



## The proposed implementation scheme for the HHP concept

Susanne Münstermann

Scientific and Technical Department, OIE Paris

Regional Workshop for Asia, Far East and Oceania  
Hong Kong, 18 - 20 February 2013

## Collaboration with the industry

### Key partners:

→ International Equestrian Federation (FEI)

### Key implementers:

• National Equestrian Federations

→ International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA)

### Key implementers:

• National Racing Authorities



## Content

- Recap on HHP subpopulation
- The proposed new Code Chapter
- The "operationalisation"
  - Preparation period: *how to become an HHP horse?*
  - HHP health Certificate
  - Travel
  - Options upon return
- The way forward

## New Code chapter for adoption in 2014

Draft Chapter 4.X

### HIGH HEALTH STATUS HORSE SUBPOPULATION

Article 4 X 1

#### General provisions

This chapter provides recommendations for the establishment of a subpopulation of horses that are moved internationally to compete in equestrian competitions, including thoroughbred races, and that have a certified high health status, in order to facilitate their safe temporary importation, ensure movement and return to the country of usual residence.

In line with the provisions in Chapter 4.4, the subpopulation is established by the application of documented health management practices and biosecurity measures to create a functional separation between horses within the defined subpopulation and all other equids. The separation, at all times, of high health status horses from all other equids is essential to maintain their membership in the subpopulation.

Horses that are moved internationally for the purpose of breeding or any other purpose not linked to competitions are not included in this subpopulation.

Article 4 x 2

#### Criteria for the inclusion of horses in the high health status subpopulation

##### 1. High health status

Each horse in the subpopulation is subjected to specific measures to protect its health and minimise the probability of spreading diseases to other horses.

These measures comprise a specific set of laboratory tests and vaccinations appropriate to the disease status of the horse's region of origin and the regions that it will visit. Records of all vaccinations, and results of tests and clinical inspections are documented in an individual passport that complies with Chapter 5.12.

## HHP recap

They can be defined as a  
**SUB-POPULATION**  
of the global equine population

Proposed name

**HHP horse**

(High health, high performance horse)



## Key elements of the Chapter

### 1. General provisions:

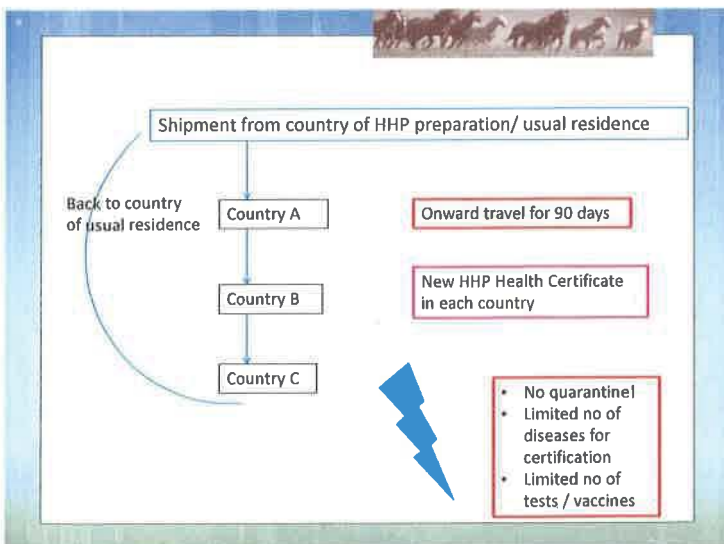
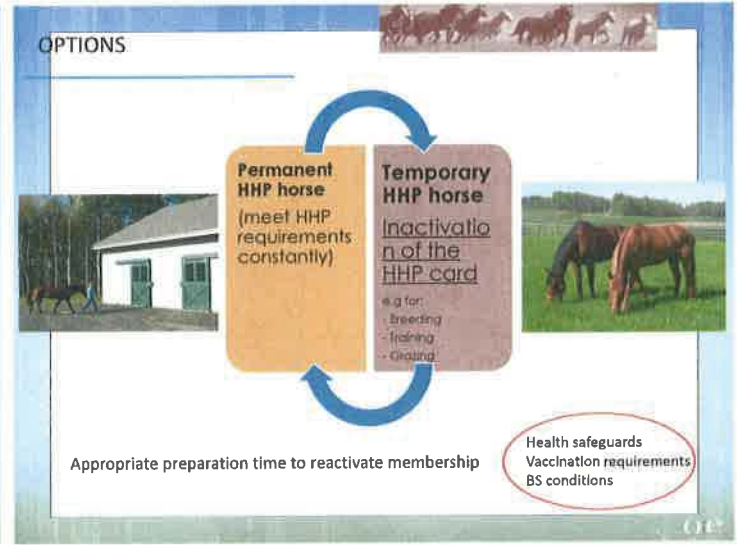
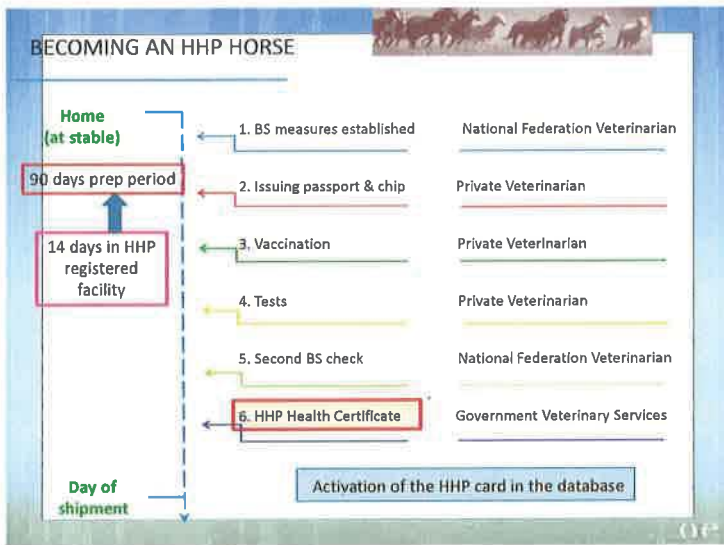
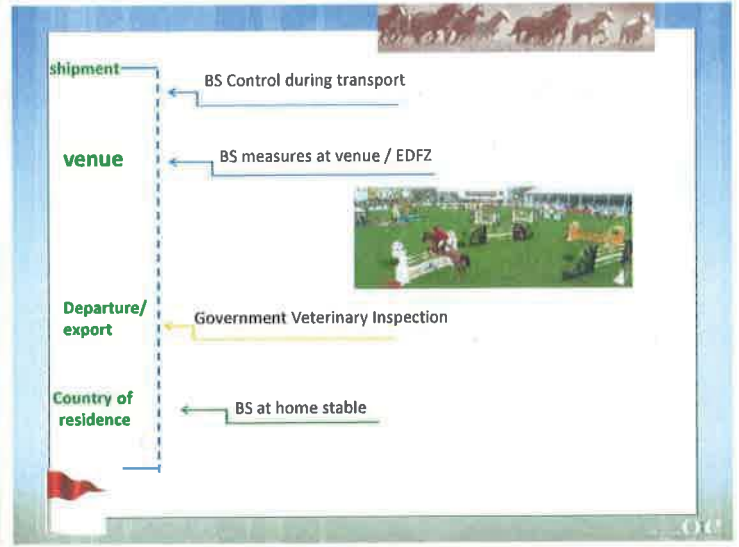
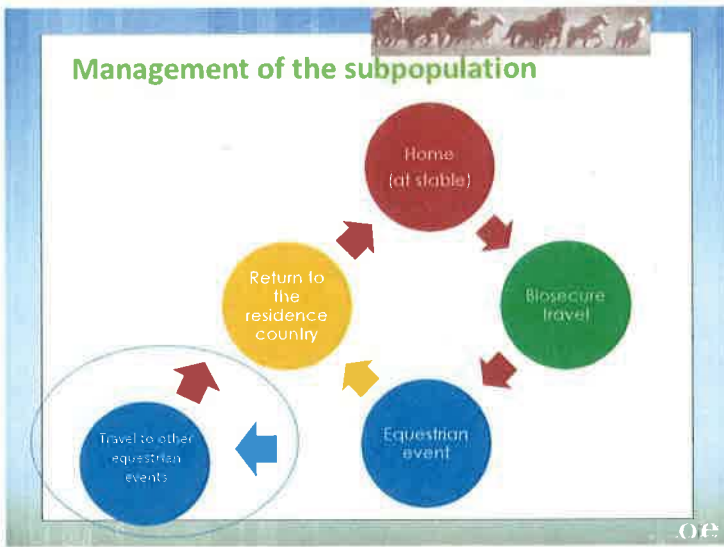
- Temporary movement with return to country of usual residence
- In line with compartmentalisation chapter
- Only for competition, not for breeding

### 2. Criteria for inclusion in subpopulation

- High health status (a set of measures)
- Identification and traceability
- Management of subpopulation

### 3. Recommendations to the Veterinary Authorities

- Develop temporary importation
- Acknowledge OIE Biosecurity GL



### Watch this space!!!

<http://www.oie.int/en/our-scientific-expertise/specific-information-and-recommendations/international-competition-horse-movement/>

OIE website → Our scientific expertise →  
 Special information → international competition horse movement



## The way forward

- Sensitisation of all stakeholders by OIE
  - Clearly identify and describe the advantages of the HHP concept
- Assurance that HHP concept follows general scientific principles in line with those already accepted in *Code*
  - Develop more Chapters (e.g. HHP Certificate) and Guidelines (BSG)
  - 3-year workprogram (step by step)
- Industry partners to consult at national, regional and international level to work out practical, feasible and enforceable implementation models
  - Might differ for FEI and racing industries

OIE



Thank you for your attention!



