

# Joint initiatives to facilitate international horse movements

As part of their collaboration, the OIE and IHSC hold regional and sub-regional workshops to build skills and knowledge amongst different stakeholders and to facilitate the implementation of tools adapted from OIE Standards.

These workshops help to initiate dialogue between public and private entities. They are key to identifying the main constraints as well as to developing and implementing joint strategies on cross-border movements of horses.

Furthermore, scientific studies carried out under the OIE-IHSC collaboration have contributed to the revision and update of the relevant OIE International Standards and welfare policies. These studies include research on diagnostic tests and the development of new vaccines.

# Facilitation of the international movement of competition horses

## Outcomes of a successful Public-Private Partnership



**For more information:**

[www.oie.int/competition-horse-movement](http://www.oie.int/competition-horse-movement)

[www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org)

[www.ifhaonline.org](http://www.ifhaonline.org)





## Challenges posed by cross-border movements of competition horses

The horse sports industry has expanded significantly over the last decade. More and more international equestrian sports and racing events are taking place. They involve temporary movements of horses between countries that do not necessarily have the same health status, posing a potential risk of disease spread. To address and manage this risk efficiently while facilitating the movement of competition horses, the OIE and the International Horse Sports Confederation (IHSC) have joined forces.

## A need for collaboration and harmonisation of regulations

The rising number of equestrian events has revealed important constraints to the movement of competition horses. They notably include:



### Lack of harmonisation of import requirements

between countries (due to separate risk assessment outcomes and different regional animal health situations). This may lead to excessive and irregular requirements for competition horse movements.



### Lack of coordination, communication and of a shared commitment

to support equine sports events. There is a need for expedited protocols involving cooperation between the public and private sectors, particularly between customs authorities, the equine industry, and Veterinary Services.

## OIE-IHSC: A Public-Private Partnership to address the challenges of transboundary horse movements

Effective risk management for temporary transboundary competition horse movements depends on the efforts of both the private and public sectors.

Since its establishment in 2013, the OIE-IHSC partnership has developed different tools for use at global level. They include the High Health, High Performance (HHP) framework for horses and the concept of Equine Disease Free Zones (EDFZ). Both of these tools are based on the provisions of the OIE *Terrestrial Code* chapters on 'zoning', 'compartmentalisation' and 'high health status horse subpopulation'.

These tools are described in more detail later in the document.



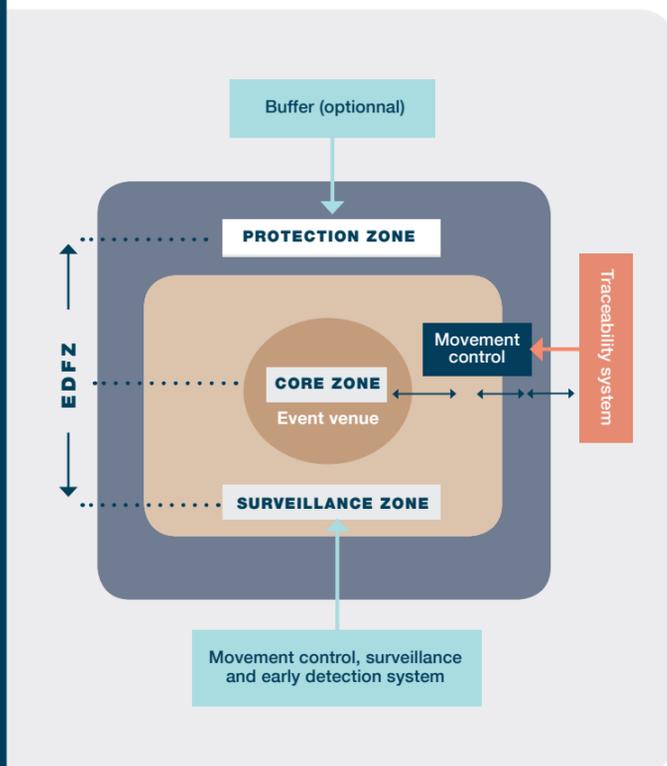
# Adoption of a risk-based approach

When international equestrian sport competitions are planned in countries where the control or eradication of specific equine diseases is not achievable throughout the whole territory, it is possible to define specific zone(s) in which equine disease risks are mitigated.

Equine Disease Free Zones (EDFZ) allow the separation of imported horses from the local equid population. They aim to protect both imported horses from diseases that may occur in other parts of the territory and the equid population of the host country from imported diseases.

## What are the criteria for an EDFZ?

-  Establishment of a defined area under the control of the Veterinary Authorities.
-  Identification of a limited equine population with a known health status.
-  Implementation of specific biosecurity measures.
-  Traceability and movement control: certification procedures for all horses moving into and out of the zone.
-  Existence of a contingency plan for effective risk management.

