



WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH
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Handbook for the management of High Health, High Performance Horses



HANDBOOK
FOR THE MANAGEMENT
OF HIGH HEALTH,
HIGH PERFORMANCE HORSES

September 2015

Content

PREAMBLE	5
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PART 1

THE HHP CONCEPT	7
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1) SUMMARY OF THE CONCEPT	9
2) STEPWISE IMPLEMENTATION	11
2.a) Qualification of a compartment	11
2.b) Maintenance of qualification for a compartment (“multiple use strategy”)	13
2.c) Qualification of HHP horses	14
2.d) Certification of HHP horses for travel	15
2.e) Qualification of HHP stables for temporary residence (lay-over points and event venues)	15
2.f) Travel	15
2.g) Competition	16
2.h) Return to the country of usual residence	16
3) ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	16
3.a) Compartment manager (CM)	16
3.b) Responsible veterinarian (RV)	19
3.c) Official veterinarian and Veterinary Authority	19
3.d) Horse Industry	21
3.e) Transporters	22

PART 2

BIOSECURITY GUIDELINES AND HHP MANAGEMENT	23
---	----

1) HHP FACILITIES	26
1.a) Construction	26
1.b) Approval and registration	27
2) BIOSECURITY MANAGEMENT	27
2.a) Hygiene	27
2.b) Separation from other horses and animals	28
2.c) Equipment and vehicles	28
2.d) Control of access	29
2.e) Additional biosecurity provisions for an event	29
3) VETERINARY SUPERVISION	31
3.a) Routine health supervision	31
3.b) Veterinary interventions	32
3.c) Veterinary examination on arrival at the event	32
4) TRANSPORT OF HHP HORSES	33
4.a) Planning	33
4.b) Loading and unloading	34

4.c) Transportation by road or sea.....	34
4.d) Transportation by air.....	35
5) CONTINGENCY PLANNING.....	35
5.a) General provisions.....	35
5.b) Management of disease suspicion or outbreak.....	36
5.c) Contingency plans for transport.....	38
5.d) Communication in case of a disease incident at an event.....	39
6) DOCUMENTATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE HHP PROVISIONS.....	39
6.a) Horse identification.....	39
6.b) Record keeping.....	40
6.c) Monitoring compliance.....	40

PART 3	
INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND CERTIFICATION OF HHP HORSES.....	43

1) GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS AND HEALTH CERTIFICATION.....	45
1.a) Pre-departure and certification arrangements (departure from country of usual residence or from country of temporary residence).....	45
1.b) Compliance with health requirements of importing countries.....	45
1.c) Compliance with health requirements for return of the horse to its country of usual residence.....	46
2) SPECIFIC HEALTH REQUIREMENTS WITH REFERENCE TO THE MODEL HHP VETERINARY CERTIFICATE.....	47
2.a) Priority diseases.....	47
2.b) Specific disease requirements for certification.....	51
2.c) Health status of country or zone in which the compartment is located.....	51
2.d) Disease specific requirements for the qualification of compartments.....	52
2.e) Disease specific requirements for the certification of HHP horses in qualified compartments.....	54
2.f) Specific disease requirements for the maintenance of the health status of the compartment (“multiple use” strategy).....	54

PART 4	
MODEL HHP VETERINARY CERTIFICATE.....	57

ANNEXES.....	65
---------------------	-----------

1) GLOSSARY.....	67
2) LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS.....	68
3) RESOURCES.....	68
4) SUPPLEMENTAL READING ON THE HHP CONCEPT.....	69
5) ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	69

Preamble

Equestrian sport and racing provide significant socio-economic benefits to the national economies, the sport horse industry, the agricultural sector and other stakeholders. These sports have been growing in some parts of the world and are well established in others.

There is a clear desire by some countries currently unable to do so directly -for a variety of reasons, including health status- to engage in international equestrian sport and racing, and to host equestrian events. To enhance growth and provide opportunities for engaging in these sports, sports bodies and governments would like to see an uniform international system that facilitates the safe movement of competition horses and provides for expansion of the sport horse industry while safeguarding the health status of the equine population in the receiving country, the country of usual residence, and the countries with lay-over points.

Accordingly, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) together with the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) and the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) have developed the “**High Health High Performance horse – (HHP)**” concept, outlined in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (Chapter 4.16) which provides a standard for the temporary movement of horses to engage in international equestrian events and Group or Grade races, but not for breeding, and return to their countries of origin - should countries and industries wish to avail themselves of such an opportunity.

The HHP concept and associated HHP Veterinary Certificate is the only globally applicable framework for temporary horse importations; however, it should be perceived as an alternative, not a replacement, of existing regional or bilateral agreements. It is also intended to assist member countries that have not yet established agreements to facilitate horse movement to take part in international competition events.

This handbook provides recommendations for the implementation of the HHP concept:

- **PART 1** – presents the general **principles** of the HHP concept and the steps and responsibilities for its implementation;
- **PART 2** – Presents the **guidelines** for the management of the high health status subpopulation, especially with regard to biosecurity requirements;
- **PART 3** – Presents the provisions for the temporary importation of HHP horses with reference to the **model HHP Veterinary Certificate**.
- **PART 4** – Presents the **model HHP Veterinary Certificate**.

PART 1

The HHP concept

1) Summary of the concept

The concept to establish a high health status sub-population of horses is based on the principles of **compartmentalisation** as defined and described in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code Chapter 4.3 and 4.4*.

The subpopulation is established by the continuous application of documented **biosecurity procedures** to create and maintain a functional separation between horses within the defined subpopulation and all other equids, at all times. Guidelines for the biosecurity requirements (See [Part 2 – Biosecurity guidelines and HHP management](#)) should be adapted and complemented as appropriate depending on the disease status of the horse's region of origin, regions visited and the regions to be visited. The resulting biosecurity plans should be recognised by the *Veterinary Authorities* of the importing and exporting countries.

The subpopulation should be subjected to **specific health requirements** to establish its health status; these comprise a specific set of laboratory tests, treatments and vaccinations (See [Part 3 – International travel and certification of HHP horses](#)).

Individual HHP horses can be selected from a qualified subpopulation, and sent for participation to **international competitions/races** accompanied by a specific Veterinary Certificate for temporary international movements of such HHP horses (See [Part 4 – Model HHP veterinary certificate](#)). Horses that are moved internationally for the purpose of breeding or any other purpose not linked to competitions should not be included in the subpopulation.

Compliance with the policies and procedures of the HHP concept should be assured and validated through continuous **veterinary supervision** of horses and **full traceability** should be ensured through an international database managed by the Horse Industry (i.e. FEI and IFHA). The *Veterinary Authorities* should have access to this database

Contingency planning to prepare an effective and rapid response to contain any disease incident is an integral part of the HHP concept. A contingency plan should be developed for all situations where HHP horses are held (home stable, temporary places of residence, event venue, transport).

Based on the expectation that horses in the high health status subpopulation pose a minimal disease risk, the *Veterinary Authorities* are encouraged to facilitate the movement of these horses by adopting a specific protocol for **the temporary importation** of horses of high health status entering the country solely for the purpose of competition and for their return to their country of origin -based on a Model HHP Veterinary Certificate- designed for universal use by all OIE Member Countries (See [Part 4 – Model HHP veterinary certificate](#)).

The HHP concept and associated HHP Veterinary Certificate is the only globally applicable framework for temporary horse importation, however, it should be perceived as an alternative, not a replacement, of existing regional or bilateral agreements. It is also intended to assist member countries that have not yet established agreements to facilitate horse movement to take part in international competition events.

Figure 1. Stepwise approach for the implementation of the HHP concept

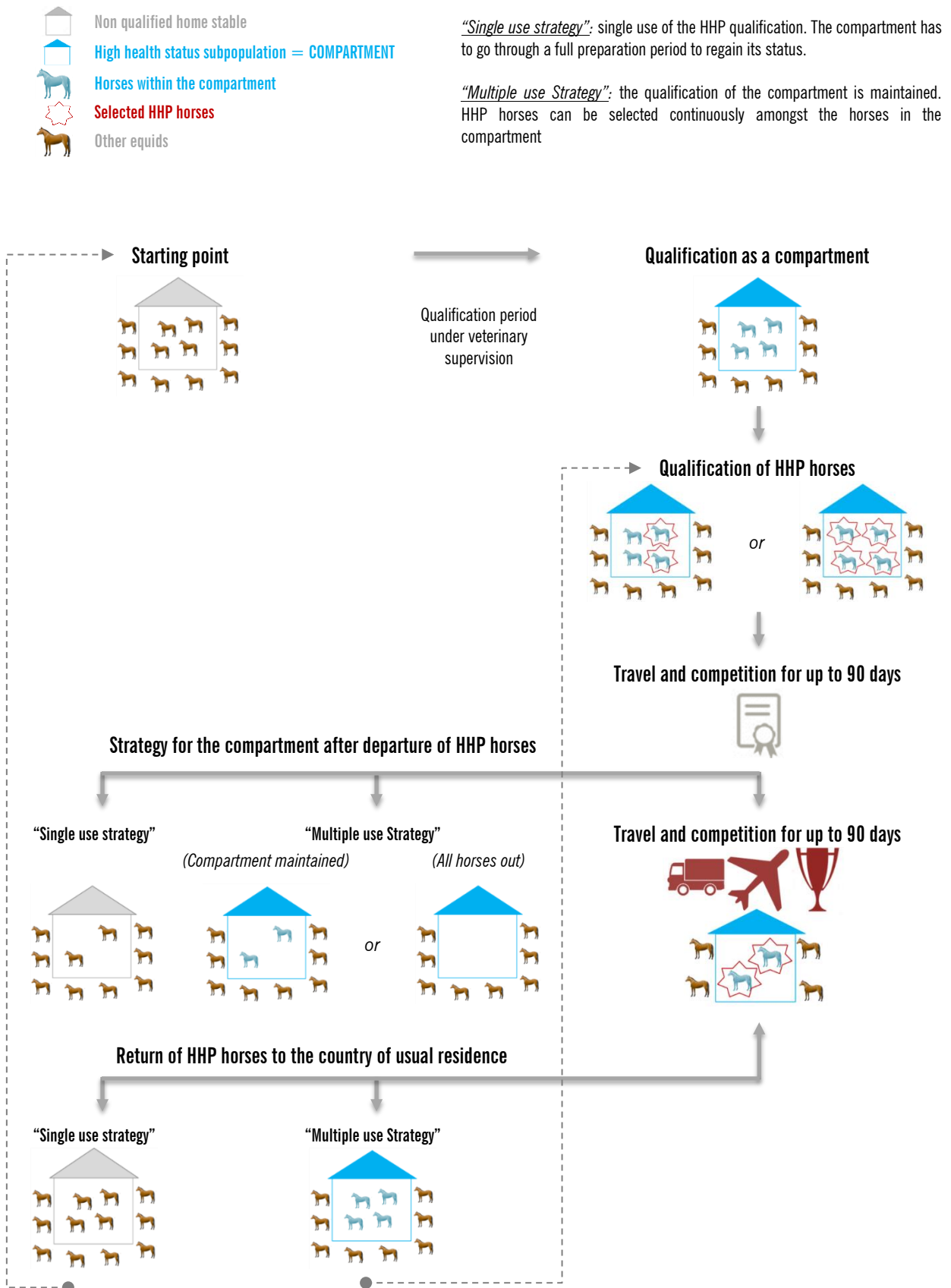
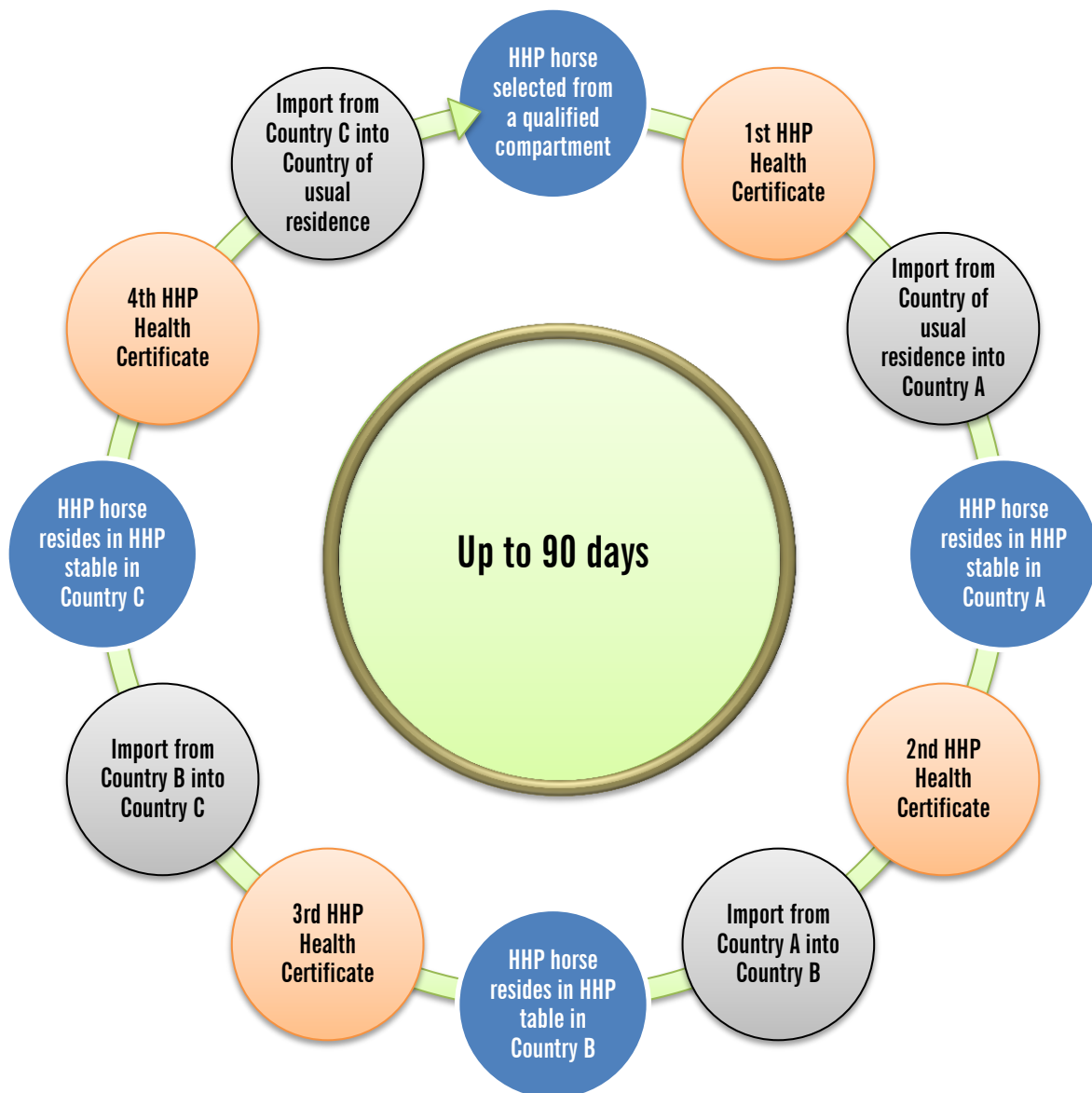