Oie

World  
Organisation  
for Animal  
Health

OIE

## ANALYSIS OF REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF HORSES IN ASIA

– A questionnaire survey –



### FINAL REPORT

Regional Workshop for Asia, Far East and Oceania

Hong Kong, 18 – 20 February 2014

### List of contents

LIST OF CONTENTS .....	5
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	6
1. INTRODUCTION .....	9
2. OBJECTIVES .....	9
3. MATERIAL AND METHODS .....	10
4. RESULTS .....	10
4.1 REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF HORSES INTO YOUR COUNTRY .....	10
4.2 DISEASE FREEDOM REQUIREMENTS .....	11
4.3 VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS .....	17
4.4 HEALTH CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS .....	18
4.5 QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS .....	19
4.6 TRANSPORT REQUIREMENTS .....	20
5. ANALYSIS OF SPECIFIC DISEASES .....	20
5.1 AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS (TERRESTRIAL CODE CHAPTER 12.1) .....	20
5.2 EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANAEMIA (TERRESTRIAL CODE CHAPTER 12.5) .....	23
5.3 EQUINE INFLUENZA (TERRESTRIAL CODE CHAPTER 2.5.7) .....	25
5.4 VENEZUELAN EQUINE ENCEPHALOMYELITIS (TERRESTRIAL CODE CHAPTER 12.11) .....	28
5.5 GLANDERS (TERRESTRIAL CODE CHAPTER 12.10, UNDER REVISION) .....	30
5.6 PINOPLASMOSES (TERRESTRIAL CODE CHAPTER 12.7) .....	33
6. INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS .....	36
7. CONCLUSIONS .....	38
ANNEX - THE QUESTIONNAIRE AND ACRONYMS .....	39

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This report was prepared by Dr Susanne Münstermann, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, Paris and Dr Ines de Guindos Talavera, Intern at the OIE on the basis of submitted questionnaires. The draft report was presented at the Workshop held in Hong Kong. Countries were requested to send observations, corrections and comments to the authors during the 14 days after the workshop. Comments received were duly incorporated into this final version of the report.

#### DISCLAIMER

All OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health) publications are protected by international copyright law. Extracts may be copied, reproduced, translated, adapted or published in journals, documents, books, electronic media and any other medium destined for the public, for information, educational or commercial purposes, provided prior written permission has been granted by the OIE.

The designations and denominations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the OIE concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries.

The views expressed are solely the responsibility of the authors. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by the OIE in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

© OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health), March 2014

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. A questionnaire-based survey of 20 countries and one special administrative region in the OIE Asia, Far East and Oceania region was conducted in December 2013 to January 2014.
2. All 21 respondents provided useful information to the OIE.
3. The survey comprised questions related to (i) conditions for temporary (T) and permanent (P) importation of horses; (ii) requirements for disease freedom of the exporting country, zone and establishment; (iii) vaccination and testing requirements; (iv) quarantine requirements and (v) specific requirements during transportation.
4. The main aim of the survey was to get a better understanding of the diversity of requirements in the region and to identify a possible base for harmonisation of these requirements.
5. In this regard, the heterogeneity of countries in the region was reflected most obviously by the long and diverse list of 43 diseases for which respondents require some form of health certification.
6. A detailed analysis of country requirements relating to 6 of the 17 OIE listed equine diseases, i.e. those prioritised by the *ad hoc* Group on the High Health, High Performance (HHP) equine subpopulation, was carried out and the key results are summarised hereafter. A detailed description of each element listed can be found in the respective disease section:
  - a. African horse sickness (AHS):
 

There is a high degree of harmonisation in responses for this disease. Nineteen of 21 respondents require certification of freedom for either country (12) or country/zone (6) or additionally a free zone (1) or a free establishment of origin (1).<sup>1</sup>

The period of freedom before export varies greatly (40 days to 5 years) while the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (hereafter the *Code*) stipulates 2 years.

Seven respondents indicate that horses should not be vaccinated against AHS, while 3 request vaccination. The *Code* recommends that horses should not be vaccinated unless they originate from infected countries, in which case vaccination should be done 40 days before export and horses should be held in quarantine for this 40-day period.

Six respondents indicate that if the horse comes from an infected country, they require a test.

Six respondents require pre-export quarantine (PEQ) and 4 of these require additional post-arrival quarantine (PAQ).
  - b. Equine infectious anaemia (EIA)
 

As for AHS, there is a high degree of harmonisation in responses for this disease. Nineteen of 21 respondents require certification of freedom for either the entire country (6), country/zone (2) or establishment (13) of origin.<sup>1</sup> The *Code* makes no provision for country or zonal freedom.

The period of freedom before export varies greatly (30 days to 2 years).

One respondent requires vaccination; the OIE Manual of Diagnostic Test and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (hereafter the *Manual*) discourages vaccination.

The majority of respondents (20/21) require laboratory testing, in line with the provisions in the *Manual*.

<sup>1</sup> Figures do not tally as some countries indicate several requirements. Detailed description is provided in the respective disease section.



Both PEQ and PAQ are required by 11 respondents.

**c. Equine influenza (EI)**

There is a high degree of harmonisation in responses for this disease, since 18 of 21 respondents require certification of freedom for either a free country (5), country/zone (5) or establishment (8) of origin.

The period of freedom before export varies greatly (21 days to 3 years); the Code stipulates 2 years.

Most respondents (15) indicate that they require vaccination prior to export and 4 of those apply OIE recommendations regarding the vaccination scheme. Others use a wide range of time periods when the vaccination should be applied prior to export.

Eleven respondents indicate that they require pre-export testing of horses imported from EI infected countries and 6 of these also require the test regardless of the exporting country's EI status.

Nine respondents impose PEQ and 8 of these also require PAQ, which leads to a total of 7 – 75 days spent in quarantine. This illustrates the variable nature of certification requirements and the fact that some countries are imposing excessive and unnecessary requirements.

**d. Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis (VEE)**

There is a high degree of harmonisation in responses for this disease. Sixteen of 21 respondents require certification of freedom for either a free country (9), country/zone (5) or/and establishment (3) of origin.<sup>1</sup>

The period of freedom before export varies greatly (7 days to 3 years); the Code stipulates 2 years.

Two countries indicate that they require vaccination prior to export.

Five respondents require a test for VEE if horses come from VEE infected countries (3) or for all countries (2).

Eight countries require PEQ; 6 of these also impose PAQ.

**e. Glanders**

There is a high degree of harmonisation; 17 of 21 respondents require certification of freedom for either a free country (13), country/zone (3) or/and establishment (4) of origin.<sup>1</sup>

The period of freedom before export varies greatly (3 months to 3 years); the Code stipulates 3 years for historical freedom or 6 months if a national surveillance programme is in place.

Thirteen respondents indicate that they require a test if glanders exists in the exporting country, 3 of these also want the test done regardless of the country status for glanders.

Seven respondents impose PEQ and 6 of these also require PAQ.

**f. Piroplasmosis**

There is some harmonisation; 14 of 21 respondents require certification of freedom for either a free country (6), country/zone (2) or establishment (8) of origin.<sup>1</sup>

The period of freedom before export varies (30 days to 1 year). The Code does not make provision for a free country or establishment.

7

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Horses are moved internationally for many different reasons such as breeding, sales, slaughter, racing and competitions. The horse industry of thoroughbred racing and equestrian sport disciplines has undergone rapid growth in the last decade. Competition venues, traditionally located in countries of Europe, North America and Australia have multiplied and are now also found in regions such as Eastern Europe, South America, the Arabian Peninsula, Asia and Africa. Countries have also started to assess the value of their equine industries and have come to appreciate its contribution to job creation and GDP.

The risk of spreading equine diseases internationally has grown with this increased movement and the onus is on the national Veterinary Services to continuously update and align their equine health requirements for the importation of horses with the prevailing risks. Veterinary Services are encouraged to differentiate between the purposes of importation and devise measures for permanent and temporary importation accordingly. In addition, harmonisation of importation requirements at regional level, particularly in countries other than the classical horse sport countries, has been identified as a true need in order to support the growth in countries or regions where the sport has great potential for additional growth.

In view of assisting Member Countries in the process of addressing the increase of international horse movement, the OIE has engaged in a partnership with the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) and the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) in form of a Public-Private-Partnership (PPP). In the framework of this PPP, regional workshops are being organised and have already taken place in the Americas, held in Panama in December 2012. Other regions, such as Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe will see similar regional workshops. These workshops bring together representatives of Veterinary Services, national Equestrian Federations (members of the FEI) and national Horseracing Authorities (members of the IFHA). The dialogue between these most important stakeholders for international horse movement is encouraged during these workshops in order to facilitate the achievement of the objectives.

## 2. OBJECTIVES OF THE SURVEY AND THE WORKSHOP

The main objective of this survey is to analyse the currently existing regulatory equine health requirements for the importation of horses in OIE Member Countries in Asia, the Far East and Oceania. For the OIE, this region includes 32 countries of which not all countries have a significant horse population or horse industry. Hence the analysis was carried out amongst 20 countries and one special administrative region (SAR) only.

The analysis has been carried out in view of identifying the alignment of country requirements with the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and the diversity in the existing requirements between the surveyed cohort of countries/SAR.

