



Whilst every attempt is made to keep information notes current, import conditions may change and importers are responsible for checking the current requirements

Importer Information Notes (IINs) - Registered equidae, equidae for breeding and production or slaughter from other Member States, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein (IIN EQ/1)

1. Scope

Movements of horses and other equidae from other parts of the United Kingdom, other EU Member States, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

An import licence is not required but all equidae moved from other EU Member States, Norway and Switzerland must comply with EU animal health rules governing movement within the EU.

Equidae are defined in Council Directive 2009/156/EC as “wild or domesticated animals of the equine or asinine species or the offspring of crossings of those species.” These include horses, ponies, asses, mules, donkeys and zebras.

“Registered equidae” means any equidae registered as defined in Council Directive 90/427/EEC on the zootechnical and genealogical conditions governing intra-Community trade in equidae identified by means of an identification document issued by:

- (i) The breeding authority or any other competent authority of the country where the animal originated which manages the studbook or register for that breed of animal; or*
- (ii) any international association or organisation which manages horses for competition or racing.*

- [Council Directive 2009/156/EC](#)
- [Council Directive 90/427/EC](#)

In the case of non-registered equidae born in the UK, the identification document should be issued by any of the bodies who offer this additional service. The rules for their issue in other Member States will depend upon how they have implemented the requirement.

- [Breeding Organisations or Associations for Equine Species](#)

2. Conditions applicable to movements from other EU Member States/Norway/Switzerland/Liechtenstein

Horses moved from other Member States must be accompanied by an identification document. All equidae must comply with the requirements of Council Directive 2009/156/EC on animal health conditions governing the movement of equidae. Amongst other things, the Directive requires that equidae being moved between EU Member States must be accompanied by either:

- An identity document, in the case of registered equidae moved for any purpose, including a page with a satisfactorily completed silhouette, issued by the breeding authority or any other Competent Authority which manages the studbook register and with the health attestation at Annex II of Council Directive 2009/156/EC which may be used for a single equid; or
- An identification document and a health certificate, in the case of equidae for breeding, production or slaughter (including registered), in conformity with the model certificate at Annex III of Council Directive 2009/156/EC. Under this ITAHC importers have the option to move more than one **registered equid** on the same certificate. If importers choose to use this option then the **registered equid** will have to meet/move under the conditions of Annex III i.e. the **registered equid** will need to be re-certified if it is intended for further EU movement (including return to the UK). In other words, the original Annex III ITAHC will no longer be valid for these movements (in the same way that an Annex II ITAHC or attestation would be).
- If an Annex III ITAHC is used, the consignment must be entered onto TRACES and the local APHA office responsible for the destination premises must be notified of the consignment, at least 24 hours before arrival. A route plan/journey log stamped with the corresponding health certificate number, in accordance with [Council Regulation \(EC\) 1/2005](#), must accompany the consignment to its final destination.

Completion of the identification document section I silhouette may be omitted if a transponder has been implanted or other compliant individual indelible and visible alternative marks have been applied or a photograph or print displaying details sufficient to identify the equine animal has been used.

To be eligible for movement within the EU, equidae must come from holdings that meet Council Directive 2009/156/EC's detailed requirements in relation to freedom from dourine, glanders, equine encephalomyelitis, vesicular stomatitis, equine infectious anaemia, rabies and anthrax and not been in contact with equidae suffering from an infectious or contagious disease during the 15 days immediately preceding pre-export inspection.

In addition, the Directive lays down detailed requirements for the trade in horses that are sent from Member States or parts of Member States, which are not free of African horse sickness.

An Official Veterinarian of the Member State of origin must inspect equidae within 48 hours of export. The health certificate or attestation must:

- be drawn up in English and the official language of the country of export;
- be signed by an Official Veterinarian of the country of export within 48 hours prior to export;
- consist of a single sheet;
- be made out to a single consignee;
- be valid for a period of 10 days; and
- Transport vehicles or containers must have been regularly cleansed and disinfected and be designed in such a way that manure, litter and fodder cannot escape during transportation.