Figure 2. Example of HHP itinerary and certification flow for international competition



2) Stepwise implementation

The proposed approach for the stepwise implementation of the HHP concept is represented in Figure 1 and detailed hereafter.

2.a) Qualification of a compartment

Approval of the biosecurity and management procedures for the qualification period to start

Any candidate compartment should be **registered by the Horse Industry** in an international database. To qualify as a compartment, the candidate compartment should undergo a specific qualification process. An inspection of the candidate compartment should be undertaken by an *Official Veterinarian*. When the *Official Veterinarian* **approves the biosecurity measures and management provisions** of the candidate compartment, its qualification period can commence.

Qualification period under continuous veterinary supervision

The duration of the qualification period is a direct function of the equine health situation in the country and the quality of surveillance carried out on equidae. It should be in any case long enough to provide sufficient guarantees that the compartment is free of equine infectious anaemia¹ and other diseases of relevance to the HHP horse.

During the qualification period, **veterinary supervision** by a dedicated private veterinarian (“responsible veterinarian” (RV)) registered or certified by the Horse Industry and authorised by the *Veterinary Authority* should be applied, as well as **specific tests and vaccinations** depending on the equine health situation of the country where the compartment is located and mitigatable risks in the country of destination (See [Part 3 – International travel and certification of HHP horses](#)).

Introduction of new horse(s) into a compartment during the qualification period

New horses can be introduced into a compartment during the qualification period, under the following conditions:

- **Health status of the country of origin:** the new horses should originate from a country of the same health status as the country in which the compartment under preparation is situated or should have been imported based on country’s import regulations or relevant provision of the OIE *Terrestrial Code*.
- **Health status of the country in which the compartment under preparation is situated:** it should be officially recognized as free from AHS by the OIE. In countries that have not been recognized free from AHS by the OIE, the compartment should be managed as an “all-in, all out” system following the single use strategy (Figure 1 – “Single use strategy ; [Disease specific requirements for the qualification of compartments](#); [Disease specific requirements for the certification of HHP horses in qualified compartments](#)). Once the qualification period of the compartment has started, introductions of new horses into a compartment situated in a country that has not been recognized free from AHS by the OIE should not be permitted.
- **Isolation before introduction:** within the compartment, the new horses should be isolated from the other horses for at least 2 weeks.
- **Testing and vaccination before introduction:** the new horses should undergo the same testing and vaccination as resident horses before entering the compartment.
- **Timing.** release from isolation within the compartment and mixing with the rest of the horses within of the compartment should not take place during the last two weeks of the qualification period of the compartment.

¹ According to *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, Chapter 12.5 -Equine infectious anaemia: “if imported on a temporary basis, the animals should be subjected to a diagnostic test for EIA with negative results on blood samples collected during the 90 days prior to shipment”.

- **Duration of the qualification period for the new horses:** new horses should complete a full qualification period. After release from isolation, they should be maintained for further 76 days in the compartment to complete the 90 days requirement before they can be certified as HHP horses.

Participation in approved events during the qualification period

As a general rule, no horse should be authorized to leave a compartment during the qualification period².

Exceptionally, in countries of known health status (See [Health status of country or zone in which the compartment is located](#)) horses may attend approved events with a special authorisation during the qualification period².

Similarly, in countries which are not known to have been free from glanders for at least the past 3 years or which are not known to have been free from VEE for at least the past 2 years, horses may attend approved events with a special authorisation, during the preparation period². However, no departure from the compartment should be permitted during the last 3 weeks of the qualification period (or during the last three weeks before the issuance of a HHP Certificate in case of a “multiple use” of the compartment).

In countries which have not officially been recognized free from AHS by the OIE, no departure from the facilities should be permitted during the qualification period.

The *Official Veterinarian* should approve that the biosecurity management of these approved events ensures a functional separation between the horses of the compartment under qualification and other horses (See [Additional biosecurity provisions for an event](#)). These movements should be recorded by the CM.

Official inspection and qualification

At the **end of the qualification period**, the *Official Veterinarian* should inspect the candidate compartment, check records of the veterinary supervision and records in the individual passports, and check documented compliance with biosecurity provisions.

If the inspection is satisfactory, the *Official Veterinarian* can approve the compartment and the international database should be updated accordingly.

If the inspection is not satisfactory, the candidate compartment should be advised on corrective actions that would need to be taken before it can renew its request.

2.b) Maintenance of qualification for a compartment (“multiple use strategy”)

To be able to select horses from those kept continuously under HHP conditions in a qualified compartment, a multiple use strategy can be considered for the compartment.

² For a “multiple use” of the compartment, the same provisions apply once the compartment is qualified.

Continuous veterinary supervision and biosecurity management

The biosecurity provisions for a compartment should be complied with at all times for the maintenance of the qualification (See [Part 2 – Biosecurity guidelines and HHP management](#)).

A RV should maintain the qualified compartment under continuous supervision and the high health status of the remaining horses (at least one visit per week by the RV). A daily observation and twice daily temperature check of each horse should be carried out and the results should be recorded and made available to the RV.

Specific tests and vaccinations

Disease specific requirements depending on the equine health situation of the country where the compartment is located should be applied for the maintenance of the compartment (See [Specific disease requirements for the maintenance of the health status of the compartment \(“multiple use” strategy\)](#)).

Introduction of new horses

The criteria and conditions for the introduction of new horses into a compartment during the qualification period also apply for the introduction of new horses into a qualified compartment.

Participation in approved events

The criteria and conditions for horses to leave a compartment to participate in approved events during the qualification period also apply for horses to leave a qualified compartment to participate in approved events following qualification.

Periodic audits

The *Official Veterinarian* should conduct a minimum of an annual audit of the biosecurity and management practices and of the records of veterinary supervisions for maintenance of the qualification of the compartment. The *Official Veterinarian* may carry out additional visits without prior notice.

2.c) Qualification of HHP horses

Selection for international competition

All horses intended for HHP certification should reside in a qualified compartment. On the basis of having **qualified for competitions**, individual horses can be selected within a qualified compartment to be certified as HHP horses.

Specific tests and residency periods

Depending on the equine health situation of the country where the compartment is located, the RV may have to perform further **tests** on the selected horses and, where applicable, a **specific residency period** should be applied (See [Part 3 – International travel and certification of HHP horses](#)).

2.d) Certification of HHP horses for travel

After the registration of a horse as an HHP horse, the *Official Veterinarian* can issue the **HHP Veterinary Certificate**.

It is strongly recommended to plan the qualification process for the compartment in such a way that certification of HHP horses for travel coincides with the qualification of the compartment (See [Part 3 – International travel and certification of HHP horses](#)) (Figures 3a & 3b).

For a single use strategy (e.g. if there is need only for a single use of the HHP qualification), there is no further requirement in the compartment after the departure of the HHP horse(s) for travel: the compartment should be disqualified in the international database.

2.e) Qualification of HHP stables for temporary residence (lay-over points and event venues)

A horse, once qualified as a HHP horse and travelling using the HHP Veterinary Certificate, can reside in stables **shared only with other HHP horses**, hence there is a need to establish dedicated “**HHP stables**” that are lay-over points and stables at the event venue.

The HHP stables for temporary residence should meet similar criteria to those for HHP home stables. They should be identified and registered in the international database by the Horse Industry and approved by the *Veterinary Authority*.

These can be sub-units of premises already qualified as compartments or be set up particularly for this purpose. The only difference to qualified compartments is that they house only HHP horses and that they are functionally separated from other stables, should there be non-HHP horses on the same premises.

2.f) Travel

A HHP horse can travel to multiple destinations using multiple issues of the HHP Veterinary Certificate, up to a maximum of **90 days (temporary importation)**, before returning to the country of usual residence (re-entry after temporary export) (Figure 2).

During transport of HHP horses between the compartment in the country of usual residence and the venue in the country of destination, and onward travel (either return to the country of usual residence or continuation to another country for the purpose of competition), **biosecurity should be continuously maintained** following documented standard operating procedures, so that the horse’s health status is not compromised (See [Transport of HHP horses](#)).

Importantly, HHP horses may only be **transported with horses of equivalent health status**. Lay-over points should be approved as HHP stables by the *Veterinary Authority*.

2.g) Competition

To prevent and manage any risk to the health status of horses participating in an international sport event, organizers, in collaboration with veterinarians, should develop an **event biosecurity plan**, including an assessment of biosecurity risks and procedures to effectively manage them (contingency plan), including provisions for veterinary examination on arrival, stable management, continuous health supervision and contingency planning (See [Contingency planning](#)). The event biosecurity plan should be approved by the *Veterinary Authority*.

The events should be managed according to the FEI Rules for equestrian events (contained in the FEI Veterinary Regulations) or the Rules of Racing (contained in the national regulations of the horseracing authority of the host country for international race events).

The management of an equestrian event under HHP conditions should ensure that visiting HHP horses only come into direct contact with horses of equivalent test and certified health status (except at the time of racing or competition). Veterinary supervision should be ensured from the time the first horse arrives to the time the last horse leaves the event venue.

Veterinary inspection and, when applicable, issuing of a new Model HHP **Veterinary Certificate** for the next leg of the journey complete the activities in the country of the competition.

2.h) Return to the country of usual residence

When a HHP horse returns from international competition to its country of usual residence, two options can be considered:

- return to an **active qualified compartment** based on compliance with all criteria (high health status maintained) under the conditions attested in the HHP certificate;

Or

- return to a non-registered, **normal stable** (high health status deregistered in the database), under the conditions attested in the HHP certificate or according to the national animal health conditions for re-entry after temporary export or imports.

3) Roles and responsibilities

The proposed stepwise approach for the implementation of the HHP concept is represented on Table 1 and detailed hereafter.

3.a) Compartment manager (CM)

Definition of a strategy for use of the HHP concept

The CM should define the **strategy for use** of the compartment in consultation with RV, *Official Veterinarian* and representatives of the Horse Industry (single use, multiple use, all in, all out, etc.) including any modification of stable facilities and functional separation of HHP horses. The CM establishes the strategy for the **timing** of departure to travel of the **selected horse(s) in the compartment**.