The objective of this workshop is to explain to OIE Member Countries the rationale for establishing distinct rules for the permanent and temporary importation of horses; the health conditions that are appropriate for horses that are members of the 'High Health, High Performance' subpopulation, and to propose the harmonisation of requirements for temporary movements of such horses between countries in the region for the purpose of competing in high level equestrian events.

9

Fifteen respondents require a test in line with Code recommendations.

Eight countries impose PEQ and 5 of these also require PAQ.

7. In addition to the six diseases discussed above contagious equine metritis, dourine, eastern and western equine encephalomyelitis, vesicular stomatitis and surra have a high degree of harmonisation in terms of health requirements.

8. Ten respondents indicate that they make provision for temporary importation and one respondent indicated that there are only conditions for temporary importation and that conditions for permanent importation are agreed on bilateral basis. This respondent could only be partially included in the analysis.

9. The requirements of the 10 respondents that have a temporary import provision were scrutinised regarding facilitated importation. For 3 of the 10 respondents it was possible to conclude that the conditions for temporary importation of horses give a basis to facilitate international movement. This suggests that the objective of developing such conditions (i.e. to facilitate safe movement of competition horses) is not being achieved in most cases.

10. The inclusion of PEQ and PAQ requirements for all OIE listed diseases and 17 non-listed diseases appears to be one of the major obstacles for facilitated movement in the region.

11. The results of this analysis indicate that there is a good basis for harmonisation of disease freedom and other health requirements. However, in view of the OIE's objective to facilitate international horse movement across borders within the Asian Region, this harmonisation needs to embrace a greater number of countries.

12. The option to import horses on a temporary basis provides the opportunity to request health requirements on a less restrictive scale, based on a risk assessment. Results show that few countries apply this approach as yet.

8

## 3. MATERIAL AND METHODS

A questionnaire (Annex 1) was sent to the OIE Delegates of 19 countries and one SAR in the Asia, Far East and Oceania region and to the Delegate of South Africa, who has been invited to participate in this workshop because of close ties to this region in regards to horseracing and FEI sports. Replies were received from all countries/SAR. The questionnaire focussed on key requirements for importation, including health status of the exporting country or zone, and the requirements for vaccination, laboratory tests and quarantine. The same information was sought with respect to both permanent and temporary importation conditions.

Countries were also asked to include samples of their importation/health certificates to verify in case of lack of clarity on the information in the questionnaire.

Answers were entered in a database and are presented in full in this report, while the corresponding powerpoint presentation during the Workshop only shows some of the results.

The following 21 countries/SAR responded to the questionnaire:

Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (Peoples' Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong (SAR of China), India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Philippines, South Africa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam.

## 4. RESULTS

### 4.1. Requirements for the importation of horses into your country

#### 4.1.1. Specific requirements for permanent and temporary importation

Ten respondents (China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) have specific health conditions/certificates for temporary importation. China has provided information only for temporary importation (T) those for permanent import are agreed on a bilateral basis with the exporting country.

Eleven countries (Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Chinese Taipei, India, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Caledonia, New Zealand, South Africa, Sri Lanka) use the same conditions and health certificates for permanent importation than for temporary importation.

#### 4.1.2. The period that a horse can spend in the importing country under temporary import conditions

A stay of 60 days is permitted by Indonesia, Japan, Korea and Thailand;

A stay of 45 days is permitted by Vietnam;

A stay of 30 days is permitted by Hong Kong

Malaysia and Singapore allow horses to stay until 14 days after the end of the competition. China and Philippines state that it depends on the competition.

10

#### 4.2 Disease freedom requirements

The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code has Chapters on health provisions for 11 equine diseases and 6 diseases that affect multiple species, equines included, and considers them as notifiable diseases, as shown in Table 1.

Equine specific diseases	
African horse sickness	Equine influenza
Contagious equine metritis	Piroplasmosis
Dourine	Equine rhinopneumonitis
Equine Encephalomyelitis (Western, Eastern)	Equine viral arteritis
Equine infectious anaemia	Glanders
	Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis
Multi species diseases affecting horses <sup>2</sup>	
Anthrax	Rabies
Japanese encephalitis	Vesicular stomatitis <sup>3</sup>
Screwworm	West Nile fever

Table 1: OIE listed diseases of equines and listed multi-species diseases that affect equines

The analysis of the diseases for which the respondents propose the proof of disease freedom of either the entire exporting country or parts thereof (zone) or the establishment exceeds this list of 17 OIE notifiable diseases by far.

Responding countries indicated that they have requirements for freedom of the country, zone or establishment for a total of 43 diseases, including 17 OIE listed diseases and 23 diseases that are not listed by the OIE.

Figure 1 shows the number of countries that require certification for the 17 OIE listed diseases that affect horses.

<sup>2</sup> Surra is listed in Code Article 1.2.3 but there is no Code Chapter giving health provisions, for this reason Surra was excluded from this list  
<sup>3</sup> Vesicular stomatitis is a listed disease in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code 2013 but is proposed for delisting in May 2014

Figure 2 shows the non-listed diseases mentioned by respondents.

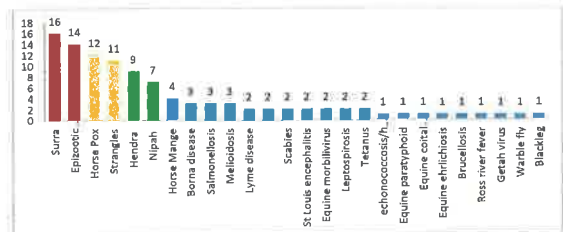
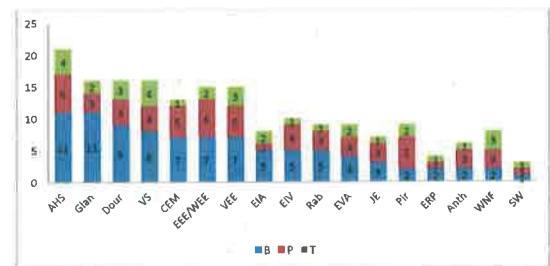


Figure 2: Requirements for certification - non-listed diseases

#### 4.2.1 Requirements for disease freedom of exporting country, zone and establishment

Respondents were asked to specify their requirements with respect to disease freedom of the exporting country, zone or establishment. Responses with respect to free country (FC), free zone (FZ) and free establishment (FE), for OIE listed and non-listed diseases are shown in Figures 3 and 4 respectively.<sup>5</sup>

Country, zone or establishment freedom is requested for 14 non OIE listed diseases (Figure 4). Requesting certification of country or zonal freedom for non OIE listed diseases would in principle require that the exporting country undertakes a surveillance programme for those diseases in order to be able to certify as to the presence or absence of the disease.



<sup>5</sup> Note: one country did not provide any information on this question.

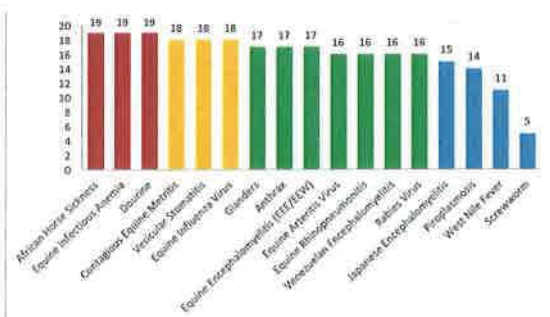


Figure 1: Requirements regarding certification - OIE listed diseases that affect horses

Of the 26 diseases that are not listed by the OIE the following diseases are the subject of health requirements (in order of frequency):

- Epizootic lymphangitis** – 16 (Australia, China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Caledonia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam)
- Surra**<sup>4</sup> – 15 (Australia, China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand)
- Horse pox** – 15 (Bhutan, China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Caledonia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam)
- Strangles** - 13 (China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, Vietnam)
- Hendra Virus** – 8 (Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Singapore)
- Horse mange** – 7 (China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Sri Lanka)
- Nipah Virus** – 6 (Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Korea, Japan, New Zealand, Sri Lanka)

<sup>4</sup> Purposely included in the non-listed disease group, as no Code Chapter on health provisions exists (acknowledging Surra to be listed in Article 1.2.3)

Figure 3: Free country and/ or zone requirements for OIE listed diseases<sup>6</sup>

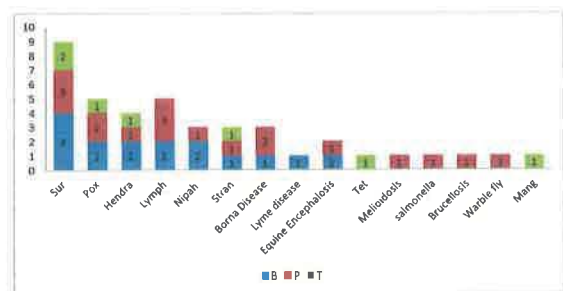


Figure 4: Free country or zone requirements for diseases that are not OIE listed

#### 4.2.2 Certification regarding disease free zones

The countries that request a free country (FC) or free zone(FZ) are listed above. Additionally, some countries specifically require zonal freedom for certain OIE listed diseases, as shown in Figure 5. Indonesia requires a free zone for a number of non-listed diseases, such as Surra, strangles, mange, equine morbillivirus and Hendra virus.

