REPORT OF THE MEETING OF A SUB-GROUP ON HEALTH CERTIFICATION TO THE OIE AD HOC GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL HORSE MOVEMENT FOR EQUESTRIAN SPORT

Paris, 13, 16 and 17 January 2014

A meeting of an expert sub-group of the ad hoc Group on International Horse Movement for Equestrian Sport was held at the OIE Headquarters on 13, 16 and 17 January 2014. The objective of this sub-group was to develop a Model Health Certificate for the HHP sub-population.

1. Opening

Dr Gardner Murray, Chair of the ad hoc Group, welcomed the members of the sub-group. Dr Susanne Münstermann of the Scientific and Technical Department provided an update of activities since the last ad hoc Group meeting in October 2013. The key points of this update were (i) a meeting organised by the International Federation of Horse Racing Authorities (IFHA) in Hong Kong, attended by Dr Münstermann, in which the High Health, High Performance (HHP) concept was presented to the International Movement of Horses Committee (IMHC) of IFHA; (ii) Drs Münstermann, Graeme Cooke (FEI) and Kenneth Lam (IFHA) visited Korea in December 2013 and discussed the possible application of the Equine Disease Free Zone (EDFZ) and HHP concepts during the Asian Games; and (iii) OIE in collaboration with FEI and IFHA is organising a regional meeting in Hong Kong at which the current requirements for horse movement in the region and the HHP concept will be discussed.

Dr Etienne Bonbon, representing the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission), provided information on the views of the Code Commission regarding the task of this sub-group. He commenced by indicating that the Code Commission had received a number of country comments on the draft International Terrestrial Animal Health Code chapter on the HHP sub population, which range from full acceptance to mild comments to much stronger comments requesting more discussion before any possible adoption. He acknowledged the need for the ad hoc Group, through an expert sub-group, to develop a specific HHP Health Certificate. He suggested the following approach: the Group should prepare this Certificate in addition to the one already existing in chapter 5.12. (Model passport for international movement of competition horses) and should note in this report any difference and derogations to existing equine disease Terrestrial Code chapters for the HHP subpopulation. The Certificate could be tabled during the forthcoming Code Commission meeting in February for their comments. If acceptable to the Commission, the document could be sent out for Member Country comments.
2. Appointment of a chair and rapporteur

The meeting was chaired by Dr Murray and Dr Münstermann acted as rapporteur. The agenda and the list of participants were presented as Appendices I and II.

3. Development of the HHP Health Certificate

The basis for the development of the HHP Certificate had initially been provided by Drs Antony Kettle and Lam, using one of their Hong Kong/Dubai Certificates as the template. The Certificate had been discussed very briefly during the October 2013 meeting of the ad hoc Group, then realising that this would require more work by an expert sub-group.

In December, Drs Sarah Kahn and Alberto Gomes da Silva reviewed the draft and recommended a revised draft, which was the basis for discussion during this meeting.

The proposed HHP Health Certificate developed during this meeting is given as Appendix III and accompanying explanatory notes in Appendix IV.

4. Key discussion points on the document

4.1. General points

The general discussion started with the requirements for a horse to become an HHP horse. For the purpose of developing the Certificate, it was agreed to retain a three-month period of preparation prior to qualification for membership of the HHP subpopulation of which the last (or additional) 14 days need to be spent in a HHP registered premise or premises. The justification for the three-month period is that it corresponds to the general provisions for permanent import, i.e. it represents the period of residence during which a horse can be assumed to have an equivalent health status to that of the population in which it is living. To illustrate this approach, three months corresponds to the residence requirements for equine infectious anaemia (EIA) in Terrestrial Code Chapter 12.5. and the vaccination recommendations for equine influenza (EI) in Terrestrial Code Chapter 12.6.

It was agreed that a separate sub-group would develop recommendations on the detailed requirements for HHP registered premises and the procedures for their registration and approval by the Veterinary Authority. The three-month preparation period is now mentioned in the Certificate.