Timing should take into account HHP Model Veterinary Certificate's requirements for testing, vaccination and residency periods. It is recommended to **plan** the qualification process for the compartment in such a way that certification of HHP horses for travel coincides with the qualification of the compartment, particularly for single use and first used compartment.

Compliance with HHP requirements

The CM is designated responsible for the continuous **compliance with biosecurity procedures and all other requirements pertaining to the compartment's and horses' status** for all of the horses in the compartment.

The CM should understand the **requirements of HHP membership**, through discussion, as appropriate, with the RV, *Official Veterinarian*, representatives of the Horse industry. He should **sign an acknowledgement** stating his understanding and acceptance of the procedures and requirements associated with the HHP concept. He should especially ensure that horses kept in the compartment are individually identified, that the compartment is physically separated from the rest of the equine population, that biosecurity SOPs for the compartment are established and documented, and that the biosecurity provisions and best practices are met at all times.

The CM is responsible for ensuring that **all persons** having direct contact with horses in the compartment (staff, farriers, visitors, veterinarians, etc.) comply with all biosecurity rules and procedures and good hygiene practices at all times when visiting the compartment.

The CM is responsible for ensuring that **the health and well-being of horses** under their care is continuously monitored.

The CM should record any observation, visits and events such as RV visits and movements of horses to attend approved events, and keep them up to date (See [Documentation of compliance with the HHP provisions](#)).

Under the overall responsibility of the designated CM, a supervisor can also be designated for each compartment and should take responsibility on a day-to-day basis for ensuring that **the compartment complies with the HHP requirements**.

Disease surveillance and notification

The CM should be aware of his responsibilities under national and relevant state or provincial legislation on animal health, including the requirement to **report any sign of disease or infection** without delay to the RV.

Table 1. Roles and responsibilities for the implementation of the HHP concept

	Qualification of a compartment	Selection HHP horses	Travel	International event
Compartment Manager (CM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Definition of the strategy for use of the HHP concept (single-use; multiple use) + Compliance with HHP requirements + Record keeping + Liaison with RV 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Selection of HHP horses within a qualified compartment + Definition of the best timing for travel and certification. + Application for import permits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Plan travel itinerary + Compliance with HHP requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Compliance with HHP requirements
Responsible veterinarian (RV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Continuous health supervision + Tests and vaccinations as applicable for qualification of the compartment + Record keeping + Disease notification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Tests and residency period as applicable for certification of HHP horses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Examination before travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Veterinary examination on arrival at the event + Continuous veterinary supervision during an event
Horse Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Registration of compartments and horses and update of status in the database 	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Identification and registration of lay-over points 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Identification and registration of event venue + Traceability of arrival and departure of HHP horses + Event biosecurity and contingency plans + Compliance with event biosecurity and contingency plans
Official veterinarian/ Veterinary Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Approval of the candidate compartment (beginning of the qualification period) + Qualification of candidate compartment (end of the qualification period) + Audits for maintenance of the compartment (if applicable) + Suspension of status if health risk or non compliance 	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Inspection and certification before travel + Approval of routes, lay-over points and biosecurity plan for transportation of HHP horses + Inspection of the HHP horses on arrival at the border 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Approval of event venues and event biosecurity and contingency plans. + Inspection of the HHP horses before certification + Continuous veterinary supervision during an event (or RV)
Transporters	-	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Plan travel route and identifies lay over points + Biosecurity procedures and contingency plans 	-
Event Organizing Committee				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Develop and submit Biosecurity and Contingency Plan + Ensure onsite compliance with Biosecurity protocols

3.b) Responsible veterinarian (RV)

Veterinary supervision (compartment)

The responsibility for veterinary supervision of horses in the compartment lies with a RV who should be registered/ **certified with the Horse industry** (as appropriate) and should be **authorised for this purpose by the Veterinary Authority**.

During the preparation period, and upon qualification as a compartment, the continuous veterinary supervision by the RV (**at least one visit per week**) ensures the high health status of the horses in the compartment (including the inspection of temperature records at each visit) and that biosecurity measures are correctly applied. During each visit, the RV should observe biosecurity practices.

The RV should perform the **tests and vaccinations** (as applicable depending on the country's health status) for qualification of the candidate compartment, as well as the tests and residency periods (as applicable depending on the country's health status) for certification of HHP horses for travel.

The RV should report any **suspicion of disease notifiable** under national and relevant state or provincial legislation on animal health without delay to the *Veterinary Authority*.

The RV should ensure that all **veterinary interventions are recorded** in individual medical records.

Veterinary supervision (event)

A RV should **examine HHP horses on arrival** at the event.

All HHP horses should be under **continuous supervision** by a RV responsible for the health of all horses at the event. He may be assisted by private veterinarians registered or certified by the Horse industry and official veterinarians.

Individual records should be kept of all checks on horse health. Any suspicion of infectious disease including any recorded fever in a horse at the event should be reported without delay, in line with event management rules of the Horse industry (and the legislation on disease notification as advised by the *Official Veterinarian* in the event of a notifiable disease).

3.c) Official veterinarian and Veterinary Authority

Animal disease surveillance and control

Effective Veterinary Services should meet the OIE performance standards for key activities, including **disease surveillance, early detection, rapid response and reporting**, as set out in the *Terrestrial Code*, Chapters 3.1 and 3.2. All of these activities need to be underpinned by veterinary legislation, as outlined in *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 3.4.

Based on the legislation in force, the *Veterinary Authority* **should have official policies** on animal disease surveillance and reporting, on disease prevention and control programmes. The *Veterinary Authority* should be responsible for reporting suspicion or confirmation of a reportable pathogen or disease to the OIE according to the procedures in the *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 1.1.

Approval and qualification of compartments and HHP stables

The *Official Veterinarian* should examine the biosecurity and management practices at **the start and at the end of the qualification period**. He may also conduct unannounced visits during the qualification period.

At the end of the qualification period, the *Official Veterinarian* should inspect all individual horses in the candidate compartment, check records of the veterinary supervision and records in the individual passports and if satisfactory, the *Official Veterinarian* **qualifies the compartment**.

For “multiple use strategy”, the *Official Veterinarian* should conduct **audits** (at least annually), including unannounced visits.

An *Official Veterinarian* may also conduct audits, including unannounced visits, of any HHP facility (compartments, lay-over points, event venues).

Disqualification from HHP membership

Any HHP health or biosecurity concern should be investigated and reported to the RV, who will inform the *Official Veterinarian* (when appropriate). The *Official Veterinarian* can cancel the qualification of a compartment at any time due to health risk or non-compliance with HHP requirements.

Veterinary health certification (exporting country)

The credibility of a health certificate depends on the professional integrity of the certifying veterinarian and this should be upheld and safeguarded at all times, as stated in the *Terrestrial Code* Section 3 - Quality of Veterinary Services³.

The *Veterinary Authority* should be fully informed about the process of preparation of horses for **temporary export** under the conditions that apply to HHP horses. In accordance with *Terrestrial Code* Article 5.2.2, for the purposes of official certification, the passport should be examined, verified and signed by an *Official Veterinarian* in the appropriate section of the Passport.

Any issued HHP veterinary certificate is to be recorded in the international database set up by the Horse industry.

³ Code Chapter 3.1 - Veterinary services [http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_vet_serv.htm]
Code Chapter 3.2 - Evaluation of veterinary services [http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_eval_vet_serv.htm]
Code Chapter 3.3 - Communication [http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_communication.htm]
Code Chapter 3.4 - Veterinary Legislation [http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_vet_legislation.htm]

Approval and inspection (importing country)

The *Veterinary Authority* of the importing country (i.e. the country hosting the event) should be informed of, and if deemed necessary should approve the routes, **lay-over points and biosecurity plan** for the transportation of HHP horses.

The *Veterinary Authority* of the importing country should approve the **event venue** and the **event biosecurity plan**.

The *Official Veterinarian* of the importing country should perform an inspection of the HHP horses **on arrival at the border or any other venue accepted by the Official Veterinarian**. The *Official Veterinarian* can verify correctness of the Veterinary Certificate in the international database.

3.d) Horse Industry

Registration of compartments and HHP stables

Candidate compartments and HHP stables (lay-over points and event venues) should be approved by the *Veterinary Authority* and registered by the Horse industry.

The Horse industry should **liaise with the Official Veterinarian** to schedule the inspection for approval.

The Horse industry should **register all HHP facilities** in the international database and should keep their **status up to date**.

Traceability of attendance at an event

The Horse industry should record in the international database the **arrival and departure** of the HHP horses at an event and provide updated travel schedules to inform the *Official Veterinarian* /the *Veterinary Authority*, especially in the case of delay of arrival/ departure.

Event biosecurity and contingency plans

The events should be managed according to the FEI Rules for equestrian events (contained in the FEI Veterinary Regulations) or the Rules of Racing (contained in the national regulations of the horseracing authority of the host country for international race events).

Event organising committees (OC) should establish **biosecurity plans which include contingency plans**. The biosecurity provisions should follow the FEI Veterinary Regulations and the International Agreement on Breeding, Racing and Wagering and the national regulations of the horseracing authority, as appropriate. The biosecurity plan should include the provisions for a functional separation of HHP horses from horses that do not have the same health status.

In planning and organising an event, the OC should ensure that officials, participants and support personnel comply with veterinary legislation and official health measures, notably those pertaining to the **HHP requirements**.

Compliance with the event biosecurity and contingency plans

During an event, the Horse industry should **inspect** all areas at different times of day, so as to avoid the predictability of the routine visits. Whenever an incidence of non-compliance with biosecurity rules is detected, corrective action should be taken immediately, and the *Official Veterinarian* should be notified when necessary.

3.e) Transporters

During transport between the compartment in the country of usual residence and the venue in the country of destination, biosecurity should be continuously maintained following **documented standard operating procedures**, so that the horse's health status is not compromised. HHP horses may only be transported with horses of equivalent health status.

Transporters should inform themselves about their **responsibilities under animal health and welfare legislation** and comply with these responsibilities. **A person with responsibility for ensuring compliance** with health and biosecurity requirements of exporting and importing countries should be designated. This person should compile and submit the contingency plan and should maintain up-to-date contact details of representatives of the *Veterinary Authority* in areas where they operate.

The planning of transport should include a **contingency plan for emergency situations**.

A person accompanying the horse(s) for the duration of the journey should be made responsible for maintaining the horses' HHP status and welfare during transport. The responsible person should inform the Horse industry and *Official Veterinarian / Veterinary Authority* of any incident of delay/ injury of the horse(s) in transit.

PART 2

Biosecurity guidelines and HHP management

This section provides recommendations on the **biosecurity requirements** for the management of the subpopulation of HHP horses in the HHP facilities (home stables (=compartments) and HHP stables (=lay-over points and event venues) and during transport.

The biosecurity requirements aim at mitigating the risk of disease transmission by horses from outside of the subpopulation, animals, people, vehicles, equipment, feed, water, pests, etc. The risk of venereal transmission is also addressed by the prohibition of breeding activities in the subpopulation. Depending on the disease situation in any country/zone where HHP horses are held (country of residence, place of temporary residence, event venue), vector protection should also be considered.

Furthermore, this section provides recommendations for the management of the subpopulation of HHP horses, such as traceability, compliance monitoring and contingency planning. **Traceability and compliance monitoring** are of utmost importance for the integrity of the HHP approach and should be ensured at all times from the start of the qualification period until the return to the country of usual residence. Considering the HHP concept as a risk mitigation approach (not a zero-risk approach), **contingency planning** to prepare an effective and rapid response to contain any disease incident should be fully integrated.

These recommendations should be read in conjunction with:

- The **OIE standards** and recommendations on disease surveillance, reporting, prevention and control, and veterinary health certification for listed diseases of equines and relevant diseases of multiple species, which are found in the *Terrestrial Code* ⁴, the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals⁵, and in Resolutions ⁶ of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates.
- The **FEI Veterinary Regulations** ⁷ and general rules ⁸.
- The **IFHA Guidelines** to Facilitate the Temporary Movement of Registered Racehorses for International Races ⁹.

⁴ <http://www.oie.int/en/international-standard-setting/terrestrial-code/access-online/>

⁵ <http://www.oie.int/en/international-standard-setting/terrestrial-manual/access-online/>

⁶ <http://www.oie.int/en/about-us/key-texts/resolutions-and-recommendations/resolutions-adopted-by-the-oie-international-committee/>

⁷ <http://www.fei.org/veterinary/veterinary-regulations>

⁸ <http://www.fei.org/rules/general>

⁹ <http://www.horseracingintfed.com/resources/Guidelines2002.pdf>

1) HHP facilities

HHP facilities include home stables (compartment) and all HHP stables (lay-over points and event venues).