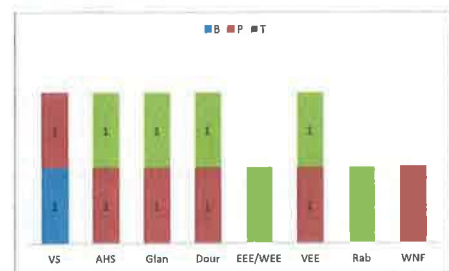


Figure 5: Specific requirements for zonal freedom - OIE listed diseases

<sup>6</sup> Acronyms are listed in the Annex at the end of the questionnaire

#### 4.2.3 Establishment freedom

Certification of establishment freedom is required for 16 (of the 17) OIE listed diseases (Figure 6) and for 23 (of the 26) non-listed diseases (Figure 7).

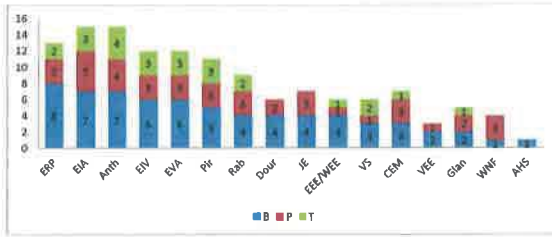


Figure 6: Requirement for free establishment - OIE listed diseases

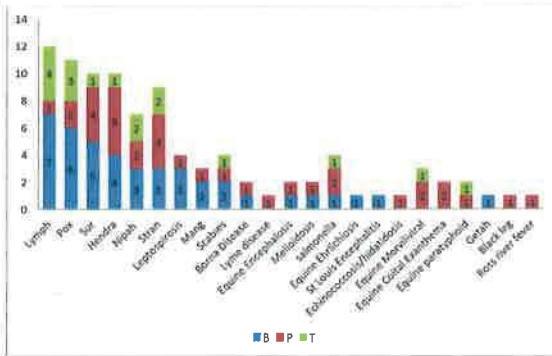


Figure 7: Requirements for free establishment - non listed diseases

Some countries require certification as to free country and free establishment, which is an unnecessary duplication as the definition of a free country means that all establishments in the country are free.

Country		Temporary	Permanent	Notes
Japan	Listed	12	16	+ CEM; JE; DOUR; WNF
	Non-listed	4	9	
Indonesia	Listed	15	14	WNF, VS only T; CEM for P
	Non-listed	9	11	
Malaysia	Listed	11	14	+ CEM, Anthrax, JE
	Non-listed	5	5	
Philippines	Listed	11	11	
	Non-listed	1	1	
Korea	Listed	12	12	
	Non-listed	6	8	
Singapore	Listed	15	16	+ CEM
	Non-listed	10	10	
Vietnam	Listed	13	13	
	Non-listed	2	2	
Thailand	Listed	11	11	
	Non-listed	3	3	
Hong Kong	Listed	15	15	
	Non-listed	11	11	

Table 2: Requirements for temporary and permanent importation – comparison of the number of OIE listed and non-listed diseases for which certification is required

#### 4.3 Vaccinations requirements

Respondents were asked to indicate which vaccinations they require horses either (I) to have received or (II) not to have received prior to importation. Respondents generally indicated that they do not accept the importation of horses that were vaccinated at a shorter time period before export than that stipulated.

Figure 8 shows the number of respondents that identified vaccination requirements, for a total of 17 OIE listed diseases. Details are given in the sections on individual diseases.

#### 4.2.4 Purpose of certification

Temporary health certificates are often used for sport horses to enter the country for a restricted period of time in order to participate in equestrian events or races. Because these horses are imported temporarily less stringent health conditions should apply – for example, no certification should be needed for venereal diseases if it is strictly observed that no breeding activities take place.

The questionnaire sought to establish whether those 10 countries that use specific certificates for temporary importation apply stricter, less strict or equal requirements with respect to country, zone or establishment freedom requirements for temporary importation when compared to the requirements for permanent importation.

Table 2 shows the numbers of diseases (OIE listed and non-listed diseases) which are quoted in Temporary and In Permanent Health Certificates for the purpose of certification as to country or establishment freedom. There is not much difference in the numbers of diseases for which certification is required, regardless of whether the importation is temporary or permanent. However, some respondents have different requirements with respect to the period of country/establishment freedom before export when dealing with temporary and permanent importation. Some countries also distinguish between certification as to country freedom versus establishment freedom for the purposes of permanent versus temporary importation. These differences are further explained in the sections on individual diseases.

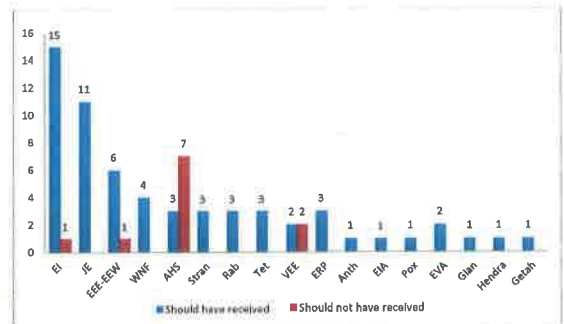


Figure 8: Vaccination requirements for equine disease

#### 4.4 Health testing requirements

Respondents were asked to indicate the diseases for which laboratory tests should be performed prior to importation, either as a recommendation or a requirement.

Figures 9 and 10 show the number of respondents that require testing for OIE listed and non-listed diseases, respectively.

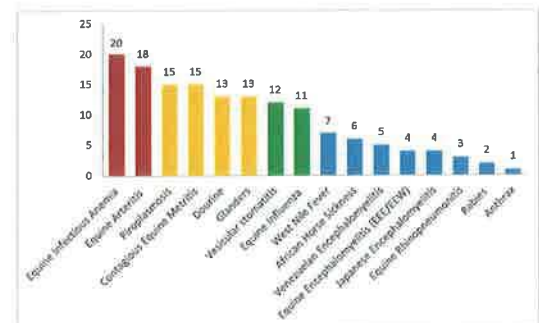


Figure 9: OIE listed diseases for which laboratory testing is required



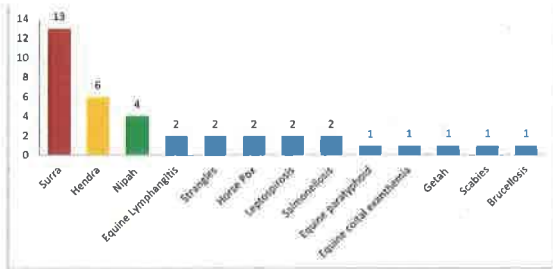


Figure 10: Non-listed diseases for which laboratory testing is required

#### 4.5 Quarantine requirements

Respondents were asked if they required pre-export quarantine (PEQ) in the country of export and also if they carry out post-arrival quarantine (PAQ) and, if so, for which diseases. As shown in Figures 11 and 12, a wide range of OIE listed as well as non-listed diseases was quoted in relation to which respondents impose quarantine measures. Details are discussed in the sections on individual diseases.

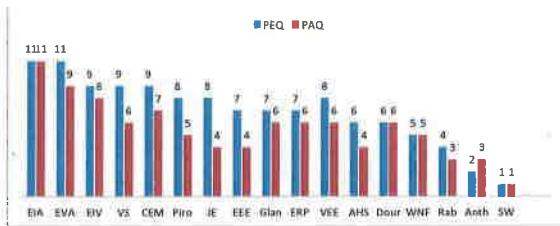


Figure 11: Requirements for pre-export quarantine (PEQ) and post-arrival quarantine (PAQ) for OIE listed diseases

The OIE recognises AHS in the group of diseases with official country status since May 2012. This means that countries have to declare whether or not they are free of the disease to the OIE, either based on historical freedom or following a prescribed procedure as explained in the *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 12.1. A country or zone is defined either on historical grounds (no disease since 25 years) or should have had no cases of AHS for 2 years with an on-going surveillance programme. To export from a free country, the *Code* stipulates a minimum residence period of 40 days. To export, the horse has to undergo quarantine and testing, with no vaccination.

Nineteen out of 21 countries require AHS certification (South Africa and Bangladesh do not). The specific requirements for certification of disease freedom are shown in Figure 13.

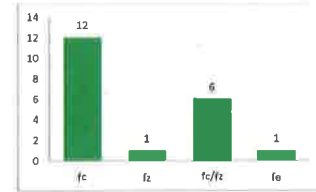


Figure 13: No of countries and type of disease freedom for AHS

From the 19 respondents, 12 require country freedom (Bhutan, Australia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Korea, New Caledonia, Sri Lanka, India, Hong Kong and Mongolia), 6 incorporate the possibility of a free zone (China, Indonesia, Chinese Taipei, Vietnam, Thailand and Myanmar), respondents that are asking for zonal or establishment freedom in addition to country freedom are Hong Kong and Korea, respectively.

The period for which country freedom is requested varies greatly, as shown in Figure 14. The *Code* requirement for a free country or zone is 2 years (Article 12.1.2). This analysis is done only for countries that make no differentiation on duration for AHS freedom between temporary and permanent import. Figure 14 therefore excludes (i) Hong Kong which requests 2 years country/zone freedom and 60 days not disease outbreak in the establishment for T and P, (ii) Malaysia which requests country freedom of 1 year and 2 years for T and P respectively, (iii) Thailand which requests country/zone freedom of 6 months and 2 years for T and P respectively, (iv) Japan which requests 2 years free country for T and 3–6 months for P.