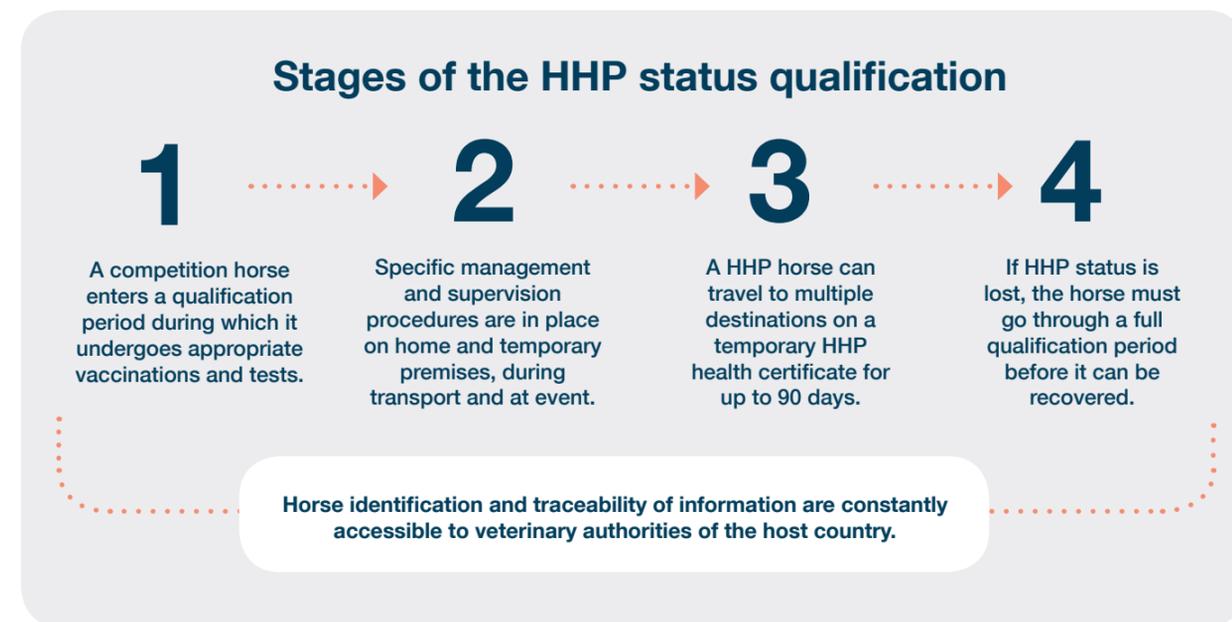


# The High Health, High Performance (HHP) framework

The HHP framework aims to harmonise the requirements for the importation of competition horses and to simplify the certification process for temporary movements. By doing so, it provides opportunities for new countries/regions with equestrian and racing interests to engage in international competitions.

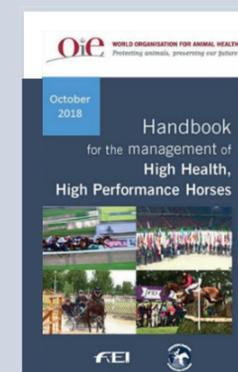
## What is a HHP horse?

A healthy competition horse qualifies as a HHP horse if it has a known health status and meets specific testing and vaccination requirements. Moreover, it has to come from an HHP compartment, i.e. premises that apply a specific set of biosecurity measures. Both the HHP horse and the HHP compartment must remain under continuous veterinary supervision.



The HHP framework and EDFZ concept provide a standard for the temporary movement of horses taking part in international equestrian events. They also encourage Veterinary Authorities, the horse industry and customs authorities to work together to strengthen their communication to further facilitate and harmonise the temporary movement of competition horses.

Guidelines on the establishment, management and self-declaration to the OIE of an EDFZ



HHP Handbook

# Facilitation of international competition horse movements: a shared responsibility

The public and private sectors share responsibility for ensuring that HHP compartments and EDFZs can be established efficiently for the horse diseases of concern in a particular country. The success of the collaboration between the two sectors relies on a formal consultation mechanism that includes all interested parties and sets out clear responsibilities in relation to importation and biosecurity for each one.

Note, the functional responsibilities below do not consider national policies regarding financing of activities, for instance cost recovery, or models of shared financing and performance oversight through Public-Private Partnership.



## Veterinary Authorities

- Design and implementation of regional programmes for disease surveillance, prevention and control.
- Establishment of a framework for risk analysis and emergency response.
- Animal identification, movement control and traceability.
- International certification, quarantine and border security procedures.
- Provision of quality veterinary laboratory diagnosis.
- Inclusion of producers and other stakeholders in joint programmes for the early detection of diseases.
- Accreditation of private veterinarians and delegation of responsibilities regarding sanitary controls.



## Custom Authorities

- Establishment of clear procedures for horse importations and inspections at border crossing posts.
- Use of the ATA (*Admission Temporaire/Temporary Admission*) carnet, which facilitates the temporary export and import of competition horses.
- Establishment of a database with details of cleared consignments to facilitate traceability immediately following importation.
- Preparedness for the growing demand for animal imports.



## Veterinary Community in the Private Sector

- Monitoring of disease outbreaks and reporting to the Veterinary Authorities.
- Implementation of all regulations for disease prevention, animal welfare and biosecurity measures, in compliance with OIE Standards.
- Verification that entry-to-venue inspections and post-entry monitoring are performed by qualified personnel (veterinarians, paraprofessionals and grooms).



## Horse Industry (International Equestrian Federation and International Federation of Horseracing Authorities)

- Reporting of equine diseases to the Veterinary Authorities.
- Provision of general information on the horse industry (breeding, racing and equestrian federations).
- Information exchange with the International Movement of Horses Committee (IMHC).
- Contribution to the development of regional agreements to facilitate the movement of pure-bred horses for temporary export and for non-reproductive purposes.
- Liaison with the Veterinary and Customs Authorities when preparing an equestrian event. This includes liaising with shipping agents and laboratories and communicate on the relevant requirements and timeframes.

## Public-Private Partnership opportunities

The roles and responsibilities described above provide scope for formalised arrangements between parties at a national level to achieve clarity and commitment to common strategic objectives, operational procedures and funding models. Such partnerships may be justified when considering complex sporting events involving high financial risks or to facilitate regular annual events.



PPP Handbook