1.a) Construction

The HHP facilities should be separate buildings (permanent double fencing or other effective means of physical separation), an adequate distance away from any stable unit containing equids that do not have a health status equivalent to that of HHP horses¹⁰. This distance should be determined according to the diseases of concern in the local population and should take into consideration the management measures implemented (e.g. vector control).

Where required, stable construction should take into consideration insect vector control (e.g. insect vector screening, fans, other insect control equipment).

All of the construction aspects should address animal **welfare considerations**.

The HHP facilities should be **demarcated** and clearly identified.

Stables, barns and yards should be supplied with sufficient **lighting, electrical points and ventilation**.

Parking for trucks and trailers should be away from horses, barns, pens and pastures. Vehicle access to the HHP stabling area should be restricted to authorized personnel only.

Appropriate facilities should be provided to facilitate the **loading and unloading** of horses (See [Transport of HHP horses](#)).

Specific access to dedicated **grazing facilities** should be provided.

Stables should be constructed in such a way that they can be easily **cleaned and disinfected**.

Walls should be constructed of non-porous materials.

Facilities should have adequate **drainage**.

For home stables, a separate **isolation area** specifically dedicated to horses of the compartment should be provided in a separate building.

For HHP stables, a separate isolation area for HHP and non HHP horses should be provided.

¹⁰ Examples of standard distances can be found in the Resources listed in Annex.

In any case, the isolation area should be clearly labelled, separated as far as possible from general stabling, fenced, and accessible to authorized persons only. It should include, as a minimum, a room or designated area for storing equipment, facilities for hand washing and cleaning/disinfection of boots, and leak-proof bins for discarded items, including disposable protective equipment, and facilities for the handling and disposal of waste (manure, urine, bedding and feed) to avoid the contamination of stables and other areas outside the isolation area.

At event venues, facilities should be provided for the **inspection/examination** of all horses on arrival.

A sufficient number of **horse wash-down areas** should be provided, so that horses will have to wait no longer than an adequate time for a wash.

1.b) Approval and registration

The compartments and all HHP stables (lay-over points, event venues) should be **approved by the Veterinary Authority** to host HHP horses and should be **registered by the Horse industry** in the international database.

Compartments should be identified by the name and contact details of the CM, GPS coordinates of the compartment, and the name and contact details of the RV, including out-of-hours contact information.

2) Biosecurity management

The following biosecurity principles should be complied with at all times in any HHP facility to include home, layover and event stabling.

2.a) Hygiene

The stables and stabling area (including temporary stabling) should be **cleaned, disinfected, disinsected, and inspected** prior to the entry of new HHP horses.

Walls and floors should be free of manure and organic debris prior to disinfection and an appropriate disinfectant targeting organisms of concern should be utilized.

Horses should have access to **clean bedding, fresh clean water** and **clean high quality equine feed** free of molds, toxins and debris.

Stables should be well-maintained. The stalls should be cleaned daily. **General circulation areas** should be kept clean, free of standing water, regularly and thoroughly scrubbed with an appropriate detergent/disinfectant and allowed to dry.

Feed should be stored in closed, **insect-proof** and **vermin-proof** containers, and hay stored off the ground.

Staff handling horses in the compartment should be trained in good everyday hygiene practices, especially effective hand washing and disinfection of items, and their use of these practices should be monitored.

Hand washing facilities and alcohol hand gels and footwear cleansing facility should be provided for use by persons handling or coming into contact with horses. **Multiple language signage** should be posted to remind people to use these facilities (including instructions for hand washing).

Disinfection mats may be placed at entries and exits of stables and barns. The mats should be inspected for organic debris and disinfectant saturation regularly (at least twice daily) to maintain their effectiveness. If excess debris is detected mats should be cleaned and restaturated with disinfectant.

2.b) Separation from other horses and animals

Direct (e.g. nose to nose) and indirect contact with horses that have not qualified for HHP membership or with any horse of lower health status should be prevented at all times.

The facilities for training and exercising HHP horses should provide for functional separation between HHP horses and equids that are not similarly qualified. **During competition and exercise**, horses of different health status may come into close proximity, **standard operating procedures** should be implemented to facilitate training and competition while minimising risks associated with close proximity of horses that have a different health status. If HHP horses are to be exercised on the same facilities as horses of non-equivalent health status, the HHP horses should use them at designated times. There should be signage outside exercise areas in multiple languages announcing restrictions of exercise area or physical barrier access control arrangements during certain time periods. The exercise area should be monitored by an individual responsible for restricting access to HHP horses during the designated time period.

Facilities such as **wash down areas, swimming pools, water exercise/therapy machines and rolling boxes** should not be shared by horses that are not of equivalent certified health status, unless an adequate disinfection protocol has been implemented.

Individual **water buckets** should be used. Communal water troughs should be avoided.

Animals other than horses should not be allowed access into the HHP facilities.

Measures should be taken to prevent the access of **birds, wildlife** (including rodents) and **insects** into the HHP facilities.

2.c) Equipment and vehicles

Equipment that is not **dedicated to HHP horses** should be cleaned and sanitised before use with an HHP horse.

A compartment should have its **own dedicated equipment**, including grooming equipment. These should be kept clean and sanitised as appropriate. All equipment should be **clearly marked as belonging to the compartment** and should be used only on these horses.

Transport vehicles should be cleaned regularly (disinfection inside and washing outside), especially after visiting another farm or co-mingling site, and carrying horses of non-HHP status. **Equipment used in trailers/trucks/transport vehicles** should be dedicated to the horses being transported.

2.d) Control of access

Only authorised persons should be allowed to enter the HHP facilities and this authorisation should be recorded. A system for checking the entry and exit of horses and the authorisation of persons entering the HHP facilities (including recording entry and exit outside normal working hours) should be provided (e.g. log book).

All people handling HHP horses should strictly follow biosecurity rules. They should have dedicated outer clothing and shoes to wear only in the compartment. They should wash and disinfect hands before entering the compartment.

In a compartment, veterinarians, staff, farriers and other persons with access to different groups of horses might represent a high risk for disease introduction/transmission since they frequently come in contact with and handle horses of different health status. **Standard operating procedures** should be implemented for the biosecure intervention of the visiting farrier, veterinarians and all visiting personnel that have had contact with other horses that are not of equivalent health status.

2.e) Additional biosecurity provisions for an event

All the provisions for the biosecure management of HHP facilities listed above also apply to the management of events however, additional considerations should be addressed when planning an event.

In planning an event, organisers in collaboration with veterinarians should develop an **event biosecurity plan**, including an assessment of biosecurity risks and arrangements to address them, preferably using standard operating procedures to minimise risks. The written event biosecurity plan should be **approved by the Veterinary Authority** well in advance (e.g. under the FEI Veterinary Regulations (FEI VR), organisers should give the *Veterinary Authority* at least 4 months' notice of the intention to hold an event).

The *Veterinary Authority* should stipulate in the approval that measures such as functional separation and all required biosecurity measures are in place to accommodate also horses from HHP facilities **undergoing the qualification process** (See [Qualification of a compartment](#)).

Event officials and participants should be aware of and **comply** with the biosecurity provisions. Authorisation to enter a venue brings with it a responsibility to respect biosecurity rules and sanctions may be applied in case of non-compliance and appropriate corrective actions undertaken.

The event biosecurity plan should be communicated to all participants before the event and the requirements displayed at the venue with appropriate signage in multiple languages.

The **main elements** of a biosecurity plan for an event should include the following, as a minimum:

- Layout of the venue and record of the stable assigned to each horse as well as provisions for an **effective functional separation** of HHP horses from horses that do not have the same health status, including provisions for risk based biosecure separation of groups of horses at the venue (stabling based on risk (e.g. geographic origin, etc.)) and including also standard operating procedures for the separation of HHP horses from other horses during the training, warm-up and competition.
- Documented health monitoring and clinical signs triggering action as well as the **contingency plan** to manage an outbreak of infectious disease (See [Contingency planning](#)).
- **Risk assessment and mitigation measures** for OIE listed diseases and local endemic diseases including vector control.
- **Health requirements for all horses** (including non HHP horses) that are going to enter the venue to assess and mitigate disease risks. For non HHP horses, this should include definition of minimum health status and/or screening for relevant local diseases.
- Precautions to protect all horses against **insects** (depending on the disease situation in the country hosting the event). The stable/block should be equipped with devices to kill vectors and windows and doors should be screened against the entry of vectors. Insect repellents should also be used to protect horses against insect attack while outside the stable, with due consideration for periods of maximum vector activity.
- Provisions to minimise the risk of transmission of **piroplasmiasis**, including iatrogenic transmission, to horses that are seronegative in areas with potential for vector transmission. HHP horses that are seropositive for piroplasmiasis should be held in separate vector protected HHP stables. The facility and immediate surroundings of the stables and exercise/competition areas should be free of vegetation as far as possible and the surrounding areas should be treated with an effective acaricide before the arrival of horses; at regular intervals while they are present, and after all horses have left. Horses that are seropositive for piroplasmiasis should be checked for ticks at least daily and treated with an effective acaricide at prescribed intervals.
- Prevention of the entry of unauthorised persons to HHP stabling facilities. In general terms, there should be two groups of **authorised personnel** at an event, those authorised to enter a particular barn (e.g. grooms) and those authorised to enter multiple areas (e.g. veterinarians) who should wear protective clothing and apply disinfection procedures on entry to and exit from each area. Authorised personnel should be required to carry with them appropriate authorisation for their access and their activities in the stables.
- Procedures for **cleaning and disinfection** of horse stalls and removal and management of wastes.
- Source of **feed and water**, including storage of feed.

- Control of **vehicles** within the venue.
- Record keeping, including records for all documentation needed in order to trace horses at the event (See [Documentation of compliance with the HHP provisions](#)).
- Biosecurity ‘**chain of command**’ (i.e. authorities, responsibilities and reporting lines for the implementation of the biosecurity plan at an equestrian event venue).
- **Stable security around the clock.** The designated HHP stable area should be under 24 hour supervision by designated personnel or officials (e.g. stewards). No horse should leave the designated venue during the event, unless specifically authorised and recorded by the designated officials.

The minimal provisions for veterinary services at an event should include:

- **Means of communication** between veterinarians, including veterinary officials and veterinarians attending individual horses (e.g. mobile phones and radio; 24 hour contact details).
- **Equipment** and sufficient trained and experienced **personnel**, familiar with procedures and emergency plans, to deal with all equine emergencies.
- Access to equipment and sufficient trained and experienced **personnel** for moving injured or sick horses in a humane manner.
- At least one authorised attending veterinarian present and **available at all times**, from the moment horses arrive at the event.
- At least one authorised attending veterinarian **on duty** and near the area **during competitions and prize-giving events**.
- At least one authorised attending veterinarian **on duty during all training times**.
- Access to a veterinarian experienced in the **diagnosis of equine infectious diseases**.
- Agreement with a HHP approved specialist **equine veterinary clinic**, with 24 hour contact information.
- Access to a veterinarian experienced in **biosecurity and infectious and zoonotic disease control**.
- Access to a veterinary **diagnostic laboratory** with capacity for rapid agent detection during the entire event.
- Access to a **veterinary pathology laboratory** capable of conducting a full post mortem examination on a horse.

3) Veterinary supervision

3.a) Routine health supervision

Compartment A **daily observation and a twice daily temperature check** (at least eight hours apart) of each horse should be carried out and the results should be recorded. A horse with a resting temperature greater than 38.5°C (101.6F), or any other abnormality, should be **reported immediately to the RV** (See [Contingency planning](#)).

Continuous **veterinary supervision** should be ensured (at least one visit per week by the RV) and records of veterinary visits and interventions should be kept and made available to the Horse industry or the *Veterinary Authority* for audit as may be required.

Event All HHP horses should be under continuous supervision by a RV responsible for the health of all horses at the event. In addition to monitoring the clinical presentation and performance of horses, the **temperature** should be checked and documented at least twice daily (8 hours apart). The RV may be assisted by private veterinarians registered or certified by the Horse industry and official veterinarians. Any signs suggestive of disease should be reported to the RV or a designated person. A horse with a resting temperature greater than 38.5°C (101.6°F) should be reported to an official (See [Contingency planning](#)).

3.b) Veterinary interventions

Administration of drugs and other veterinary treatments should be carried out in a manner that will prevent the transmission of pathogens. **Needles** and **syringes** should not be reused. Other equipment used on horses should be new and preferably disposable. Equipment should be **discarded in a safe manner after use**. If not discarded, equipment should be **cleaned and disinfected** before use on another horse.

Veterinary drugs should be securely stored and properly handled according to manufacturer's guidelines.

3.c) Veterinary examination on arrival at the event

HHP horses should be moved directly from means of transport to event HHP stables and be examined by an authorized veterinarian **as soon as possible after arrival**.