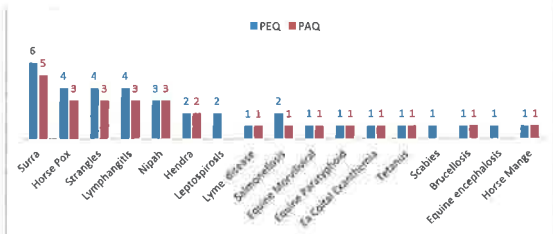


Figure 12: Requirements for pre-export quarantine (PEQ) and post-arrival quarantine (PAQ) for non-listed diseases

#### 4.6 Transport requirements

Respondents were asked to indicate if their health requirements for permanent and temporary importation include specific conditions for the transport of horses, and to list some examples in case of affirmation. The majority of the respondents (18) have specific transport requirements for the movement of horses. Most of the countries agreed that the vehicle in which the horses are transported must be cleaned, disinfected and treated with effective and approved insecticides. The animals must also be transported directly from the properties of origin to the port of embarkation and during this transport there must be no contact with other animals or horses of different health status. Some countries highlighted that there must be no transit through active outbreaks areas.

### 5. ANALYSIS OF SPECIFIC DISEASES

This analysis is limited to the six diseases that the Working Group on International Horse Movement considers important in regards to disease freedom, vaccination and testing, namely African horse sickness (AHS), equine influenza (EI), glanders, Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis (VEE), piroplasmiasis and equine infectious anaemia (EIA).

#### 5.1 African horse sickness (*Terrestrial Code* Chapter 12.1)

African horse sickness virus (AHSV) belongs to the genus Orbivirus of the family Reoviridae, and it occurs in 9 serotypes. The virus is transmitted by vectors of the *Culicoides* spp, which occur regularly in most countries of sub-Saharan Africa. The disease has both a seasonal and an epizootic cyclical incidence, often associated with draught followed by heavy rain. Mortality rate in horses is 70–95% in mules around 50% and in donkey around 10%, the zebra is believed to be a reservoir host for the AHSV. AHS is endemic in the central tropical regions of Africa, from where it spreads regularly to Southern Africa and occasionally to Northern Africa. All serotypes of AHS occur in eastern and southern Africa. Only AHS serotype 9 and 4 have been found in West Africa from where they occasionally spread into countries surrounding the Mediterranean Sea.

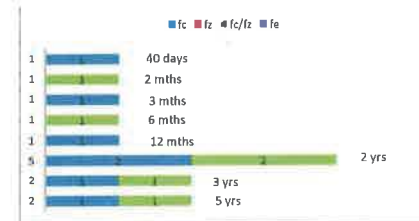


Figure 14: Period during which the exporting country, zone or establishment must be free of African horse sickness

Regarding vaccination and testing requirements, refer for details to the *OIE Manual* Chapter 2.5.1. Figure 8 shows that 7 countries (Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Chinese Taipei, Singapore, New Zealand, Thailand) stipulate that horses should not have been vaccinated before export and 3 countries request their vaccination (South Africa, Myanmar and Vietnam). Table 3 shows the details for the vaccination protocols and recommendations and Table 4 the countries that require laboratory testing for AHS.

The *OIE Code* recommends that animals are not vaccinated against AHS prior to importation. However, if they originate from infected countries or zones, their vaccination must be at least 40 days before shipment and they must be in isolation for 40 days.

Disease occurs in export country		Disease does not occur		protocol
Recommended	Compulsory	Recommended	Compulsory	
	Vietnam		Vietnam	15–30 days
	South Africa		South Africa	40 d–1 yr
	Myanmar		Myanmar	60 days

Table 3: AHS vaccination requirements

Disease occurs in export country	Disease does not occur	Purpose
Indonesia		T
New Zealand		B
Bangladesh	Bangladesh	P
Hong Kong		B
Korea	Only if country had cases < 2yrs	B
Bhutan		B

Table 4: Laboratory testing requirements for AHS



Six countries request Pre-Export-Quarantine (PEQ) for horses before shipment and 4 countries also Post-Arrival-Quarantine (PAQ) for AHS. The lengths of time for PEQ and PAQ are shown in Table 5.

Country	PEQ	PAQ
Vietnam	30 days	≤ 45 days
Japan	7 days	10 days
Korea	7 days	
New Zealand	40 days	
Thailand	30 days	30 days
Myanmar	14 days	21-30 days

Table 5: Quarantine requirements for AHS

### 5.2 Equine infectious anaemia (Terrestrial Code Chapter 12.5)

Equine Infectious anaemia (EIA), also known by horse men as swamp fever, is a disease caused by a Lentivirus of the family Retroviridae which is transmitted by bloodsucking insects. The virus (EIAV) is endemic in the Americas, parts of Europe, the Middle and Far East, Russia, and South Africa. Transmission is primarily through biting flies, such as the horse-fly and deer-fly but also through blood, saliva, milk, and body secretions. Contaminated surgical equipment and recycled needles and syringes, and bits can also transmit the disease. Infected horses remain carriers for life with positive serological test results. The disease is characterised by intermittent febrile haemolytic crisis.

The OIE Code stipulates a residence period of 3 months in an establishment with no case of the disease. There is no provision for country or zonal freedom. For temporary export the animal should be tested 90 days prior to export and for permanent export 30 days prior to export with a negative test result.

Out of 21 countries, 19 require EIA certification (Myanmar and Bangladesh do not). The specific requirements for certification of disease freedom are shown in Figure 15.

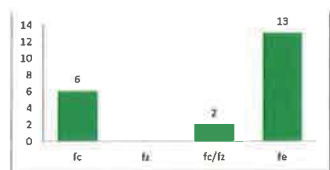


Figure 15: No of countries and type of disease freedom for EIA

From the 19 countries, 6 require country freedom: Bhutan, Malaysia (for Temporary import only), Singapore, Philippines, South Africa, Japan (for Permanent import only), 2 incorporate the possibility of a free zone (China, Vietnam), countries that are asking for establishment freedom are Australia, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Korea, Chinese Taipei, Malaysia (for Permanent import only), New Caledonia, New Zealand, Mongolia, India, Thailand and Sri Lanka.

The period for which country freedom is requested varies greatly, as shown in Figure 16.

23

Country	PEQ	PAQ
Vietnam	30 days	≤ 45 days
Japan	7 days	10 days
Korea	7 days	10 days
Philippines	30 days	30 days
Chinese Taipei	28 days	10 days
New Caledonia	30 days	15 days
Sri Lanka	30 days	30 days
Thailand	30 days	30 days
South Africa	30 days	30 days
Mongolia	21 days	15 days
India	Till the completion of tests	30 days

Table 7: PEQ and PAQ requirements for EIA

### 5.3 Equine influenza (Terrestrial Code Chapter 2.5.7)

Equine influenza (EI) is a highly contagious respiratory disease of horses, donkeys, mules and other equidae. EI is caused by two subtypes of influenza A viruses: H7N7 and H3N8 of the family Orthomyxoviridae. They are related to but distinct from the viruses that cause human and avian influenza. The disease is endemic in most countries with the exceptions of Australia, New Zealand, Iceland, Greenland and Singapore. EI is spread by contact with infected animals, which in coughing excrete the virus. In fact, animals can begin to excrete the virus as they develop a fever before showing clinical signs, it can also be spread by mechanical transmission of the virus on clothing equipment, brushes etc. carried by people working with horses. Once introduced into an area with a susceptible population, the disease, with an incubation period of only one to three days, spreads quickly and is capable of causing explosive outbreaks. Crowding and transportation are factors that favour the spread of EI.

Out of 21 countries, 18 require EI-free certification (South Africa, Korea and Bangladesh do not). The specific requirements for certification of disease freedom are shown in Figure 17.

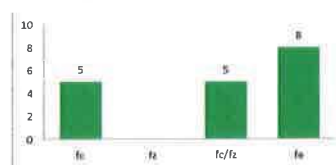


Figure 17: No of countries and type of disease freedom for EI

25

This analysis is done only for countries that make no differentiation on duration for EIA freedom between temporary and permanent import. Graph 10 therefore excludes (i) Indonesia, (ii) Japan, (iii) Malaysia, (iv) Korea, (v) Thailand. The details for these countries' requirements are shown in Table 6.

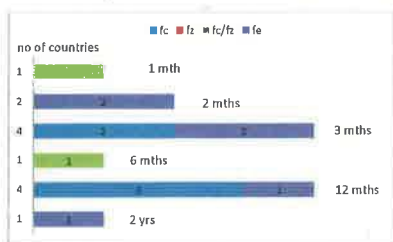


Figure 16: Period during which the exporting country, zone or establishment must be free of equine infectious anaemia

Country	P	T
Japan	FC for 3 – 6 mths before PEQ	FE for 2 mths
Indonesia	FE for 3 mths	FE for 60 days
Thailand	FE for 2 years	FE for 6 mths
Korea	FE for 6 mths	FE for 2 mths
Malaysia	FE for 2 years	FC for 1 year

Table 6: Requirements of disease freedom of EIA for exporting countries

Regarding vaccines and test requirements, refer for details to the OIE Manual Chapter 2.5.6. One country (Vietnam) indicated that it requires vaccination against EIA within 15 – 30 days prior to shipment. The Manual makes reference to the successful use of an attenuated live vaccine in China in 1970 – 1990s, but points out that control strategies have now shifted towards quarantine and testing due to interference of vaccine induced antibodies with diagnostic tests.

The large majority of countries request a laboratory test for EIA (20/21) for all importation purposes. Most of those (13/20) even request the test when the disease is not known to occur in the exporting country. The required test is the AGID (Coggins Test) as stipulated in the OIE Manual. The OIE Code stipulates that for permanent import (P) the test should be carried out during the 30 days and for temporary import (T) during the 90 days prior to export.