Horses and other equidae moved into the UK from another member state **will not** need to be presented at a Border Inspection Post (BIP) upon arrival.

[Further information on checks on intra-EU movements](#)

For registered equidae from Romania, further conditions apply (see section 4 below).

3. Tri-partite agreement (UK, France and the Republic Of Ireland (ROI))

A revised [Tripartite Agreements](#) (TPA) came into force on 18 May 2014. Under the revised TPA movement of horses between the UK (**which now include the Channel Islands and Isle of Man**)) and Republic of Ireland remain unchanged. This means that equidae can continue to move freely except for those moving for slaughter.

Changes to the TPA affect movement of equidae between the UK and France and between France and Republic of Ireland. The agreement limit eligibility of the TPA to only include certain categories of horses.

Under the revised agreement movements between the UK and France are limited to:

- Thoroughbreds used for racing, breeding, in training or moving to a sale. Sporting horses competing in Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) sponsored competition;
- Horses registered on the Weatherbys Non Thoroughbreds Register or Autre Que Pur Sang (AQPS) horses for breeding, sale, training and racing in France.

Only horses with '**higher health status**' accompanied by a Commercial Document (DOCOM) together with their passport may be moved between UK/Ireland and France (TPA signatory Member States). The DOCOM which will contain the identification details of the horse will need to be notified through the TRACES system.

This procedure will be managed by the TPA approved bodies. Their contact details can be found on the list in Appendix II of the TPA.

Equidae travelling between the UK and France, or Ireland and France that do not qualify as being of high health status under the control of an Approved TPA body **MUST** fully comply with the requirements of Council Directive 2009/156/EC.

Any equidae destined for slaughter **MUST** be accompanied by a passport as well as Annex III ITAHC.

4. Conditions applicable to movements from Romania

Commission Decision 2010/346/EU on protective measures with regard to equine infectious anaemia in Romania lays down the measures applicable to movements from Romania of equidae, semen, ova and embryos of the equine species and blood products derived from equidae.

These measures state that equidae from Romania cannot be moved to other Member States unless they meet the following conditions:

- The entire consignment must have been:
 - isolated under official supervision on a holding approved by the competent authority as being free of equine infectious anaemia (EIA) (approved holding); and
 - Kept at a minimum distance of 200 metres from any other equidae of a lesser health status of at least 90 days prior to the date of dispatch.
- All equidae in the consignment must have:
 - undergone an agar gel immunodiffusion test for EIA (the AGID test), carried out with negative results on blood samples taken on two occasions 90 days apart; the second sample of which must have been collected within 10 days prior to the date of dispatch of the consignment from the approved holding; and
 - the AGID test must meet the criteria established by the relevant Chapter of the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals 2009 of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) (the Manual)

Romania must notify destination Member States and the European Commission in advance of the name and geographical location of approved holdings and the name and professional capacity of the Official Veterinarian responsible for the approved holdings and signing of the animal health certificate.

The movement must be pre-notified to the place of destination through the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES) at least 36 hours in advance of the time of arrival.

- [Trade Control and Expert System \(TRACES\)](#)

The consignment must be accompanied by an animal health certificate, in accordance with Annex III to Council Directive 2009/156/EC, which shall bear the following wording “Equidae in accordance with Commission Decision 2010/346/EU”.

The Member State of the place of destination must ensure that, upon their arrival at the place of destination:

- Horses are isolated under official veterinary supervision for at least 30 days and at a minimum distance of 200 metres from any other equidae or under vector protected conditions and are subjected to a AGID test, with negative results carried out on a blood sample taken not earlier than 28 days following the date of commencement of the isolation period; and
- To ensure compliance with these requirements, an Animal Health Veterinary Laboratory Agency (APHA) Veterinary Officer will check the isolation facilities at the holding of destination and serve a restriction notice (MR3) restricting such horses to that facility for at least 30 days. An APHA Veterinary Officer will take the post import blood sample no earlier than 28 day after arrival and arrange for the AGID test. Test results should be received within 24 hours and restrictions will be lifted, following a negative result from the AGID test, once the 30 day period has elapsed.