For non-HHP horses the examination should be performed by an authorized veterinarian and completed as soon as possible after the horse arrives at the event venue and **prior to the horse entering the designated non HHP stabling area**.

Once the horse's health status, identity, and documentation of **all of the horses that were transported together**¹¹ have been checked and confirmed, they may join the designated stable area at the event venue¹².

The veterinary inspection for fitness to compete should be separate from the health examination on arrival.

The examination and assessment of documentation on arrival should include, as a minimum:

- Verifying horse's **identity** by reference to its identity document (passport¹³; microchip if applicable);

¹¹ All of the horses that were transported together are considered to have the same health status, due to the fact that they were in a close confined space.

¹² The FEI Veterinary Regulations set out the procedures for the examination on arrival (Article 1032).

¹³ The FEI Veterinary Regulations set out the procedures for passport checking (Article 1029 and in relation to irregularities Article 1030)

- Verifying horse's **vaccination** history (including the record of vaccination for equine influenza);
- Verifying the HHP Certificate;
- Verifying absence of stay or transit in an **area or premise** that is **under official restrictions** for an infectious disease.

The horse should be free of clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease at the time of the examination and be free from external parasites. It should have a normal temperature. An elevated temperature is not uncommon in horses that have been subjected to the stress of international transportation. Any horse with a resting temperature higher than 38.5°C (101.6°F) immediately after arrival should be placed in isolation and have its temperature rechecked after a period of 2 hours. If a horse shows a temperature that remains above 38.5°C (101.6°F) or if the horse appears dehydrated or depressed, or has clinical signs such as depression, neurological signs, respiratory signs or diarrhoea, and/or fever, the horse should be isolated for further veterinary investigation (See [Contingency planning](#)).

4) Transport of HHP horses

4.a) Planning

The transporter (*i.e.* transport company or CM) should be responsible for **planning** and submitting the route and identification of lay over points to the *Veterinary Authority* of the exporting country for approval prior to certification.

Horses that are transported together are considered to have the same health status, due to the fact that they are in a close confined space. Accordingly, HHP horses should **only be transported with equids of equivalent health status**.

Horses should not travel longer than allowed under relevant national animal **welfare** legislations.

The availability of **approved HHP stables** where HHP horses are offloaded or held during journey breaks should be considered.

The transit through **areas that are under official restrictions relating to a notifiable disease** cannot be included in the travel plan.

The **risks associated with vector borne pathogens** should be considered. If the transport route passes through an area that is at risk for vector-borne disease of equids, risk mitigation should be considered (use of a trailer or stall that is screened to prevent entry of insects; transport at times of reduced vector activity; avoiding stops at times of high vector activity; use of insect repellents on the horse and on fixtures inside the trailer, use of fans). For air transportation, if transit stops occur in a country or area of unknown disease risk, or one that is known to be infected with a vector-borne disease of equids, steps should be taken to reduce the risk of insect attack. Risk mitigation strategies may include: the use of an air stall that is screened to prevent entry of insects; keeping the horse within the air stall while the aircraft is on the ground, and the

use of insect repellents on the horse and disinsection inside the stall (only approved chemicals may be used inside aircraft and on aircraft equipment).

A person accompanying the horse(s) for the duration of the journey should be made **responsible** for maintaining the horses' HHP status during transport. This person should be well experienced in equine management.

Transporters should implement **documented SOPs** which should be made available to the *Veterinary Authority* upon request

The final decision on the conditions that apply during transport, including combining of horses in consignments, routes and lay-overs, rests with the *Veterinary Authority* **hosting the equestrian event** (i.e. of the country into which the horse will be temporarily imported) and the *Veterinary Authority* of the country accepting the horse back/on all stages of journey.

4.b) Loading and unloading

Home stables and all HHP stables should be equipped with facilities for the loading and unloading of horses from trailers, accessible to authorized persons only. At event venues, the loading/unloading area should be **conveniently located to facilities for veterinary examination/inspection**.

The loading/unloading area should be quiet and of adequate size and should be kept in **good order**, free of manure and cleaned (disinfection inside and washing outside) regularly, with particular reference to any scheduled loading/unloading of horses.

There should be a direct **biosecure access route** to the loading and unloading area for HHP horses and an area to clean and disinfect these vehicles. Facilities for cleaning (disinfection inside, washing outside) of horse trailers (before and immediately after the transportation of visiting horses) should be provided on site (in or near the trailer parking area).

Wash facilities should have adequate **drainage** to prevent water pooling in areas where horses are stabled or exercised.

4.c) Transportation by road or sea

Horses should be moved in **suitable trailers**¹⁴ / **shipping containers**¹⁵ which should be cleaned (disinfected and disinfected, inside and washed outside) before and after the transportation of HHP horses.

¹⁴ *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* Chapter 7.3. Transport of animals by land
http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_aw_land_transpt.htm

¹⁵ *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* Chapter 7.2. Transport of animals by sea
http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_aw_sea_transpt.htm

4.d) Transportation by air

Transport by air should comply with the **IATA and OIE requirements**¹⁶.

Access to equipment used in aeroplanes is controlled by Airport Authorities for security reasons.

All personnel involved with the unloading/reloading of the aircraft and the clearance of cargo and personnel should be informed of relevant health and biosecurity requirements.

Thorough **cleaning, disinfection** and **disinsection**, of air stalls should be undertaken before and after shipment of HHP horses. Appropriately authorised personnel or contractors should be provided with the necessary equipment for effective cleaning and disinfection. For safety reasons, only disinfectants that are approved for use within aircraft should be used.

For the purpose of air transport, horses are normally shipped in air stalls. HHP horses should be **accompanied** by a highly experienced, preferably professional, flying groom or a veterinarian during air transport.

5) Contingency planning

Written contingency plans should be developed for all facilities in which HHP horses are held (home stable, temporary places of residence, event venue, transport).

5.a) General provisions

Criteria for putting the contingency plan into action should be defined, including the decision making process and the decision maker for each action item designated in the plan.

The chain of command in the event of an outbreak or suspected outbreak of infectious disease (authorities, responsibilities, reporting lines) and with 24 hour contact details of all key personnel in the chain of command should be documented.

Liaison **arrangements with the Veterinary Authority** should be specified.

Liaison **arrangements with medical authorities** in the event of an outbreak of a zoonotic disease should be specified.

Protocol for **keeping records**, including logistic and veterinary aspects should be provided.

Equipment for use in the case of a **fire** and appropriate planning, including a designated area and transportation plan, if necessary for evacuation of horses, should be undertaken.

¹⁶ The International Air Transport Association (IATA) is the airlines' trade association, with 140 members in 2013. The OIE and IATA signed an official cooperation agreement in 2008. The IATA Live Animal Regulations (LAR) contain up-to-date airline and government specific requirements for the transport of live animals, including animal handling, marking, labelling and documentation requirements. In the *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 7.4 [http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_1.7.4.htm] contains general provisions on the transport of animals by air and makes reference to the LAR, which contain much more detailed recommendations. The LAR publication is provided to IATA members and may be purchased online [https://www.iataonline.com/Store/Products/Product+Detail.htm?cs_id=9105-39&cs_catalog=Publications]

Personal protective equipment (such as coveralls, gloves and boots or waterproof footwear protection) for use in emergency situations should be provided.

A supplier that could supply bulk disinfectant in an emergency situation should be identified.

Procedures and equipment for the humane **euthanasia of horses** should be provided.

Liaison agreements with appropriate off site facilities and equipment to handle biosecure **disposal of horse carcasses** , potentially infective material, including manure, used bedding, and uneaten feed (e.g. composting or incineration) should be provided.

Standard operating procedures for the service industries (e.g. feed and water delivery, manure removal) in case of disease incident should be provided.

Access to scientific diagnostic expertise, on site or at a nearby laboratory with sufficient capacity and capability including rapid agent detection should be ensured, **for prompt diagnosis** .

Equine hospital/clinic holding HHP horses should be approved by the *Veterinary Authority* and should be aware of the requirements pertaining to the HHP status (if the equine hospital/clinic cannot provide HHP dedicated isolation stabling, the horse loses its status).

The RV or a designated official should inform and seek advice from the *Official Veterinarian / Veterinary Authority* for **transfer** of the HHP horse to the Equine Hospital/ Clinic for treatment.

If veterinary officials consider that a sick horse should be **transferred** from an event venue to a designated facility, the event organiser should be informed of the veterinary rationale for this and should advise the person responsible for the horse of the decision.

Standard operating procedures including biosecurity measures for the **movement** of HHP horses between the HHP facility and the equine hospital/clinic that is located outside of the facility for hospitalised treatment, surgery or diagnostic procedures should be documented.

The decision on subsequent movement of the horse should be taken by an *Official Veterinarian* in consultation with the owner /CM, rider or trainer, as appropriate.

5.b) Management of disease suspicion or outbreak

Any horse developing clinical signs suggestive of an infectious disease should be reported immediately to the RV and should immediately be sent to the **isolation facility**.

Determination of the **risk status of other horses** (e.g. infected, exposed, high risk, low risk) should be based on a clinical and epidemiological assessment with reference to the risk factors specific to the disease of concern. If it is considered that a horse has been exposed to animals with an infectious disease, or which present any biosecurity threat, it should be **placed in isolation**.

Any horse that **does not meet the health requirements** should not be allowed to enter the designated stable area at an event and may be placed in isolation. All of the horses that travelled with a horse considered to present a risk should also be considered to present a risk and should be placed in isolation.

Any horse placed in isolation should be kept under **close veterinary supervision**. Its clinical condition should be the subject of a **full veterinary investigation**, including a review of the vaccination and testing history. **Appropriate samples** should be submitted to a veterinary diagnostic laboratory for **diagnostic tests to be performed**.

A local representative of the *Veterinary Authority* should **be informed** without delay when the presence of a reportable disease is suspected or confirmed. Directions of the *Veterinary Authority* or the Horse industry relating to movement restrictions or other biosecurity measures might be put into effect promptly.

Any horse undergoing testing or investigation, or suspected of an infectious disease should **not leave the HHP facility** without specific authorisation by the designated officials or, if applicable, the *Veterinary Authority* or designee, even after the completion of the event.

Horses may be **released** from isolation and moved back to original stabling area once a veterinary investigation has ruled out the presence of any infectious disease that poses a risk to other horses at the event.

Access to the isolation stable should be restricted to **authorised persons** and steps taken to prevent access by other people, including security measures such as perimeter fencing and the placement of appropriate signage in multiple languages.

Persons handling horses in isolation should not handle other horses outside of isolation stabling. Any person working in the isolation facility should use coveralls dedicated to the isolation area and a **hygiene protocol**, including washing and disinfection of hands and boots should be required.

Isolation stables should be provided with separate, dedicated equipment, including personal protective equipment (coveralls, gloves and boots or waterproof footwear protection) and stable cleaning tools. The use of these items should be restricted to the isolation stable. After use, these items should be cleaned and sanitised or, if disposable, disposed off in a biosecurity manner such as incineration, burying, burning or any other method deemed appropriate.

Waste from the isolation stable (manure, urine, straw, uneaten feed) should be contained in leak-proof containers and disposed of in a biosecure manner.

After the release of horses from isolation, the isolation facility should be **cleaned and disinfected**.

In case of disease suspicion or outbreak, **health monitoring of all the horses** on the premises should be intensified, ideally a minimum of three checks per day (including temperature and inspection).

Physical security at all entrances and exits should be enhanced.

Temporary standstill of horse movements on the premises and surrounding areas may be imposed by either Horse industry or the *Veterinary Authority* pending veterinary investigation.

Arrangements to enhance the biosecurity, including provisions to maintain the **isolation and separation of horses** that are affected or considered to be exposed/at risk from horses that are considered to be of no risk or low risk should be provided on the basis of the epidemiology of the disease of concern and its **routes of transmission**.

Horse to horse contact should be prohibited on the premises.

The number of persons handling and coming into contact with horses should be restricted to the minimum. Only essential handling should be undertaken.

If appropriate, considering the routes of transmission of the disease of concern, all areas that are touched by horses or by human hands should be **cleaned and disinfected** daily (e.g. such as fences, wash racks, bathroom sinks, taps and door handles). **Any sharing of equipment** should stop. Common use items, such as cross ties and washing equipment should be removed and horse owners required to use their own equipment. Horses should not be tied to fences outside arenas or stabling areas. All previously shared equipment should be cleaned and disinfected. Participants and all individuals handling horses, equipment, supplies or vehicles should be informed about cleaning and disinfection protocols and requested to clean and disinfect their horse equipment, vehicle and horse trailer before leaving the HHP facility. **Cleaning and disinfection protocols** (including supplies of disinfectants) for facilities, fixed equipment and horse trailers, equipment used with horses (harness etc.) should be provided.