Eleven respondents request that horses should be isolated in PEQ prior to shipment and also undergo PAQ once arrived in their country. The length of time stipulated is given in Table 7. It is noted that no difference for these quarantine requirements are made regarding the purpose of importation (P or T).

24

From the 18 countries, 4 require country freedom: Bhutan, New Caledonia, Sri Lanka, Japan (for P import only), 5 incorporate the possibility of a free zone: China, Philippines, Vietnam, New Zealand, Myanmar. Countries that are asking for free establishments are Australia (or FC), Indonesia, Hong Kong, Chinese Taipei, Singapore, Mongolia, Japan, Thailand, while New Zealand requires free country or free establishment.

The period for which country freedom is requested varies greatly, as shown in Figure 18.

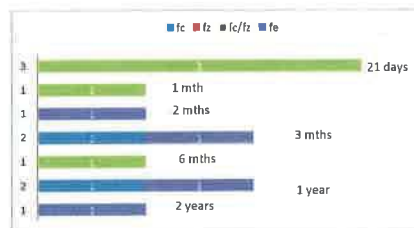


Figure 18: Period during which the exporting country, zone or establishment must be free of equine influenza

This analysis is done only for countries that make no differentiation on duration for EI freedom between temporary and permanent import. Figure 18 therefore excludes (i) Indonesia, (ii) Japan (iii) Malaysia and (iv) Thailand, their details are given in Table 8.

Country	P	T
Japan	FC for 3 – 6 mths before PEQ	FE for 2 mths
Indonesia	FE for 6 mths	FE 3 mths
Thailand	FE for 2 years	FE for 6 mths
Malaysia	FC for 1 year	FE for 1 year

Table 8: Requirements of disease freedom of EI for exporting countries

The Code stipulates a period of 2 years without cases of EI as country/zonal freedom. For permanent importation the horse should have been a resident in a free country for 21 days or should be vaccinated 21 – 90 days prior to export and spend 21 days in isolation. For temporary importation it recommends the horse should have been a resident in a free establishment and should be vaccinated.

For information on vaccines and laboratory testing OIE Manual Chapter 2.5.7 refers.

26

As Figure 8 shows, 15 countries request that horses be vaccinated against EI prior to shipment. As shown in Figure 19, 4 countries are in line with the OIE recommendation of vaccination 21 – 90 days prior to shipment. New Caledonia stipulates that in principle it does not require horses to be vaccinated against EI, but if they are, they want a serological test to be performed at 10 days after entry into PEQ.

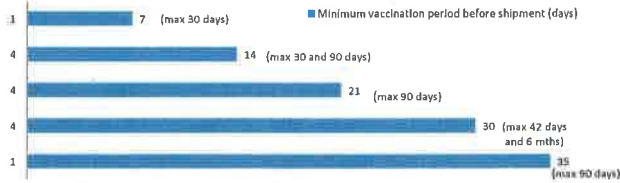


Figure 19: Protocols for EI vaccination as indicated by countries requesting EI vaccination

Diagnostic tests are requested by 11 countries, details are given in Table 9.

Disease occurs in export country	Disease does not occur	Purpose
Indonesia		B
New Zealand		B
South Africa	South Africa	B
Hong Kong	Hong Kong	B
Korea	Korea	B
China		T
Australia	NR if FC without vaccination	B
Philippines	Philippines	B
Vietnam	Vietnam	B
Japan		P
Bhutan		B

Table 9: Laboratory test requirements for EI prior to export<sup>7</sup>

Nine countries request the exporting country to quarantine the horses before shipment (PEQ) for EI and 8 countries also quarantine them after arrival in their country (PAQ). Table 10 gives the lengths of quarantine period requested.

<sup>7</sup> T = temporary, B = both (means temporary and permanent import)

The period for which country freedom is requested varies greatly, as shown in Figure 21.



Figure 21: Period during which the exporting country, zone or establishment must be free of Venezuelan equine encephalitis

This analysis is done only for countries that make no differentiation on duration for VEE freedom between temporary and permanent import. Figure 21 therefore excludes (i) Japan, (ii) Malaysia, (iii) Hong Kong, (iv) New Zealand, the details are given in Table 11.

Country	P	T
Japan	FC for 3 – 6 mths before PEQ	FC for 2 years
Hong Kong	FZ for 2 years	FC for 2 years
New Zealand	FC for 6 mths and FE for 21 days	The same
Malaysia	FC for 2 year	FC for 1 year

Table 11: Disease freedom requirements for VEE

For details on vaccines and laboratory tests, details are given in the OIE Manual Chapter 2.5.13.

As Figure 8 shows, 2 countries (Myanmar and Vietnam) request vaccination for VEE prior to export. They request this vaccination to be administered between 7 and 60 days (Myanmar) and 15 to 30 days prior to shipment. Singapore and New Zealand clearly state that they do not accept horses to be vaccinated. The Code stipulates that vaccination should be carried out not less than 60 days.

Five countries require laboratory testing prior to shipment (see Figure 9). The details on their requirements are shown in Table 11.

Disease occurs in export country	Does not occur	Purpose
Japan		P
India		B
Korea	NR if country free >2yrs	B
Vietnam	Vietnam	B
Myanmar	Myanmar	P

Table 11: Laboratory test requirements for VEE

Country	PEQ	PAQ
Australia	14 days	14 days
Vietnam	30 days	≤ 45 days
Japan	7 days	10 days
Korea	7 days	
Philippines	30 days	30 days
New Zealand	21 days	14 days
Thailand	30 days	30 days
South Africa	30 days	30 days
Myanmar	14 days	21-30 days

Table 10: Quarantine requirements for EI

#### 5.4 Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis (Terrestrial Code Chapter 12.11)

Venezuelan equine encephalitis (VEE) is a zoonosis and is caused by alphaviruses of the family *Togaviridae* which include 6 antigenic sub-types. Antigenic variants I-AB and I-C are associated with epizootic/epidemic activity in equids (horses, donkeys) and humans, but during epizootics mortality is also observed in rabbits, dogs, sheep and goats. The virus amplifies the virus during epizootics. The virus is transmitted by a wide range of mosquitoes. The disease occurs in South and Central America and in parts of the United States.

The Code stipulates that a free country should have no cases for the past 2 years. Horses imported from free countries should have been residents there for 6 months and should show no signs of the disease. Horses imported from infected countries have to undergo 3 weeks of vector proof quarantine and should be tested 14 days after the start of the PEQ, if not vaccinated or should have been vaccinated less than 60 days prior to export.

Out of 21 countries, 16 require VEE certification (Bhutan, Philippines, Thailand, Mongolia and Bangladesh do not). The specific requirements for certification of disease freedom are shown in Figure 20.

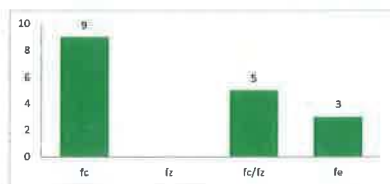


Figure 20: No. of countries and type of disease freedom for VEE

From the 16 countries, 9 require country freedom (Australia, New Caledonia, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, New Zealand, South Africa); 5 incorporate the possibility of a free zone (China, Indonesia, Vietnam, Chinese Taipei, Myanmar); countries that are asking for the establishment to be free are India while Hong Kong and New Zealand ask this in addition to the free country requirement.

Eight countries request horses to be quarantined before export (PEQ) and 6 countries indicate that horses will also be quarantined again after arrival (PAQ) to exclude the presence of VEE. The time periods stipulated for PEQ and PAQ are shown in Table 12.

Country	PEQ	PAQ
Vietnam	30 days	≤ 45 days
Japan	7 days	10 days
Korea	7 days	
New Zealand	21 days	7 days
Thailand	30 days	30 days
South Africa	30 days	
Myanmar	14 days	21-30 days
India	Till the completion of tests	
		30 days

Table 12: PEQ and PAQ period for VEE

#### 5.5 Glanders (Terrestrial Code Chapter 12.10, under revision)

Glanders is a zoonotic disease caused by the bacterium *Burkholderia mallei*. It affects horses, donkeys and mules, camels are also susceptible and carnivores can be infected via infected meat. Transmission occurs through water or feed, contaminated by excretions from the respiratory tract or ulcerative skin lesions of infected animals. The disease appears in acute, chronic or latent forms. The latter form is relevant to the international movement of horses because the agent can be dormant for a long time, during which the currently available diagnostic methods may not detect the presence of infection. Glanders is reported from Brazil, China, India, Iran, Iraq, Mongolia, Pakistan and Turkey. The disease is thought to be endemic in parts of the Middle East, Asia, Africa and South America.

The Code (2013) defines a free country as: no case of glanders has been reported during the past three years, or no case has been reported for a period of at least six months and a surveillance programme is in place demonstrating the absence of the disease in accordance with general recommendations on animal health surveillance (Chapter 1.4.).

Horses that are imported from a free country should show no clinical signs and should have been resident in the free country for at least 6 months. Horses that are imported from an infected country should be free from clinical signs; resident for at least 6 months in a free establishment that has reported no case of infection during that period; and should have been tested with negative result 30 days prior to export.

Out of 21 countries, 17 require certification for glanders. Thailand, India, Myanmar and Bangladesh do not require certification.

Figure 22 shows the specific requirements for certification of glanders freedom.