The various stops during the journey of a HHP horse to a competition, including rest stops during road journeys, places for the assembly of shipments, holding stables (‘hostels’) at airports, and transit or emergency situations, were discussed and the guarantee for all these other locations not to compromise the HHP status was questioned. It was agreed that this point should be addressed in the Explanatory Notes to the Health Certificate and requirements explained in the HHP Biosecurity Guidelines.

It was agreed that some points in the official certification would need to be supported by a declaration provided by the owner or person designated as responsible for the horse. The declaration by the owner or responsible person should cover:

1) that the horse has not been in contact with non HHP horses since qualifying as a member of the HHP subpopulation; and

2) that the horse has not been used for reproduction since qualifying as a member of the HHP subpopulation.
The group agreed that the maximum period of travel to be covered by the Certificate would be 90 days, between the date of departure and the date of return to the country of usual residence. During this period, HHP horses could move between multiple countries. There was a lot of discussion on this point, as other scenarios (e.g. re-application for HHP status in another country) could be imagined. It was highlighted that the multiple journey aspect is the key advantage of the HHP horse over other horses, since the single movement of competition horses is already rather well established.

The group agreed that the country of usual residence of a HHP horse is the country in which the horse was issued with its HHP registration number. When a HHP horse returns to the country of usual residence after a journey of up to 90 days, it may return to any premise, not necessarily the one it came from. However, its continuous membership in the HHP population will depend on (i) whether or not the premises it returns to hold a valid HHP registration and (ii) whether its owner decides to continue the membership. If the horse returns to a premise that does not have a valid HHP registration, it loses its membership of the HHP subpopulation. If the owner wishes to requalify the horse for membership, it will need to complete the 90 preparation period again.

The modus of application of this Certificate (single use, multiple use, for one animal or for groups of animals) was extensively discussed and it was finally concluded that:

- The Certificate could be used for temporary exportation to a country of destination as well as for the return to the country of usual residence (with options given as tick boxes in the header of the Certificate).
- One Certificate for each move, with copies of previous moves attached.
- One Certificate should be issued for each HHP horse (while noting that the MERCOSUR countries permit the issuance of a single certificate to cover a group of horses).
- If the owner or responsible person decides to take the horse out of compliance with the conditions of HHP movement (e.g. a decision to keep the horse away from the country of usual residence for more than 90 days), the standard conditions for movement of horses (temporary or permanent conditions) apply.

The structure of Part IV (Declaration by the Certifying Officer) was established as follows:

- certification regarding the country or zone;
- certification regarding the premises from where the horse was sent for export;
- certification regarding the horse.

4.2. Specific points of discussion

The specific points are listed in line with the headings of the Certificate:

I. Identification of the horse

It was noted that some countries do not have passports for horses (e.g. USA). It was agreed that all horses, regardless of the country of origin, must have a passport in order to become a HHP horse.

It was decided that all microchips used to identify an HHP horse should be compliant with the ISO 11784 standard.
IV. 1. Certification regarding the country of export

As African horse sickness (AHS) is now the subject of OIE official status decisions, self-declaration of freedom is no longer an option. Therefore, horses that are resident in countries or zones that do not have official status as to AHS-freedom will not be eligible for membership of the HHP sub-population.

IV. 3. Certification regarding the horse

For equine influenza (EI) it was agreed that HHP horses should be vaccinated within 21 – 90 days prior to export, as this would ensure that all horses entering the last 14 days in a HHP premise are vaccinated against EI. The same vaccine should be used for the primary course of vaccination, whether this comprises two or three injections.

It was noted that this requirement might be in conflict with FEI and IFHA event regulations. Both organisations were encouraged to harmonise their regulations with the requirements of the HHP Certificate.

For piroplasmosis it was decided that the infection status of all HHP horses needs to be established prior to movement, so that the receiving country can make provisions at event venues to separate sero-positive and sero-negative horses. It was recommended that horses be tested with both of the tests prescribed in the Terrestrial Code, to ensure the maximum predictive value of testing.