Dogs should be removed from the event venue.

The consequences of a disease incident for the health status of the rest of the subpopulation should depend on the nature of the **disease of concern** and on the **conclusion of the epidemiological investigation** regarding the presumed origin of the incident (e.g. biosecurity breach).

5.c) Contingency plans for transport

The planning of transport should include a contingency plan for **emergency situations** such as a disease outbreak, a vehicle breakdown, traffic accident or a horse being injured or sick during transport.

The documented transportation and contingency plan should be presented by the transporter to the *Veterinary Authority* **for approval** well in advance of the horse leaving its compartment.

The contingency plan should address human safety, the welfare and safety of the transported horse, and the maintenance of biosecurity.

The **main elements** of a contingency plan for the transport of horses should be:

- A list of names and 24-hours contact details for use in any emergency situation. This information should be kept by the driver or accompanying person and by the owner of the horse / CM. Key contacts include the horse's attending veterinarian, the officials from the Horse industry responsible for an event and the local representative of the *Veterinary Authority*;
- Means of tracking and communicating with the transport vehicle;
- Protocols for obtaining the latest restrictions related to notifiable diseases during transit.
- Provisions for safe unloading of horses in case of need (e.g. at borders);

- A revised route that could be taken in the event of problems. Avoid passing through an area that is the subject of official restrictions relating to a notifiable disease;
- Arrangements for horses to be transferred to another vehicle, if necessary;
- Arrangements for the emergency euthanasia of an injured horse.

The relevant *Veterinary Authority* should be informed of any issue arising during transport.

5.d) Communication in case of a disease incident at an event

CMs, riders and trainers should be informed prior to an event and during the event of the contingency planning arrangements, including the name and contact details of designated officials in the contingency plan chain of command and the criteria for activating the contingency plan.

CMs, riders and trainers should be notified of the location of the contingency plan document on the event grounds. The contingency plan document should be available on site for review upon request.

A **communication plan** should be developed, so that this can be deployed without delay in the case of a disease incident. Event organisers should prepare biosecurity signage in multiple languages for posting at critical locations and a list of the locations where signage in multiple languages will be posted.

Arrangements should be in place for the **communication of critical information**, such as restrictions on horse movements and other decisions of the *Veterinary Authority*, protocols for personal hygiene, cleaning and disinfection of equipment used with horses and of horse trailers and sources of approved disinfectants.

A **spokesperson** or spokespersons for communication with the media who preferably had previous media experience with subject matter expertise should be designated as part of the contingency plan.

The **sources of information** and channels of communication should be defined (based on the situation consideration should be given to modes of communications such as website alerts, facebook posting, loud speaker announcements, email notifications, text notification).

Before an event (e.g. registration of participants), participants should be informed that temporary movement restrictions, testing of horses, or any other necessary measure, may be imposed in the case of a disease incident and should be asked to **confirm acceptance**.

6) Documentation of compliance with the HHP provisions

6.a) Horse identification

Each horse should bear a **permanent unique identifier** (preferably a microchip) that makes it possible to link the animal to its mandatory identification document required to verify the identity, establish the ownership and vaccination status of the horse and trace its past movements.

Each horse should be accompanied at all times by its individual **passport** as required by the FEI General Regulations (GR) Article 137 and the IFHA International Agreement (Article 15). In addition to the identification and information on the owner of the horse, all official veterinary examinations and details of official tests and treatments, including vaccinations, should be **recorded** and verified whenever the passport is checked.

Every HHP horses should be registered in the **international database managed by the Horse industry**. The *Veterinary Authority* should have access to this database.

6.b) Record keeping

The **registration of the compartments** (candidates and qualified) (and horses in the compartments) with the Horse industry bodies in a dedicated international database should provide full traceability to the *Veterinary Authorities*. Registration of the candidate compartment in the database should be the starting point for traceability. The database is key for traceability as it should link horse identity, travel history and health certificate(s).

If the equine health situation of the country where the candidate compartment is located permits that a horse can temporarily leave the stable to participate in approved competitions during the preparation period, its departure and return dates should be recorded by the CM.

Issuance of the HHP veterinary certificate, horse's departure (and return) in a compartment, and horse's arrival and departure at/from an event should be recorded in the international database.

Individual veterinary records should be kept by the CM and should include all checks on horse health, including temperature. These records should be made available to the RV and upon request to an authorised official or representative of the *Veterinary Authority*.

The RV should keep records of the veterinary visits and interventions.

Administration of vaccines should be recorded in the horses' passport. The CMs and the RV should ensure that any other veterinary or equine health intervention is also noted in a separate treatment record.

The biosecurity plan and management practices for the compartment should be documented by the CM and made available to the *Official Veterinarian* on request.

6.c) Monitoring compliance

Compliance with HHP requirements should be **documented and monitored** (at home stable and places of temporary residence, during transport, at an event) and corrective action should be taken immediately, when appropriate.

At an event, appropriately authorised officials should be available to provide and **supervise all veterinary and biosecurity requirements**. Designated personnel or officials should regularly monitor the stable area, without establishing a predetermined pattern, to ensure compliance with biosecurity and animal welfare requirements. They should report their findings, particularly any biosecurity breaches, to the designated lead official or deputy.

Any HHP health or **biosecurity concern** observed should be investigated and reported to the RV (who will inform the *Official Veterinarian* if appropriate), and may result in disqualification from HHP membership.

Non-compliance can result in suspension of the high health status of the compartment or in the suspension of the horse's membership of the HHP sub-population. Incidents of non-compliance should be immediately recorded in the international database by the Horse industry. In the event of a horse or compartment losing its status, a process of documentation should be followed and reflected in the international database.

PART 3

International travel and certification of HHP horses

1) General provisions for travel arrangements and health certification

1.a) Pre-departure and certification arrangements (departure from country of usual residence or from country of temporary residence)

The CM should confirm the **flight schedule** and the **arrangements for shipment** of the horse with the shipping agent.

The CM should also make the arrangements for an **import permit**, if it is required by the importing country.

The *Official Veterinarian* should be notified, by the CM or the shipping agent, at least 7 days prior to intended day of inspection. Arrangements for examination by the RV and **inspection and certification** by the *Official Veterinarian* should be made for the examination and inspection to take place in the 48 hours (or on the last working day) prior to scheduled day of departure.

If the inspection is satisfactory, the *Official Veterinarian* **issues the HHP Veterinary Certificate** for travel.

The Certificate should be kept together with the horse's passport. If the horse compete in several countries (figure 2), the successive HHP certificates and a copy of the initial certificate that was issued by the *Veterinary Authority* of the country of origin (usual residency) should accompany the horse on each stage of its itinerary.

All documents required for entry into the receiving country should be transported with the horse and be made available to the Authorities at the time of arrival.

The issuance of the HHP Veterinary Certificate and the departure of the HHP horse should be **recorded in the international database**¹⁷, and any associated document should be uploaded.

In case the horse doesn't travel to the designated destination within 10 days following the issuance of the HHP Veterinary Certificate, the certificate should be **withdrawn** and the Horse industry should be informed by CM.

1.b) Compliance with health requirements of importing countries

In the **transition period** between the launch of the HHP concept and the adoption of its principles and health requirements as stipulated in the HHP Veterinary Certificate by OIE Member Countries, importing countries may have additional requirements. While the OIE promotes the universal use of the HHP Veterinary Certificate, additional requirements could be requested by the importing country depending on:

- the equine health status of the country of origin,
- the equine health status of countries visited since departure from the country of usual residence,
- the length of time spent in each country,

¹⁷ That applies to any event, including in the same country

In addition to the importing country health requirements, **specific health requirements** can be required **for the event** (to be checked in liaison with the event organiser).

The CM should, in collaboration with the RV and the *Official Veterinarian*, ascertain the official requirements for the country to which the horse will travel and the event in which it will compete, including testing, vaccination and pre-export isolation or quarantine, and should ensure that the horse meets all requirements.

Maximum period of temporary residence within a country. *Veterinary Authorities* may impose restrictions on the period for which horses may remain in the country of temporary residence. For example, Commission Decision 93/195/EEC¹⁸ permits the re-entry of registered horses for racing, competition and cultural events after temporary residence in approved third countries of the same EU sanitary group for up to **30 days a period that is extended up to 90 days in case of specific events**, and Commission Decision 92/260/EEC permits the temporary admission of registered horses into the EU for less than 90 days.

1.c) Compliance with health requirements for return of the horse to its country of usual residence

One of the key principles of the HHP concept is that horses should return to their countries of usual residence within a maximum period authorised by the *Veterinary Authority* of the country of usual residence. The relevant period approved in the Commission Decision 92/260/EEC¹⁹ on animal health conditions and veterinary certification for temporary admission of registered horses into the EU – **90 days** – has effectively become an industry standard and is also reflected in the HHP Veterinary Certificate.

It is, however, acknowledged that **during the transition period** before full adoption of the HHP concept into national legislation, the VA may require the conduct of post-arrival tests on horses returning from international travel to its country of usual residence and may impose isolation periods relevant to that country's disease status and that of countries that the horse has visited and depending on the period of temporary residence in another country/ies

In terms of a horse's status as a member of the HHP sub-population, return from an international event to the country of usual residence gives rise to two options:

- membership of the HHP can be maintained, based on compliance with all criteria for the maintenance of a compartment (See [Maintenance of qualification for a compartment \(“multiple use strategy”\)](#)),
- or
- membership of the HHP can be suspended. In case the CM wishes that the horse regains its active HHP membership, it should follow the procedures that apply to the initial qualification for membership.

¹⁸ Commission Decision of 2 February 1993 on animal health conditions and veterinary certification for the re-entry of registered horses for racing, competition and cultural events after temporary export <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:1993D0195:20100511:EN:PDF>

¹⁹ Commission Decision of 10 April 1992 on animal health conditions and veterinary certification for temporary admission of registered horses <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:31992D0260:en:NOT>

2) Specific health requirements with reference to the Model HHP Veterinary Certificate

A Model HHP Veterinary Certificate for global use has been developed to provide specific health requirements for the **temporary importation** of HHP horses **for the purpose of competitions** (See [Part 4 – Model HHP veterinary certificate](#)). The OIE has in effect developed a Model HHP Veterinary Certificate with respect to certification for selected priority diseases. The specific requirements depend on the disease status of the region of origin of the horse, the regions it has visited and the regions that it will visit. These requirements aim at protecting the HHP horses and the native populations in the visited countries.

A HHP horse can travel to multiple destinations using multiple issues of the HHP Veterinary Certificate, **up to a maximum of 90 days**, before return to the country of usual residence.

2.a) Priority diseases

The OIE considers **18 OIE listed diseases of importance for horses** (African horse sickness (AHS), anthrax, contagious equine metritis (CEM), dourine, equine infectious anemia (EIA), equine influenza (EI), equine viral arteritis (EVA), glanders, Japanese encephalitis (JE), infection with equid herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1), Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis (VEE), equine piroplasmiasis, rabies, screwworm, surra, Eastern equine encephalomyelitis (EEE), Western equine encephalomyelitis (WEE), West Nile fever (WNV)). In addition, seven non-listed diseases of great concern for the Horse industry were considered: strangles, epizootic lymphangitis, vesicular stomatitis, infection with Hendra virus, horse mange, horsepox, infection with Nipah virus.

While the OIE considers that qualification period, continuous veterinary supervision, biosecurity measures and health management mitigate the risk of transmission of most of these diseases from a HHP horse for competition only, the potential for transmission and spread of 6 OIE listed diseases requires additional mitigation measures²⁰ (Table 1, Table 2, Table 3). Therefore, the Model HHP Veterinary Certificate includes the attestation of specific guarantees for **Glanders, AHS, EI, EIA, equine piroplasmiasis, VEE**.

The risk of transmission and spread of other diseases from the subpopulation should be considered as mitigated by the HHP conditions. Should countries wish to consider diseases additional to the 6 priority diseases, the requirements in the *Terrestrial Code* should apply.