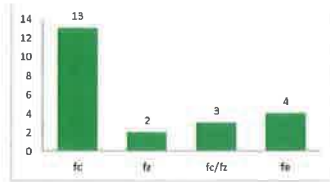


Figure 22: No of countries and type of disease freedom for glanders

Of these 17 countries:

- 13 respondents require country freedom (Australia, Bhutan, Hong Kong, Japan (for P import only), New Caledonia, Sri Lanka, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Mongolia, New Zealand, South Africa);
- Indonesia and Korea require a free zone for T importation; while Indonesia requires a free establishment for P importation;
- 3 countries accept a free zone (Chinese Taipei, China, Vietnam);
- In addition to country freedom, Hong Kong and New Zealand also require establishment freedom
- Japan requires a free establishment for T importation.

The period of country freedom required by respondents is variable.

Figure 22 shows the number of countries requesting country, zone or establishment freedom and Figure 23 the periods of time for which freedom is required.

This analysis is done only for countries that make no differentiation on duration for glanders freedom between temporary and permanent import. Figure 23 therefore excludes (i) Japan, (ii) Indonesia, (iii) Hong Kong, (iv) Korea, (v) New Caledonia and (vi) Chinese Taipei, all of which require importation from a free country but did not specify the period of freedom.

Table 13 shows these respondents' requirements for glanders freedom of the exporting country, zone or establishment.

Country	Requirement	Code
Singapore		B
Japan		P
Sri Lanka		B
Mongolia	Mongolia	B
Bhutan		B
Thailand	Thailand	B
South Africa		B

Table 14: Laboratory test requirements for glanders<sup>9</sup>

Seven countries request that horses be quarantined before export (PEQ) and 6 countries also quarantine them after arrival (PAQ), during which time horses are tested for glanders. Table 15 shows the time period required for PEQ and PAQ.

Country	PEQ	PAQ
Vietnam	30 days	≤ 45 days
Japan	7 days	10 days
Korea	7 days	10 days
Sri Lanka	30 days	30 days
Thailand	30 days	30 days
South Africa	30 days	30 days
Mongolia	21 days	15 days

Table 15: PEQ and PAQ for glanders

### 5.6 Piroplasmiasis (Terrestrial Code Chapter 12.7)

Equine piroplasmiasis (EP) is a tick-borne disease of horses, mules, donkeys and zebras caused by the protozoan parasites *Babesia caballi* and *Theileria equi* of the Order Piroplasmida. Infected animals may remain carriers for long periods and act as sources of infection for other ticks. The introduction of carrier animals into areas where competent tick vectors are prevalent can lead to an epizootic spread of the disease. Therefore special measures for the importation (separation; vector control) are required for sero-positive animals. The disease occurs in southern Europe, Asia, countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Africa, Cuba, South and Central America, and certain parts of the southern United States of America. *T. equi* has also been reported from Australia, but apparently never established itself in the country.

The Code provisions stipulate that for the temporary importation of horses they must not show any clinical signs, must have been thoroughly inspected for the presence of ticks and must be treated against ticks. There is no definition for a free country or free establishment.

Out of 21 countries, 14 require certification for piroplasmiasis (Thailand, Myanmar, Bhutan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, South Africa and Bangladesh do not). The specific requirements for certification of disease freedom are shown in Figure 24.

<sup>9</sup> T = temporary, B = both (temporary and permanent), NR = not required



Figure 23: Period during which the exporting country, zone or establishment must be free of glanders

Table 13 shows these respondents' requirements for glanders freedom

Country	P	T
Japan	FC for 3 – 6 mths; PEQ	FE for 2 mths
Indonesia	FE for 6 mths	FZ for 6 mths
Hong Kong	FC for 2 years plus FE for 2 mths	The same
New Zealand	FC for 6 mths and FE for 21 days	The same
Korea	FE for 6 mths	FE for 2 mths
Malaysia	FZ for 2 years	FC for 2 years

Table 13: Requirements for glanders freedom of exporting countries

The Terrestrial Code recommends that horses from countries of unknown glanders status be tested at least 30 days prior to shipment. Details on laboratory tests are found in the OIE Manual Chapter 2.5.11.

Thirteen countries (see Table 14) stipulate that horses need to be tested prior to export with an OIE prescribed test.<sup>4</sup>

Disease occurs in export country	Disease does not occur	Purpose
Indonesia		B
New Zealand		B
Malaysia		T
Korea	NR if country has no case <2yrs	B
China		T
Myanmar	Myanmar	B

<sup>4</sup> Bangladesh indicates that they require vaccination – needs clarification

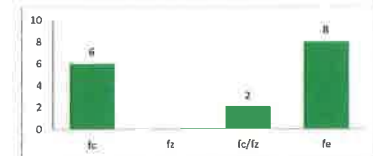


Figure 24: No of countries and type of disease freedom of piroplasmiasis

From the 14 countries, 5 require country freedom (Japan (for P import only), New Caledonia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore); 2 countries incorporate the possibility of a free zone (China, Vietnam); Singapore requires in addition to country freedom also establishment freedom, Japan a free establishment for T import, while Australia (or FC), Hong Kong, Indonesia, Korea, Chinese Taipei, India and Mongolia require free establishments.

The period for which country freedom is requested varies greatly, as shown in Figure 25. The Code does not provide for specific time intervals before export.



Figure 25: Period during which the exporting country, zone or establishment must be free of piroplasmiasis

This analysis is done only for countries that make no differentiation on duration for piroplasmiasis freedom between temporary and permanent import. Table 16 therefore excludes (i) Australia, (ii) Japan, (iii) Indonesia (iv) Korea, (v) Malaysia and (vi) New Caledonia which requests a free country, did not specify the time. The requirements of these countries are shown in Table 16.

Country	P	T
Australia	FC for 2 years OR FE for 2 mths	Specific conditions apply
Japan	FC for 3 – 6 mths; PEQ	FE for 2 mths
Indonesia	FE for 2 yrs	FE for 3 mths
Korea	FE for 6 mths	FE for 2 mths
Malaysia	FC for 6 mths	FC for 1 year

Table 16: Disease freedom requirements for piroplasmiasis



For details on [laboratory tests](#), the OIE *Manual* Chapter 2.5.8 refers.

As Figure 9 shows, the majority of countries (15/21) require a blood test for piroplasmiasis to establish if the animal is a carrier. This is in line with the recommendation of the OIE *Code* that stipulates testing of the animals 30 days prior to shipment, as well as tick control and no clinical signs of disease.

Eight countries request horses to be held in quarantine prior to export and 5 to be also quarantined after arrival. The periods of quarantine are shown in Table 17.

Country	PEQ	PAQ
Australia	14 days	14 days*
Vietnam	30 days	≤ 45 days
Japan	7 days	10 days
Korea	10 days	10 days
Chinese Taipei	28 days	
Sri Lanka	30 days	30 days
Thailand	30 days	30 days
India	Till the completion of tests	30 days

\*only required if ticks are detected on the animal within 24 hrs of arrival

Table 17: PEQ and PAQ requirements for piroplasmiasis

On the basis of the answers provided in the questionnaires, it appears that a noticeable difference regarding facilitated movement can only be detected for Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia and, regarding quarantine, for Hong Kong. Apart from these four respondents, it is not obvious why other countries in the region have established different conditions for temporary and permanent importation.

#### Regional harmonisation of requirements

There is considerable scope for harmonisation of requirements with the provisions in the *Code*.

The analysis shows that country freedom (FC), zonal freedom (FZ) or establishment freedom (FE) is a certification requirement for a wide range of diseases; both OIE listed and non-listed.

For equine diseases, the OIE provides official recognition of freedom from disease (country or zone) only for African horse sickness. This, however, is a recent development (2012) and may not be well recognised by countries in the region as yet. With the passage of time and more countries and zones obtaining official status, OIE Member countries in the region are encouraged to modify their certification accordingly.

In addition, the *Code* establishes requirements for country freedom with respect to 7 equine diseases, namely glanders, rabies, VEE, equine influenza, dourine, WNF and vesicular stomatitis. Countries are encouraged to make "self-declaration" to the OIE if they have evidence of their free status for these diseases based on the relevant recommendations on disease surveillance.

For all other OIE listed diseases and all non-listed diseases the OIE does not have standards for country or zonal freedom. However, the *Code* and *Manual* contain recommendations for certifying a free establishment and the health status of individual horses and these should be followed.

Some countries require certification of a free country and a free establishment. This is assumed to serve as additional precaution. However, it is in principle a duplication, as the definition of a free country means that all establishments are free also. Countries might consider to remove this additional measure.

The analysis therefore identifies a great divergence from the OIE standards and it implies that those other diseases quoted need to be reportable to the Veterinary Services in the respective countries.

Regarding harmonisation of requirements for specific diseases, the following observations can be made:

- AHS, EIA, EI, vesicular stomatitis (VS), dourine and contagious equine metritis (CEM) were most commonly quoted as diseases that should be addressed in health certification.

This list includes 2 reproductive diseases. The OIE promotes that for temporary importation purposes, provided the horses are going to attend an equestrian sport event and will not be used for the purpose of reproduction, these diseases need not be included in health certification.

- AHS, glanders, VS, EEE/WEE, VEE, surra and dourine were most commonly quoted as diseases that should be addressed using 'free country' certification

This is consistent with the *Code* provisions. Apart from AHS, the free status of a country is based on self-declaration and the application of relevant provisions in the *Code*.

This list of diseases could be a start for regional harmonisation.

## 6. INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

The main aim of this survey was (i) to get an appreciation of the diversity of health requirements for the importation of horses in the region, (ii) to find out whether Veterinary Services in the region take a different approach to importation for temporary and permanent purposes and (iii) to collect baseline information based on which proposals for regional harmonisation of requirements can be developed.

