



Department of  
**AGRICULTURE  
FISHERIES &  
FORESTRY -  
AUSTRALIA**



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## **QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF HORSES FROM CANADA**

(Adopted 17 July 1997, piroplasmosis amendment 10 February 2000, WNV amendment 1 May 2003)

### **1. GENERAL CONDITIONS**

- 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) in the State into which the importation is to be made. A processing fee will be charged for the permit.
- 1.2 If the horse is, or may be, pregnant AQIS must be notified when the application for the Permit to Import is submitted.
- 1.3 Each horse must undergo pre-export quarantine (PEQ) in approved premises for a minimum period of 21 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.
- 1.4 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 Office International des Epizooties (OIE) Code. The Certificate is to be stamped on each page with an Official stamp.
- 1.5 The Animal Health Certificate should conform to the 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*.
- 1.6 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



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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 the Australian Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine (herein called the Director).

## 2. CERTIFICATION

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, or since importation from Australia,:

. in Canada where:

- African horse sickness (AHS), contagious equine metritis, dourine, glanders, vesicular stomatitis and Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis are compulsorily notifiable; and
- where occurrences of eastern and western equine encephalomyelitides are reported to the veterinary administration; and
- vaccination against African horse sickness has not been practised in the last 12 months; and

. in part of the territory of Canada in which:

- no case of African horse sickness, contagious equine metritis, dourine, glanders, Venezuelan, Eastern or Western equine encephalomyelitides (VEE, EEE, WEE), or vesicular stomatitis has 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

. in an establishment or establishments in which no case of epizootic lymphangitis, equine ehrlichiosis (*Ehrlichia risticii* and *Ehrlichia equi*), equine infectious anaemia, equine influenza, 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 During the 4 months before the pre-export quarantine period, the horse was vaccinated against equine influenza, using an approved 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, 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 instructions.
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 The horse received no vaccinations during the 21-day pre-export quarantine period.
- 2.6 The horse is not pregnant.

**OR**

The horse is, or may be, pregnant; so far as can be determined, she is less than 7 months pregnant and has been continuously resident, since last being covered, in an establishment or establishments in which no case of contagious equine metritis or equine viral abortion occurred during the past 12 months.

- 2.7 **Equine Viral Arteritis.**  
In the case of the entire (uncastrated) male horse.

**EITHER**

So far as can be determined, on the basis of relevant laboratory reports and vaccination certificates, the horse has been tested for equine viral arteritis (EVA) with negative results using an approved test, and subsequently vaccinated against EVA with an approved vaccine.

**OR**

During the 60 days prior to export the horse was tested negative for equine viral arteritis (EVA):

- by a virus neutralisation (VN) test, **OR**
- by a virus isolation test on two semen samples at the University of Kentucky or an Official Laboratory recognised as having appropriate expertise in this field (semen samples can be collected on the same day or on consecutive days or after an interval of several days).

**Note:** The horse is not to be mated by natural service during the period commencing the 14 days before collection for serology or semen for virus isolation until the horse is exported.

- 2.8 The horse was held in pre-export quarantine premises which comply with standards set by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, (Appendix 1) and which were approved by an *Official Veterinarian* for holding horses for export to Australia, for a minimum period of 21 days prior to export.
- 2.9 The horse was thoroughly examined by an Official Veterinarian, or under the direct supervision of an Official Veterinarian on arrival into pre-export quarantine 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 pre-export quarantine all horses in the pre-export quarantine premises were immediately treated with a parasiticide effective against ticks.
- 2.10 During the period of pre-export quarantine:
- . samples were taken from the horse and subjected to a Coggins test or an approved enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (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
  - . the horse was treated with a broad-spectrum anthelmintic containing ..... (active ingredient/s); and
  - . the horse was treated with a broad-spectrum parasiticide containing..... (active ingredient/s) 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; and
  - . 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 health status.
- Note: Certifications 2.2, 2.3, 2.7, and 2.10 do not apply to unweaned foals, under 6 months old, travelling with their dams, with the exception that foals must be treated with a broad spectrum parasiticide and anthelmintic as in 2.10.
- 2.11 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.
- 2.12 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.
- 2.13 During transport to the port of export the horse had no contact with equines not of the same certified health status.

2.14 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.

2.15 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 transshipment requires the approval of the Director. Approval from the relevant authorities will also be required in the countries of transit and transshipment 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 Code and International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animal Regulations unless otherwise agreed by the Director.

The use of hay or straw 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.

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, face, 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 Each imported pregnant mare will be held under quarantine surveillance in approved premises until at least 20 days after foaling. Detailed conditions of quarantine surveillance for pregnant mares are available from AQIS.

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

**1. LOCATION**

- 1.1 The premises must be located in Canada, or part of the territory of Canada, 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 the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (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 be 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, or of equivalent health status, 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.