²⁰ http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Our_scientific_expertise/docs/pdf/Chevaux/HHPRiskMitigation.pdf

Table 1. Diseases for which the risk of presence in or introduction into the subpopulation is mitigated through observance of the HHP standard conditions

Disease	Risk of undetected presence in the subpopulation	Risk of introduction into the subpopulation	Risk of transmission within and from subpopulation
Anthrax	Extremely low (Veterinary supervision)	Extremely low (Biosecure stabling)	Extremely low (Since the risks of the disease being present or introduced are extremely low)
Epizootic Lymphangitis	Extremely low (Veterinary supervision and care for wounds)	Extremely low (Biosecurity practices and hygiene + veterinary supervision and care to prevent fungal contamination of open wounds)	Extremely low (Since the risks of the disease being present or introduced are extremely low)
Infection with Hendra virus	Extremely low (Veterinary supervision)	Extremely low (Biosecurity measures to prevent direct or indirect contact with bats)	Extremely low (Since the risks of the disease being present or introduced are extremely low)
Horse mange	Extremely low (Veterinary supervision)	Extremely low (Biosecurity measures to prevent fomite transmission and direct transmission from outside of the subpopulation)	Extremely low (Since the risks of the disease being present or introduced are negligible)
(Classical) horsepox	Extremely low (Veterinary supervision)	Extremely low (Biosecurity measures to prevent fomite transmission and direct transmission from outside of the subpopulation)	Extremely low (Since the risks of the disease being present or introduced are extremely low)
Infection with Nipah virus	Extremely low (Veterinary supervision)	Extremely low (Biosecurity measures to prevent direct or indirect contact with swine)	Extremely low (Since the risks of the disease being present or introduced are extremely low)

Table 2. Diseases that are of minimal risk of transmission when HHP standard biosecurity measures and health management practices are observed

Disease	Risk of undetected presence in the subpopulation	Risk of introduction into the subpopulation	Risk of transmission within and from subpopulation
Rabies	Yes (Incubation period can be of extended duration)	Extremely low (Biosecurity measures to control access of rabid animals)	Extremely low (Horse dead-end host)
Strangles	Yes (There are asymptomatic long term carriers)	Extremely low (Biosecurity measures to prevent fomite transmission and direct transmission from outside of the subpopulation)	Extremely low (Biosecurity measures to prevent fomite transmission and veterinary supervision (shedding does not begin until first/second day after the onset of pyrexia))
EHV-1	Yes (Latent infections)	Extremely low (Biosecurity measures to prevent fomite transmission and direct transmission from outside of the subpopulation)	Extremely low (Biosecurity and management of the subpopulation mitigate the risk for reactivation and indirect transmission; veterinary supervision should detect EHV-1 episodes and reduce the risk of direct transmission)
EVA	Yes (Acute infection can be subclinical. Asymptomatic long term carrier state in stallions)	Extremely low (Prohibition of breeding to prevent venereal transmission, biosecurity measures to prevent fomite transmission and to prevent direct transmission from outside of the subpopulation)	Extremely low (Respiratory transmission only during acute infection [i.e. not after the qualification period considering the short incubation period and the negligible risk of introduction]; Prohibition of breeding to prevent venereal transmission; biosecurity measures to prevent fomite transmission)
JE	Yes (Asymptomatic infections are frequent)	Yes (Vector-borne transmission [mosquitoes])	Extremely low (Horse dead-end host)
Surra	Yes (Chronic infection with recurrent episodes of parasitaemia)	Yes (Vector-borne transmission - mechanically transmitted by biting flies)	Extremely low (Continuous veterinary supervision and management [parasitaemia directly associated with pyrexia])
Vesicular stomatitis	Extremely low (Veterinary supervision [short incubation, clinical disease, no asymptomatic carriers])	Yes (Vector-borne transmission)	Extremely low (Veterinary supervision; horses that have signs of disease can act as sources of the virus)
CEM	Yes (Asymptomatic long-term carrier state in stallions and mares)	Extremely low (Prohibition of breeding to prevent venereal transmission and biosecurity measures to prevent fomite transmission)	Extremely low (Prohibition of breeding to prevent venereal transmission and biosecurity measures to prevent fomite transmission)
Dourine	Yes (Incubation period can be of extended duration; subclinical infections may occur)	Extremely low (Breeding not permitted)	Extremely low (Breeding not permitted)
WNF	Yes (Asymptomatic infections are frequent)	Yes (Vector-borne transmission [mosquitoes])	Extremely low (Horse dead-end host)
EEE	Yes (Subclinical infections may occur)	Yes (Vector borne transmission [mosquitoes])	Extremely low (Horse dead-end host)
WEE	Yes (Subclinical infections may occur)	Yes (Vector-borne transmission (mosquitoes))	Extremely low (Horse dead-end host)
Screwworm myiasis	Extremely low (Veterinary supervision and care)	Yes (Vector-borne [female fly laying eggs])	Extremely low (Veterinary supervision [larvae detection in the wound and interruption of the parasite lifecycle])

Table 3. OIE listed diseases for which there is a risk of transmission under the HHP standard biosecurity measures and health management practices (i.e. without disease specific requirements)

Disease	Risk of undetected presence in the subpopulation	Risk of introduction into the subpopulation	Risk of transmission within and from subpopulation
Glanders	Yes* (Asymptomatic long term carriers)	Extremely low (Biosecurity measures to prevent fomite transmission and direct transmission from outside of the subpopulation)	Yes (Horses infected subclinically can be a source of infection and direct transmission by the respiratory route not excluded within the subpopulation)
AHS	Yes* (Asymptomatic viraemia [partially immune animals or vaccination with a live attenuated vaccine])	Yes (Vector-borne [Culicoides])	Yes (Infected horses act as a source of infection; Culicoides are widespread vectors; vector protection is not included under the HHP standard conditions)
EI	Yes* (Subclinical infection in partially immune horses)	Yes (Effective airborne transmission, risk increased during air transportation)	Yes (Pre-symptomatic shedding ; asymptomatic shedding in partially immune horses ; air-borne transmission not excluded within the subpopulation)
EIA	Yes* (Asymptomatic long term carriers)	Yes (Vector-borne; transmitted mechanically by biting insects)	Yes (Infected horses act as a source of infection; vectors are widespread)
Equine piroplasmiasis	Yes* (Asymptomatic long term carriers)	Yes (Vector-borne [ticks])	Yes (Infected horses act as a source of infection; vectors are widespread, iatrogenic spread possible)
VEE	Yes* (Subclinical infections)	Yes (Vector-borne: mosquitoes)	Yes (Epidemic VEE virus subtypes amplified in equids; vectors are widespread)

* In addition to the risk of recent introduction not yet detectable

2.b) Specific disease requirements for certification

The key specific requirements for the priority diseases proposed in the Model HHP Veterinary Certificate are summarized in Figures 3a and 3b and detailed hereafter.

Figure 3a. Requirements during the qualification as compartment and horse sub-population

	Qualification period	
EIA (if country not free)	One test	
EI	Vaccination	
AHS (if country not recognized officially free from AHS by the OIE)	Vector protection (no vaccination within 40 days before the start of the qualification period)	Vector protected quarantine of 14 days and two PCR tests
VEE (if country not known to have been free from VEE for at least the past 2 years)	Vaccination (or test)	Vector protection of 3 weeks Test (or vaccination)
Glanders (if country not known to have been free from glanders for at least the past 3 years)		2 tests

Figure 3b. Additional requirements for certification to be applied to all horses wishing to travel as HHP horses

	Qualification period
Piroplasmiasis	Test
Glanders (if country not known to have been free from glanders for at least the past 3 years)	Permanent residency for at least 3 weeks
Glanders (if country free for 3 years)	Test

2.c) Health status of country or zone in which the compartment is located

Prerequisites

The equine health status of the country or zone where the premises is located is relevant to the qualification of premises as a compartment. Glanders, AHS, VEE, EIA, EI, and equine piroplasmiasis should be notifiable in the country and the country should have a **good record of compliance with its OIE disease reporting obligations** with respect to these diseases during at least the three years preceding the initial application for qualification as compartment.

Country's health status

The health status of countries can be grouped in **two categories**:

- Countries with a **known health status (no occurrence of glanders (for at least 3 years), no occurrence of VEE (for at least 2 years) and recognized officially free from AHS by the OIE).**
- Countries which **cannot substantiate a claim of freedom from glanders (for at least 3 years), VEE (for at least 2 years) or which have not been recognized officially free from AHS by the OIE.**

2.d) Disease specific requirements for the qualification of compartments

Countries with no occurrence of glanders (for at least 3 years), no occurrence of VEE (for at least 2 years) and recognized officially free from AHS by the OIE

Requirements for EIA
Test for EIA

Requirements for EI
Vaccinate against EI
or
Country or zone free from EI

Countries which are not known to have been free from glanders for at least the past 3 years

Same requirements for EIA and EI as for countries of known health status

Requirements for Glanders

No case of glanders has occurred within the 6 months of the start of the qualification period in the premises

and

Permanent residence for at least 3 weeks prior to dispatch in a single establishment free from glanders for at least the past 6 months

2 serological tests are to be carried out; the first sample taken not earlier than 21 days after the start of the qualification period and at an interval of at least 21 days to the second sample that is taken within 10 days of qualification of the compartment.

Countries which are not known to have been free from VEE for at least the past 2 years

Same **requirements for EIA and EI** as for countries of known health status

Requirements for VEE

No case of VEE has occurred within the 6 months of the start of the qualification process in the premises

and

All horses are tested for VEE by serology while they are stabled under vector protection during the qualification period; for at least 3 weeks before qualification of the compartment all horses have been kept under vector protection at all times; within 7 days of qualification of the compartment, the horses are retested for VEE with either a negative result or a stable or declining titre.

or

Vaccination with an inactivated vaccine against VEE of all horses in the compartment with the manufacturer's instructions at least 60 days prior to the qualification of the compartment

Countries which have not been recognized officially free from AHS by the OIE

Same **requirements for EIA and EI** as for countries of known health status

Requirements for AHS

No horse has been vaccinated within 40 days before the beginning of the qualification period.

and

A veterinary inspection has shown no clinical signs of AHS before introduction into a vector protected stable.

and

During the qualification period of the compartment, a validated PCR test has been done under vector protected stabling and the last 14 days are managed under the conditions of a quarantine station (vector protection, training during low vector activity periods of the day, under chemical vector protection)

and

A 2nd PCR test is done at the time of entering the quarantine station

Strategy for use of the compartment

Only a single use strategy should be allowed (Figure 1 – “*Single use strategy*”):

- Introduction of new horses should not be permitted once the qualification period has started.

The qualification of the compartment should not be maintained after dispatch of the certified HHP horses.

2.e) Disease specific requirements for the certification of HHP horses in qualified compartments

Countries with no occurrence of glanders (for at least 3 years), no occurrence of VEE (for at least 2 years) and recognized officially free from AHS by the OIE

Requirements for piroplasmiasis

HHP horses shall be tested for piroplasmiasis to establish the serological status of each horse

Requirements for glanders

HHP horses shall be tested for glanders (single test within 30 days prior to travel)

Countries which are not known to have been free from glanders for at least the past 3 years

Same requirements for piroplasmiasis as above

Requirements for glanders

Provisions for the qualification of the compartment apply and selected horses need to remain residents in the compartment for the period between the second sample and the issuance of the Veterinary Certificate

Countries which are not known to have been free from VEE for at least the past 2 years

Same requirements for piroplasmiasis and glanders as above

Requirements for VEE

Provisions for the qualification of the compartment apply and selected horses have to remain in a barn or stall with vector protection until travel. Vector protection applied during transportation

Countries which have not been recognized officially free from AHS by the OIE

Same requirements for piroplasmiasis and glanders as above

Requirements for AHS

Provisions for the qualification of the compartment apply and selected horses have to remain in the quarantine station until dispatch (batches of horses need to be fully separated and managed as a single use and “all in – all out” system following the single use strategy [(Figure 1)]);

2.f) Specific disease requirements for the maintenance of the health status of the compartment (“multiple use” strategy)

Countries with no occurrence of glanders (for at least 3 years), no occurrence of VEE (for at least 2 years) and recognized officially free from AHS by the OIE

Requirements for EI

Vaccination maintained valid

Requirements for EIA

Annual testing

Countries which are not known to have been free from glanders for at least the past 3 years

Requirements for EI and EIA
Vaccination maintained valid

Requirements for glanders
Annual testing

Countries which are not known to have been free from VEE for at least the past 2 years

Requirements for EI and EIA
Vaccination maintained valid

Requirements for VEE
Vaccination maintained valid

Countries which have not been recognized officially free from AHS by the OIE

The compartment should be managed as an “all-in, all out” system following the single use strategy.

In addition to the disease specific requirements for the maintenance of the health status of the compartment, the horses selected as HHP horses within a maintained compartment should comply with all of the requirements of the HHP Veterinary Certificate (see Figure 3a. 3b)

PART 4

**Model HHP
Veterinary Certificate**

**MODEL VETERINARY CERTIFICATE
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT NOT EXCEEDING 90 DAYS
OF A HIGH HEALTH-HIGH PERFORMANCE HORSE FOR COMPETITION OR RACES**

Certificate number:

Import permit number (if applicable): issued
by (insert name of government authority)
of (insert name of country of destination)

This certificate is issued for a high health-high performance (HHP) horse:

- dispatched from the country of usual residence to a country of temporary residence²¹.
- dispatched from a country of temporary residence to another country of temporary residence²¹.
- returning from a country of temporary residence to the country of usual residence²¹.

