 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.

3.7 Personnel attending the horses must have no contact with horses outside the premises during PAQ. They must change outer clothing and footwear, and wash hands, before leaving the PAQ premises.

3.8 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.

3.9 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.

3.10 Unauthorised access to the premises should be prevented. All visitor entries should be recorded.

3.11 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.

APPENDIX 3

Quarantine Requirements for the Temporary Importation of Horses that are Serologically Positive for Equine Piroplasmosis for Competition, Exhibition or Racing Purposes

Horses which give positive results in tests for equine piroplasmosis will be permitted temporary import to compete in international competitions such as dressage, showjumping, eventing, races and exhibitions under the following conditions.

Note: AQIS will not permit the importation of horses serologically positive for equine piroplasmosis to compete in events where there is prolonged exposure to vegetation and opportunity for tick attachment such as endurance rides and driving events which involve a marathon phase.

1. General

These quarantine requirements are additional to Quarantine Requirements for the Temporary Importation of Horses for Racing and Other Competition from specified countries.

2. Certification

The Animal Health Certificate must attest that each horse for export in the consignment:

2.1 Showed no clinical sign of equine piroplasmosis during pre-export quarantine (PEQ).

2.2 Was subjected to an indirect fluorescent antibody test (IFAT) for *Babesia equi* and *Babesia caballi*, during PEQ, at an Official laboratory with the following results:

- *Babesia equi* POSITIVE/NEGATIVE
- *Babesia caballi* POSITIVE/NEGATIVE
  (delete result which is not applicable)

2.3 Was thoroughly examined by an Official Veterinarian, or under the direct supervision of an Official Veterinarian on arrival into PEQ 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 on arrival into PEQ all horses in the PEQ premises were immediately treated with a parasiticide effective against ticks

2.4 Was treated with a parasiticide effective against ticks according to manufacturer's recommendations during PEQ between 7 to 2 days within shipment unless ticks found on arrival and the horses have been treated.

2.5 Was thoroughly examined by an Official Veterinarian, or under the direct supervision of an Official Veterinarian within 24 hours prior to leaving the pre-export quarantine premises for the port of export 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 within 24 hours of the scheduled date of export, AQIS was notified and all horses were treated with a parasiticide effective against ticks and re-examined and found to be free of ticks prior to export.

3. Post Arrival Quarantine and Surveillance Requirements

3.1 All horses irrespective of serological status must be thoroughly examined for ticks within 48 hours of arrival in Australia under the direct supervision of a Quarantine Officer. A systematic approach must be taken with close examination of ears, false nostrils, under-body areas (axilla, inguinal, under jawbone), 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 should be identified).

3.2 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.

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

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

3.5 Grass in exercise areas of PAQ and competition sites must be kept very short by such measures as regular mowing.

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

3.7 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.

3.8 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 a Quarantine Officer or under the supervision of a Quarantine Officer until export of the seropositive horses.

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

3.10 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.

3.11 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 be sourced from *B. microplus* free areas.

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

3.13 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 the Director.