



Australian Government
Biosecurity Australia

20 April 2007

QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF HORSES FROM THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Conditions of Administration

Importation under these conditions is restricted to horses that have been continuously resident in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) 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 the horses. A full description of each horse (including tattoos, microchips, brands, silhouettes) must be provided with the permit application.

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

Live Animal Imports

AQIS

GPO Box 858

Canberra ACT 2601

Fax +61 2 6272 3110

E-mail animalimp@aqis.gov.au

Phone +61 2 6272 4454

The full requirements 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), 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 the Code.

Format of the veterinary certificate

1. The veterinary certificate must:

- be written in English
- meet all 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, breed, sex and age
- include the name and address of the importer and exporter and 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
- record his/her 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 importation of horses from the UAE

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 other livestock are not held, depastured or exercised within 200 metres of horses on the premises
- other equines are not stabled or worked within 50 metres of horses on the premises.

Facilities

1. The premises must be surrounded by a secure perimeter fence preventing contact with any horse not undergoing the same PEQ.
2. The premises must have facilities for the safe unloading and loading of horses.

Operation

1. The premises must be approved by an Official Veterinarian 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. The PEQ stables must be insect screened.
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 without permission of the supervising Official Veterinarian and AQIS.
5. During PEQ, the premises must not be occupied by horses other than those of this consignment unless otherwise agreed by 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 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.

Veterinary certification for the importation of horses from the UAE

1. For the 60 days 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 has occurred during the last 2 years
- no case of surra or Borna disease has been reported in equines during the past 12 months and
- no case of equine influenza has been reported in the past 3 months.

2. So far as can be determined, for the 60 days immediately prior to export the horse was continuously resident 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:

- epizootic lymphangitis
- equine ehrlichiosis (*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*, *Babesia caballi*)
- horse pox
- Japanese encephalitis
- Lyme disease
- rabies

3. During the 4 months before the PEQ period the horse was vaccinated against equine influenza, using an approved inactivated vaccine:

- as a certified primary course comprising at least two doses in accordance with the manufacturer's directions

or

- as a booster within 6 months of the primary course or previous booster vaccination where it, and any prior vaccinations, have been administered at least annually since the primary course.

4. 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) has occurred during the past 12 months.

* Note: One to be deleted

5. So far as can be determined, the horse* is not known to have been infected with *Taylorella equigenitalis* or mated with another horse known to have been infected with *Taylorella equigenitalis*.

During the 60 days prior to export, the horse was tested for *Taylorella equigenitalis*, with negative results by culture of samples collected on three occasions (*insert dates*) at an interval of no less than 7 days from the urethra, urethral fossa and penile sheath (colts and stallions) or the clitoral fossa including the clitoral sinuses, and on one occasion (*insert date*) of a sample collected from the deep cervix during oestrus (fillies and mares). The samples were set up for culture within 48 hours of collection at the Central Veterinary Research Laboratory (CVRL), Dubai. The horse was not mated after collection of the first samples for culture.

Note* Testing for *T. equigenitalis* does not apply to geldings or unweaned foals accompanying their dams.

6. 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 premises requirements'. During the PEQ period the horse was stabled in insect screened stables except during exercise sessions. The horse was treated with an approved insect repellent on each occasion prior to leaving the stables for exercise.

7. In the case of a colt or stallion the horse:

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

or

- was subjected to a virus neutralisation test for EVA with negative results, remained isolated until vaccinated for EVA and then regularly revaccinated in accordance with the vaccine manufacturer's directions

or

- was subjected to virus isolation tests, as described in the OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines, on two semen samples collected soon after entry into PEQ, with negative results.

8. During the period of PEQ:

- the horse on entry to the PEQ premises was treated with a parasiticide effective against ticks according to the manufacturer's recommendations and was subsequently examined thoroughly for ticks, in a systematic manner paying close attention to the ears, false nostrils, axillary, inguinal and submandibular areas, perineum, mane and tail, and found to be free of ticks
- samples were taken from the horse not less than 10 days after commencement of PEQ and subjected, at an official laboratory, to indirect fluorescent antibody tests (IFAT) for

piroplasmosis (*Theileria equi* and *Babesia caballi*) and an antibody enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (Ab ELISA) for surra (*Trypanosoma evansi*) with negative results in each case

- the horse was subjected to a negative agar gel immunodiffusion (AGID, Coggins) test for equine infectious anaemia
- the horse was treated with a broad spectrum anthelmintic
- the horse was not vaccinated
- 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.

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 container 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. Prior to loading the horse was treated with an approved insect repellent.

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

12. I am satisfied, after due enquiry, that the preparation for transport including disinfection of the interior of the aircraft, removable equipment and penning and containers have met the recommendations of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code and that the containers are of a standard not less than that required by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animal Regulations.

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.

Post-arrival quarantine requirements for the importation of horses 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. All occupied stables at the quarantine premises must be sprayed with a residual insecticide (eg permethrin) prior to the horses arriving at the premises. All horses in PAQ must be treated with an insect repellent on each occasion prior to being taken out of the stables for exercise.

2. All horses 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, they must be identified and the species recorded, and the whole consignment must be treated with an approved acaricide according to manufacturer's recommendations.

3. 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 negative 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.

4. During PAQ and while the imported horses remain under quarantine surveillance, they may be subjected to testing or treatment prescribed by AQIS at the importer's expense.

5. If any horse fails a test or shows signs of disease or does not meet these requirements, 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.

ROBYN MARTIN
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Animal Biosecurity