Horses intended for slaughter must originate from an EIA free holding, be tested negative for EIA within 10 days before departure and be moved directly to slaughter in the Member State of destination. The movement has to be pre-notified to the destination Member State through TRACES and be accompanied by a TRACES Intra Trade Animal Health Certificate (ITAHC). The destination Member State must ensure that the horses are slaughtered within 72 hours of arrival at the slaughter house. 10% of such horses have to be tested for EIA at the time of slaughter.

Laboratory testing will be carried out by the APHA laboratories and inspection and blood sampling by a Veterinary Officer from APHA.

The cost of the additional administrative procedures and visits carried out by APHA, laboratory testing by APHA or follow-up investigation until post import measures provided for in Article 7 are completed will be fully borne by the importer of the equidae.

APHA will invoice importers directly for the cost of the APHA inspections and APHA tests respectively. The current fixed cost of the initial visit to the premises of destination and the follow-up visit to blood sample the animals is £294.50 per visit. The cost of the AGID test is currently £9.60 per test.

Onward movement to another Member State from the holding of destination can only take place if, during a period of 90 days following the date of arrival of the equidae, they have undergone an AGID test, with negative results carried out on blood sample taken within 10 days prior to the date of dispatch and they are accompanied by a duly completed ITAHC.

The conditions shall not apply to equidae from holdings outside of Romania that are travelling directly through Romania to a slaughterhouse for immediate slaughter.

5. Notes for Movements from other parts of the UK and Crown Dependencies

There is free movement from the Channel Isles, Isle of Man and Northern Ireland and therefore horses do not need an export certificate. However if the horse remains within the UK for 30 days, the horse must have a horse passport. Contact Centre for International Trade –Imports, Carlisle if you require further information.

- [Contact point for further enquires](#)

6. TRACES and Pre-notifications Intra- Union Trade

When animals move from another Member State to the UK, the veterinary authorities of that Member State are required to enter the details of the movement into TRACES so that the Member State of receipt is made aware of the movement.

TRACES is an internet-based system for the application of export health certification for intra-EU trade in live animals, genetic material and some animal products. TRACES also aids in the monitoring of such movements, as well as covering aspects concerning animal welfare during transport and animal health controls. The arrival of animals at destination must be pre-notified 24 hours in advance and, in most cases, TRACES will fulfil this requirement.

In the case of registered equidae moved with a passport and Annex II health declaration, the TRACES and pre-notification rules do not apply.

7. Post-Import Checks

The Animal and Plant Health Agency is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs working to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

Equidae imported into the UK from other Member States may be subject to post-import veterinary and documentary checks. The nature of the checks will depend on the disease risk associated with the imported equidae but may include the collection of samples. Movement restrictions of the equidae and other animals (animals which may have been either in direct or indirect contact with the imported equidae) that may pose a disease risk to England may be imposed by Official Veterinarians. The veterinary authorities in England will make a judgement on any further action, including removing any restrictions, which may have been imposed.

8. Cleansing and Disinfection of Vehicles

The Transport of Animals (Cleansing and Disinfection) (No. 3) (S.I. 2003 No. 1724) (England) Order 2003 requires that, after the transport of any hoofed animals, the means of transport and associated equipment must be cleansed and disinfected before it is used again to transport animals. It also specifies that, even if this has been done, the means of transport must be cleansed and disinfected again to reduce the risk of transmission of diseases before the animals are transported.

- [The Transport of Animals \(Cleansing and Disinfection\) \(No. 3\) \(S.I. 2003 No. 1724\) \(England\) Order 2003](#)

Following the journey the vehicle must be cleansed and disinfected within 24 hours. It requires any person transporting such animals to remove dead animals, litter and excreta from the means of transport as soon as possible.