Numbers of previously issued certificates (if applicable):

Movement from: Movement to: cert no:

Movement from: Movement to: cert no:

Movement from: Movement to: cert no:

Movement from: Movement to: cert no:

I. IDENTIFICATION OF THE HORSE

I.1. Name:

I.2. Colour:

I.3. Sex:

I.4. Microchip number: Reading system other than ISO:

I.5. Universal Equine Life Number (UELN) (if applicable):

I.6. HHP identification number²²:

I.7. Number of accompanying passport:

issued by

(insert authority that issued the passport)

²¹ Select as appropriate.

²² The number attributed to the High Health-High Performance horse by the Fédération Equestre Internationale or the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities.

II. ORIGIN OF THE HORSE

- II.1. Country of dispatch:
- II.2. Name and address of consignor:
.....
- II.3. Address and registration number of the premises of dispatch²³:
 - in the country of usual residence:
.....
.....
 - in the country of temporary residence:
.....
.....

III. DESTINATION OF THE HORSE

- III.1. Country of destination:
- III.2. Name and address of consignee.....
.....
- III.3. Address and registration number of the premises of destination²³:
 - in the country of temporary residence:
.....
.....
 - in the country of usual residence:
.....
.....

IV. TRANSPORT INFORMATION

Identification of transport: AEROPLANE (type of aircraft and flight number)²⁴ / VEHICLE (registration number)²⁴ / SHIP (name or registration number)²⁴

.....

V. DECLARATION BY THE CERTIFYING OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

I, the undersigned official veterinarian, hereby certify that the horse identified in this certificate:

- V.1. has been examined today, this being within 48 hours prior to dispatch, and found free from clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease, free from obvious signs of ectoparasitic infestation and fit to travel in accordance with the proposed itinerary;
- V.2. is a registered HHP horse accompanied by its passport in which all vaccinations related to this certificate are documented;

²³ Select one of the options and delete the option not applicable.

²⁴ Select the appropriate options and delete those not applicable.

- V.3. after due enquiry and to the best of my knowledge, during the 90 days prior to qualifying as a HHP horse and since then has not been used for natural or artificial reproduction and has not been kept on premises where natural or artificial reproduction activities are carried out;
- V.4. after due enquiry and to the best of my knowledge, since HHP registration has not come into contact with any horse that was not a horse belonging to a high health status subpopulation and has originated from registered premises and has been resident on HHP registered premises only throughout its travel period;
- V.5. after due enquiry and to the best of my knowledge, since HHP registration has not visited premises in the country of dispatch under official restriction for equine health reasons;
- V.6. after due enquiry and to the best of my knowledge, for at least 15 days prior to certification has not come into contact with horses showing signs of infectious or contagious disease;
- V.7. comes from the country of dispatch in which the following diseases are compulsorily notifiable: African horse sickness, Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis, equine infectious anaemia, glanders (*Burkholderia mallei*), equine influenza and equine piroplasmosis.
- V.8. comes from the country of dispatch, which²³:
- either* [V.8.1. has been recognised officially free from African horse sickness by the OIE;]
- or* [V.8.1. has not been recognised free from African horse sickness by the OIE, and the horse was not vaccinated within 40 days prior to the introduction into an approved vector-protected quarantine station where it was isolated for at least 14 days and was subjected to a PCR test carried out with negative results on samples taken on two occasions on²⁵ and on²⁵, the first sample having been taken immediately prior to or on entry into the quarantine station and the second sample having been taken within 48 hours prior to the horse being transported directly from the quarantine station to the place of dispatch in a vector-protected vehicle;]
- either* [V.8.2. has been free from Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis for at least the last two years;]
- or* [V.8.2. has not been free from Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis for at least the last two years, and the horse was²³:
- either* [V.8.2.1. vaccinated with an inactivated vaccine against Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions at least 60 days prior to dispatch;]
- or* [V.8.2.1. during the three weeks prior to dispatch, kept under vector protection at all times and was subjected to a haemagglutination inhibition test for Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis carried out on²⁵ on paired samples taken on²⁵ and on²⁵, at least 14 days apart, with either negative results or a stable or declining titre, the second sample having been taken within seven days of the horse being transported directly to the place of dispatch in a vector-protected vehicle;]
- And appropriate vector protection is applied during transportation
- either* [V.8.3. has been free from glanders for at least the past 3 years, and the horse was subjected to a complement fixation test for glanders carried out with negative result at a serum dilution of 1 in 5 on a sample taken on²⁵ during the 30 days prior to dispatch;]
- or* [V.8.3. is the country of usual residence and is not known to have been free from glanders for at least the past 3 years, and the horse has been permanently resident for at least 3 weeks prior to dispatch on a single establishment free from glanders for at least the past 6 months and has been subjected to a complement fixation test for glanders carried out with negative results at a serum dilution of 1 in 5 on samples taken on two occasions on²⁵ and on²⁵, at least 21 days apart, the second sample having been taken within 10 days of dispatch;]

²⁵ Fecha

or [V.8.3. is the country of temporary residence, and the horse was kept on premises in which glanders has not occurred for at least the past six months;]

either [V.9. has been subjected to the indirect fluorescent antibody test (IFAT) or the competitive enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (c-ELISA) for equine piroplasmosis (*Babesia caballi* and *Theileria equi*) carried out with negative results on a sample taken on²⁵ within 14 days of dispatch;]

or [V.9. has previously been subjected to the indirect fluorescent antibody test (IFAT) or the competitive enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (c-ELISA) for equine piroplasmosis (*Babesia caballi* and *Theileria equi*) carried out with positive result and has been examined for, and treated against, ticks during the seven days prior to dispatch;]

V.10. has been subjected to an agar gel immunodiffusion test for equine infectious anaemia carried out with negative result on a sample taken on²⁵ within 90 days of dispatch;

V.11. either came from a country or zone free from equine influenza in which it has been resident for at least 21 days
or came from a country or zone not known to have been free from equine influenza and has been vaccinated against equine influenza within 21 to 90 days of dispatch with either two consecutive inoculations with the same vaccine given 21 to 42 days apart on²⁵ and on²⁵ or with a booster given on²⁵ at least on an annual basis after a primary course;

V.12. was found free from external parasites following a systematic and thorough examination with particular attention paid to the ears, false nostrils, intermandibular space, mane, lower body areas, including the axillae, and inguinal region, and the perineum and tail, and was treated according to the manufacturer's recommendations within 48 hours of dispatch with a broad spectrum parasiticide licensed or registered for use on horses.

VI. TRANSPORT CONDITIONS

After due enquiry and to the best of my knowledge the transport of the horse has been arranged to ensure that:

- VI.1. the horse is consigned directly from the premises of dispatch to the premises of destination;
- VI.2. during transport to destination the horse will not come into direct contact with horses that have no current HHP registration;
- VI.3. the vehicle or container in which the horse is being transported has been cleansed, disinfected and disinfected prior to embarkation with an insecticide and a disinfectant approved in the country of dispatch-
- VI.4. during transport to destination the health and welfare of the horse will be protected effectively.

VII. AUTHENTICATION OF CERTIFICATE

This certificate is valid for 10 days from the date of signing.

The declaration signed by the owner or person responsible for the horse is part of this certificate.

Name in capitals of official veterinarian:

Position:

Office address:

Telephone: Fax:

Email address:

Signature:

Date: Place:

Official stamp:

VIII. DECLARATION TO BE SIGNED BY THE OWNER OR DESIGNATED PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HORSE

I, the undersigned, (insert name in capitals) declare:

1. The horse described in this veterinary certificate, will be outside its country of usual residence for not more than 90 days.
2. Since its current registration as a HHP horse, the horse has not been in direct contact with horses that did not have a current HHP registration.
3. The horse has:
 - resided in (country of usual residence) since²⁵
 - entered (country of temporary residence) on²⁵
4. During the 90 days prior to qualifying as a HHP horse and since then has not been used for natural or artificial reproduction and has not been kept on premises where natural or artificial reproduction activities are carried out.
5. Since HHP registration has not come into contact with any horse that was not a horse belonging to a high health status subpopulation and has originated from registered premises and has been resident on HHP registered premises only throughout its travel period.
6. Since HHP registration has not visited premises in the country of dispatch under official restriction for equine health reasons.
7. For at least 15 days prior to shipment has not come into contact with horses showing signs of infectious or contagious disease.
8. During its temporary stay in the country of dispatch the horse has been kept only in the following premises that contain only HHP horses and are under supervision of the veterinary authority of that country.

Address of premises	Date of entry	Date of exit

9. The horse will be sent directly from the premises of dispatch to the premises of destination under conditions that ensure it will not come into contact with horses other than those that have current HHP registration, accompanied by the required veterinary health certificate, in a vehicle that was cleansed, disinfected and disinfected in advance with an insecticide and a disinfectant approved in the country of dispatch.
10. During transport to destination the health and welfare of the horse will be protected effectively.

Date: Place:

Signature:

ANNEXES

Glossary

Abbreviations

Resources

Supplemental reading
on the HHP Concept

Acknowledgements

1) Glossary

Approved event:	Equestrian event which has a biosecurity plan in place which is compliant with HHP conditions and that guarantees functional separation between HHP horses, those under qualification and non-HHP horses, which has been approved by the Veterinary Authority
Compartment Manager:	Designated person responsible for all the horses of a compartment
Country of known health status:	Country which is known to have been free from glanders for at least the past 3 years and which is known to have been free from VEE for at least the past 2 years and which have been recognized officially free from AHS by the OIE.
HHP horse:	Horse selected from a qualified compartment on the basis of having qualified for competitions
HHP facility:	Compartment or HHP stable
HHP stables:	Places of temporary residence for HHP horses (lay over points and event venues) that meet similar criteria to those for compartments and that are approved by the <i>Veterinary Authority</i> and registered by the Horse industry
Horse Industry:	Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) or International Federation of Horse Racing Authorities (IFHA)
Multiple use strategy:	The qualification of the compartment is maintained. HHP horses can be selected continuously amongst the horses in the compartment
Official Veterinarian:	Veterinarian authorised by the Veterinary Authority 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 accordance with the OIE <i>Terrestrial Animal Health Code</i> Chapters 5.1 and 5.2.
Qualified compartment:	High health status subpopulation as defined in the <i>Terrestrial Animal Health Code</i> Chapter 4.16 (http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_high_level.htm).
Responsible veterinarian:	Private veterinarian registered or certified by the Horse Industry and authorised by the Veterinary Authority
Single use strategy:	Single use of the HHP qualification. The compartment has to go through a full preparation period to regain its status
Veterinary Authority:	Governmental Authority of an OIE Member Country, comprising veterinarians, other professionals and para-professionals, having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in the <i>Terrestrial Code</i> in the whole territory

2) List of abbreviations and acronyms

AHS	African horse sickness
CM	Compartment Manager
EEE	Eastern equine encephalomyelitis
EI	Equine Influenza
EIA	Equine infectious anaemia
FEI	Fédération Equestre Internationale
HHP	High Health High Performance horse
IFHA	International Federation of Horse Racing Authorities
OC	Organising Committee
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health (Office International des Epizooties)
PEQ	Pre-export quarantine
RV	Responsible veterinarian
SOP	Standard operating practices
Terrestrial Code	OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code
VEE	Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis
VR	Veterinary regulations
WEE	Western equine encephalomyelitis

3) Resources

AQIS. 1999. Final Import risk analysis report on the temporary importation of horses that are serologically positive for equine piroplasmiasis for competition, exhibition or Racing purposes, 31p

Australian Government. 2010. Import Risk Analysis Report for Horses from Approved Countries
http://www.daff.gov.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/ba/animal/2013/zooelephants/Horse_IRA_final_100323.pdf

IFHA. 2002. Guidelines to facilitate the temporary movement of registered racehorses for international races by the Permanent liaison committee on the international movement of horses
http://www.horseracingintfed.com/resources/Guidelines_2002.pdf

New Zealand Government, Ministry for Primary Industries. 2004. Import Health Standard, Horses.
<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/1705>

Slater J., 2013. Ensuring equine biosecurity at London 2012. *Vet Rec.* 2; 172(5):117-9. doi: 10.1136/vr.f72.

UC Davis. 2011. How to set up a disease isolation unit at a farm or horse show
www.cdffa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal_health/pdfs/S.pdf

4) Supplemental reading on the HHP Concept

- [OIE Code Chapter 4.16 High health status horse subpopulation](#)
- [High health, high performance \(HHP\) horses: risk mitigation strategies and establishment of specific disease requirements](#)
- [Framework for the establishment of an Equine Disease Free Zone](#)
- [The OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services \(OIE PVS Tool\)](#)

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