#### Diversity of health requirements

Amongst the 21 countries/SAR the analysis revealed a great variability of requirements in terms of diseases for certification, laboratory testing, vaccinations and quarantine. In the questionnaire we made reference to 17 OIE listed diseases and 6 non-listed diseases which are often found in international health certificates for horses, namely horse mange, horse pox, tetanus, surra, strangles, and epizootic lymphangitis. Surprisingly, a total of 43 diseases were identified by respondents as being required for certification, i.e. 20 more than identified by the OIE. This result suggests that there is much superfluous testing and vaccination, which not only adds costs to owners and Veterinary Services but can also lead to delays, certification errors and possible problems with shipments.

The health requirements for non-listed diseases include some diseases that have very minor relevance for horse health as they occur rarely or the horse is a dead end host (e.g. brucellosis, salmonellosis, echinococcosis, West Nile fever).

#### Different approach to temporary versus permanent importation

On the understanding that sport horses entering a country for an equestrian competition (racing or FEI sport), spend only a short time in the country, under controlled conditions, for a specific purpose, the OIE in collaboration with the FEI and IFHA is promoting the establishment of a standard health certificate for temporary importation in line with the existing concept in the *Terrestrial Code*, Chapter 5.12.

This survey revealed that 10 countries<sup>10</sup> in the Asia, Far East and Oceania region have already adopted this concept and use temporary importation conditions for sport horses. The duration of the temporary stay varies from 30 to 60 days. For effective risk management, regional harmonisation to the application of the temporary importation concept, including the definition of the concept (e.g. duration of visit) should be encouraged.

However, it is not clear, from the results of the questionnaire, if the temporary movement conditions imposed by these 10 countries are stricter or more permissive than the requirements for permanent importation.

As shown in Table 1, Japan, Indonesia and Malaysia list less number of diseases for which they need freedom certification for temporary than for permanent importation. In addition, Japan requests 15 different tests to be carried out for permanent and only 8 for temporary import. Indonesia requires zonal freedom (verification might be needed here, as freedom of establishment might be required) and tests for temporary import while free country certification is required for permanent importation. Malaysia, while quoting fewer diseases for temporary, requires more tests for temporary than for permanent import. Hong Kong, while no obvious difference in requirements for temporary and permanent import, does not require PEQ for temporary imports.

<sup>10</sup> One country was not considered as they quoted to have temporary import certificates ONLY

- A few countries require specifically zonal freedom for VS, WNF, rabies, AHS, glanders, EEE/WEE, VEE, and dourine

Of these diseases, the *Code* (2013) makes provision for zonal freedom only for AHS (subject of official decision on status) and WNF. In future, the *Code* may also make provision for zonal freedom for glanders (revised Chapter). In some cases, countries may in fact accept export from a free establishment; this aspect needs further verification.

- Horses to come from an establishment free of a certain disease was a common requirement for all OIE listed diseases, most often quoted for equine rhinopneumonitis, equine infectious anaemia, anthrax, equine influenza, equine viral arteritis, piroplasmiasis, epizootic lymphangitis, Horse Pox, surra and heandra virus.

As there was a lot of agreement on the diseases to be the subject of establishment freedom, this list could also present starting point for regional harmonisation.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

The analysis shows a great diversity of health requirements for the importation of horses. This was to be expected and is in line with the outcome of a similar survey carried out in the Americas in December 2012. However, the number of diseases that are the subject of certification requirements (43) exceeds by far the number noted in the survey in the Americas (23), and countries should revise requirements on those diseases that occur very rarely and have a very low risk of spread attached.

A focus of this survey was to know if countries have established conditions for temporary importation. The analysis shows that this is the case in 10 of 21 respondents, which is considered a good result, albeit less than in the Americas, where 13 out of 21 countries use this option. The OIE encourages countries to recognise the different purposes for which horses are imported and to appropriately modify the approach to certification based on the application of risk assessment, as recommended in the *Code* and consistent with the WTO SPS Agreement.

Furthermore, under the new OIE initiative to define a specific subpopulation of *High health, high performance* horses (HHP), importing countries are encouraged to facilitate the temporary movement of HHP horses that are imported for competition purposes only, based on the use of a health certificate for temporary (time limited) movement, with a standardised approach to testing and certification for a limited number of OIE listed diseases. The approach to definition of the HHP subpopulation is consistent with the concept of compartmentalisation, found in the Section 4 of the *Terrestrial Code*.

While the OIE continues to work with the FEI, IFHA and equine disease experts in the development of the HHP concept, the present survey can serve as a useful tool to encourage countries in the region to harmonise their health requirements to facilitate the temporary movement of sport horses. This approach has great potential to encourage growth of the industry and related benefits for job creation and national income.

**ANNEX - The questionnaire**

**Questionnaire on the existing requirements for the Importation of horses**

-Regional Workshop on Facilitation of International Competition Horse Movement-

February 2014, Hong Kong

**PURPOSE OF THIS QUESTIONNAIRE**

The purpose of asking the following questions is to enable us to make a comparative analysis of the currently existing import requirements, including quarantine, vaccination and testing particularities, in the countries of this OIE Region. The comparative analysis will be done in view of demonstrating currently existing divergence in these regulations between the countries. Furthermore the analysis is meant to form the basis for discussion between countries of the Region on harmonization of these requirements for the Importation of "high health, high performance" competition horses on a temporary basis.

Your kind assistance with this analysis is appreciated, as it will be a most useful input to the discussions at the forthcoming Workshop!

Many thanks in advance for your time!

**1) Requirements for the Importation of horses into your country:**

- 1.1 Do you have different requirements for permanent (P) and temporary (T) importation of horses into your country?
  - NO, all horses are imported using the same importation requirements
  - YES, there are specific temporary importation requirements
- 1.2 If **YES** to question 1.1, please indicate if these specific requirements for temporary importation of horses are used:
  - only for specific events (for example in Olympic Games, FEI events, Regional Games, international races...)
  - for any temporary importation of horses
- 1.3 If **YES** to question 1.1, please indicate the time period a horse can stay in the country under a temporary importation permit: \_\_\_\_\_

**3) Vaccination requirements**

3.1 Please, fill the table below with the requirements on vaccination that the imported horse **SHOULD** have received prior to departure in the exporting country:

Diseases (Annex 1)	If the disease occurs in the exporting country (Recommended/Compulsory)	If the diseases does not occur in the exporting country (Recommended/Compulsory)	Protocol	Purpose
Example: EI	Compulsory	Compulsory	21-90 days before shipment	P

3.2 Please, fill the table below with the requirements on vaccination that the imported horse **SHOULD NOT** have received prior to departure in the exporting country:

Diseases (Annex 1)	Protocol	Purpose
Example: AHS	40 days before shipment	P

**2) Disease freedom requirements**

- 2.1 Please fill the table below, indicating the following requirements to be included in the Health Certificate issued by the exporting country:
  - Diseases for which you require freedom (use Annex 1 for the list of diseases)
  - Type of disease freedom:
    - FC: Free country
    - FZ: Free zone
    - FC/FZ: Free country or zone
    - FE: Free establishment
  - Indicate the time period before shipment that no outbreak of the disease should have occurred
  - Indicate the purpose (P: Permanent import; T: Temporary import; both)

Diseases (Annex 1)	Type of disease freedom	Period of freedom	Purpose
Example: EI	FC/Z	21 days before shipment	P

P= permanent; T = temporary; B = both

**4) Test requirements:**

Please fill in the table below with the requirements for laboratory testing that should have been carried out on the imported horse in the exporting country before departure:

Diseases (Annex 1)	If the disease occurs in the exporting country (required or not)	If the diseases does not occur in the exporting country (required or not)	Purpose
Example: EVA	Compulsory	Compulsory	P

**5) Quarantine requirements:**

5.1 For which diseases do you request **PRE-EXPORT** quarantine? Please use the diseases in Annex 1 and indicate the period of quarantine and the purpose (P or T)

Diseases (Annex 1)	Period of Quarantine	Purpose

5.2 For which diseases do you request **POST-ARRIVAL** quarantine? Please use the diseases in Annex 1 and indicate the period of quarantine and the purpose (P or T)

Diseases (Annex 1)	Period of Quarantine	Purpose

5.3 Please list below any additional requirements you might apply during quarantine:

PRE-EXPORT quarantine	POST-ARRIVAL quarantine

**6) Transport requirements**

Do your health requirements for permanent or temporary importation of horses include specific conditions for the transport of horses from the exporting country to the destination?

- NO
- YES

If YES, please list them below:

- 
- 
- 

**7) Please attach a copy of your current importation Health Certificate(s)**

**Disease acronyms for use in the questionnaire**

AHS	African horse sickness
CEM	Contagious equine metritis
EEE/WEE	Equine encephalomyelitis (Eastern and Western)
EIA	Equine Infectious anemia
EIV	Equine influenza virus
EVA	Equine arteritis virus
Pir	Piroplasmosis
ERP	Equine rhinopneumonitis
Glan	Glanders
VEE	Venezuelan encephalomyelitis
Anth	Anthrax
JE	Japanese encephalomyelitis
SW	Screwworm
Rab	Rabies virus
Dour	Dourine
WNF	West Nile fever
Mang	Horse mange
Pox	Horse Pox
Tet	Tetanus
Sur	Surra
Stran	Strangles
Lymph	Epizootic lymphagitis
VS	Vesicular stomatitis