9. Welfare of Animals during Transport

Consignments of horses must comply with national welfare legislation when imported into, or in transit in or through the UK, including The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (S.I. 2006 No. 3260) Order 2006. This Order implements Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport.

- [The Welfare of Animals \(Transport\) \(S.I. 2006 No. 3260\) Order 2006](#)
- [Council Regulation \(EC\) 1/2005](#)

The 2006 Order makes general provision for the welfare of animals in transport. It includes provisions as to the means of transport or receptacles used, the amount of space available to each animal and the fitness of animals to travel. It requires animals that fall ill or are injured in the course of transport to be treated.

The Order also contains requirements on the feeding and watering of animals before and during a journey and on journey times and rest periods. It requires persons who transport animals in the course of business to ensure that they are accompanied by a person possessing appropriate knowledge and the ability to safeguard their welfare. It

also requires that each consignment be accompanied by either a journey log (if the journey exceeds 8 hours) or an animal transport certificate (if the journey is less than 8 hours). Logs and certificates must accompany the consignment throughout the journey. Journey logs must be certified at the point of departure by a veterinary inspector and returned after the journey to the Competent Authority of the place of departure within 1 month after completion of the journey.

Further advice on welfare in transport requirements can be obtained from the APHA Centre for International Trade – Imports, Carlisle.

- [Welfare of animals during Transport](#)

10. Deaths of Animals in Transit

If an imported animal dies in transit to, or at a port or airport in England, the person in charge of the animal must report its death, together with any other relevant information, to the APHA (CIT) - Imports; and the carcass of any such animal may only be disposed of in accordance with any directions given by a veterinary inspector.

11. Rabies risks

Importers and owners of imported animals are warned of rabies risks and are asked to pay special attention to the health of any imported animal during its first six months in England. Symptoms of the disease in horses and other equidae are as follows:-

Itching of site of infected wound, the irritation often causing rubbing and biting of the parts, often tearing the flesh. Animal becomes alert, ears erect, and moving backwards as if listening intently in all directions. Efforts made to break halter and attack manger with teeth, which may become broken (may also attack handler and is capable of inflicting massive wounds). Refuses food and may swallow wood, straw and manure. Genital excitement is common. Paralysis first appears in the throat, unable to drink water. Paralysis of the legs soon follows.

If importers see these symptoms, details should be reported immediately to the APHA, (CIT) - Imports or to the importers' veterinary surgeon. Rabies is, in any case, compulsorily notifiable to the authorities by law.

12. Safeguard measures

Situations where emergency safeguard action has been taken at very short notice, to prohibit or restrict the importation of certain animals/products from certain countries following an outbreak of serious disease in those countries may not be covered.

The Animal and Plant Health Agency is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs working to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

Importers are advised to contact the Animal and Plant Health Agency to check if any action has been taken in relation to the current status of any particular country. Details of safeguard measures can also be found in our Topical Issues page on the website.

- [Topical issues](#)

Alternatively you can keep up to date with amendments to legislation by checking the European Commission's website.

- [European Commission's website](#)

13. European Union legislation

Consolidated texts, which integrate the basic instruments of Union legislation with their amendments and corrections in a single, non-official document, are available. Each consolidated text contains a list of all legal documents taken into account for its construction.

Texts provided in this section are intended for information only. Please note that these texts have no legal value. For legal purposes please refer to the texts published in the 'Official Journal of the European Union'.

For non-consolidated legislation, please use the simple search option on the European Commission's website.

- [Simple search](#)
- [Consolidated texts](#)
- [Official Journal of the European Union](#)

14. Contacts for other important advice and guidance

Importers should note that the information given relates only to animal health and public health import conditions. It does not give guidance on other conditions that may need to be met.

The information sheet below gives details of other organisations you may also need to consult.

- Information sheet

Contact for general information

- [Contact point for further information](#)

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