



Australian Government
Biosecurity Australia

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QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TEMPORARY IMPORTATION OF HORSES FROM THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES FOR COMPETING IN INTERNATIONAL RACES OR OTHER EQUESTRIAN EVENTS

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 and that will be exported from Australia not less than 60 days after arrival. The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) may allow importation of horses that have been imported into the UAE from an approved third country less than 60 days previously subject to appropriate health certification.

Permission to import must be obtained in writing from 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 2600

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 will travel with:

- a current international passport in accord with the Model Passport for International Movement of Competition Horses recommended in the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code (the Code), or a similar official document issued by an internationally recognised horse organisation, and
- an original international veterinary certificate in accord with 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 Section 1.2.2. of the Code.

Format of the veterinary certificate

1. The veterinary certificate must:

- be written in English
- certify the requirements detailed in the **Veterinary certification** section of these conditions
- provide the identification for each animal (passport details and/or microchip number/site or brand or silhouette), description, species, sex and age
- include the name and address of the importer and exporter and the AQIS Import Permit number.

2. The certifying Official Veterinarian 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 temporary importation of horses for competition 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 livestock are not held, depastured or exercised within 200 metres of horses on the premises
- other equines are not stabled or worked within 100 metres of horses on the premises.

Facilities

1. The premises must be surrounded by a secure perimeter fence.

2. Stables on the premises must be insect-screened and must be constructed so that they can be readily cleaned and disinfected.

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.

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.

5. Horses must not leave the premises during PEQ except for training under official veterinary supervision. While the horses are training, the supervising Official Veterinarian must ensure the horses continue to be separated by at least 200 metres from where camels or livestock may be held, depastured or exercised or transported, and by at least 100 metres from horses other than those undergoing PEQ. During transport or movement to and from the place of training, the horses must have no contact with horses other than those undergoing PEQ.
6. During PEQ, the premises must not be occupied by horses other than those of this consignment unless otherwise agreed by AQIS.
7. 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 PEQ.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. Entry to the premises must be prevented unless specifically authorised by the supervising Official Veterinarian. All visitor entries must be recorded.
12. 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 temporary importation of horses for competition 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 had occurred during the last 2 years
 - no case of Borna disease or surra 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:
 - contagious equine metritis
 - epizootic lymphangitis
 - equine ehrlichiosis (*Anaplasma phagocytophilum* formerly *Ehrlichia equi*)

- equine herpesvirus virus 1 (EHV-1) infection associated with central nervous disease or abortion
- equine infectious anaemia
- equine viral arteritis
- equine piroplasmosis (see note under clause 5. below)
- 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:

- once as a booster to a certified primary course

or

- twice at an interval of 4 to 6 weeks.

4. 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 treated with an approved insect repellent on each occasion prior to leaving the stables for training or any other purpose.

5. 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 within 24 hours of the commencement of PEQ 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;
- samples were taken from the horse not less than 5 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), haematocrit centrifugation and buffy coat smear examination, as described in the OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines, for surra (*Trypanosoma evansi*), with negative results in each case;
- 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.

* Horses that test positive for piroplasmosis, or that have been in an establishment that has had cases of piroplasmosis, may be permitted temporary import under the additional post-arrival quarantine and surveillance requirements detailed below. If a horse is seropositive the certificate must be amended accordingly. Such horses will not be permitted importation for participation in endurance rides.

6. The horse is not pregnant.

7. I examined the horse within 24 hours prior to leaving the PEQ premises for the port of export and found it to be free from evidence of infectious or contagious disease, free of external parasites and fit to travel.

8. The container for the transport of the horse to the port of export was cleaned and disinfected with a prescribed disinfectant to my satisfaction prior to loading the animals. Prior to loading the horse was treated with an approved insect repellent and after loading the container was disinfected.

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

10. 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.

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 sprayed with a residual insecticide (eg permethrin) prior to the horses arriving at the premises. The horse 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 horse imported under these conditions will be held under quarantine surveillance until exported. Export shall be within 60 days 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.

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.

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 or that have recently been exposed to piroplasmosis*

* this includes horses that have been resident in the two months preceding export on an establishment that has had cases of piroplasmosis in the 3 months prior to export.

1. Post-arrival quarantine (PAQ) and competition sites must be approved by AQIS to hold seropositive horses and other horses subject to these requirements. AQIS may require a survey of the site/s for ticks. Access to these horses will be restricted.

2. PAQ must be conducted in areas free of the cattle tick *Boophilus microplus*. Grass in exercise areas of PAQ and competition sites must be kept very short. Measures must be taken to prevent iatrogenic spread of disease including the use of disposable equipment. Hay, chaff and any other feedstuffs, and straw or other plant material used for bedding, must be heat treated or sourced from *B. microplus* free areas.

3. Horses subject to these requirements must:

- be easily identifiable (for example by a unique colour coded disc on their head collar and bridle) and under official supervision whilst in Australia
- remain on approved PAQ premises and competition sites except during controlled movement between these sites
- not remain in areas where *B. microplus* is present for more than 7 days
- 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
- be examined daily for ticks by an AQIS officer or under the supervision of an AQIS Officer until export of these horses as must all other horses on the same site including those in separate buildings
- be treated weekly with a permethrin based insecticidal product
- 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.

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