For glanders, it was agreed to require both country and premise freedom for HHP horses. For horses that are usually resident in countries that are not glanders free premise freedom must be based on testing, with negative results, of all horses on the premise.

V. Transport information

There was debate on the feasibility to separate HHP horses from non-HHP at all times during transport to and from a venue or to and from the premises. It was noted that, in the EU, and for most racing events horses that are being moved under temporary conditions are held separate from those that are being moved on a permanent basis. It was decided that HHP horses should be held separate at all times from non-HHP horses and that this should be the subject of the Owner’s Declaration, as required.

5. Points for discussion by the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

In light of the comments of Dr Bonbon, it was agreed that any recommendation of the sub-group that differs from the current conditions in the Terrestrial Code should be brought to the attention of the Code Commission in the report of this meeting. The following points are referred to the Code Commission for consideration:

1. Testing for Equine Influenza: Article 12.6.6. stipulates that agent identification testing should be done on 2 samples collected at 7 to 14 days and less than 5 days before shipment. For the purpose of this Certificate, it was agreed that one test provides sufficient confidence. Particularly FEI horses usually have several years of EI vaccination before qualifying as HHP horses. The sub-group proposed that the HHP horse should be vaccinated at 21 and 90 days before export from the country of usual residence either with a primary course or a booster and also recommended that the same vaccine (and vaccine manufacturer) be used during the primary course.
2. **Clinical inspection for EIA:** Article 12.5.2. stipulates ‘the animal showed no clinical sign of EIA on the day of shipment and during the 48 hours prior to shipment’. As it is not possible for the certifying veterinarian to make this statement at the time of the pre-export inspection, the sub-group considered that this statement should be modified, as follows: ‘At the time of the examination there were no clinical signs of equine infectious anaemia’.

3. **Testing for piroplasmosis:** Article 12.7.2. stipulates that the horse was subjected to diagnostic tests with negative results during the 30 days prior to shipment. The sub-group recommended to improve safety by testing with both of the tests prescribed in Chapter 1.3. (i.e. IFA and ELISA) and to modify the timing of the test to require that it be conducted within 14 days prior to export.

4. **Transportation section:** the sub-group was of the opinion that this section of the Certificate should not make specific reference to Chapter 7.4. (Air transport) since this chapter would need to be revised with respect to the recommendations on horses. The Group recalled the comments of a representative of a horse transport company, who had pointed out some problems with the IATA rules that underlie the recommendations in the *Terrestrial Code* as these relate to horses. It is recommended that the International Trade Department discuss this matter with the IATA Secretariat with a view to establishing a process for updating *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 7.4.

5. **Timing of the issuance of the health certificate.** The sub-group agreed with Appendix H of Chapter 5.12., which provides that the inspection should be done and the Health Certificate signed within the 48 hours prior to the international movement of the horse. However, *Terrestrial Code* Article 5.4.4. stipulates that an Official Veterinarian should provide an international veterinary certificate within the 24 hours prior to shipment of live animals. The sub-group requested that the Code Commission clarify this apparent inconsistency.

The Group further discussed the need to better characterize the different VEE sub-types to enable differentiation of pathogen from the non-pathogen types to avoid unnecessary trade restrictions.

6. **Finalisation and adoption of the draft report**

The Group agreed that the report would be subject to a period of circulation within the Group for comments. The report will be finalised through correspondence.
MEETING OF A SUB-GROUP ON HEALTH CERTIFICATION TO THE
OIE AD HOC GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL HORSE MOVEMENT FOR EQUESTRIAN SPORT
Paris, 13, 16 and 17 January 2014

Agenda

1. Opening
2. Appointment of a chair and rapporteur
3. Development of the HHP Health Certificate
4. Key discussion points on the document
5. Points for discussion by the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission
6. Finalisation and adoption of the draft report
Appendix II

MEETING OF A SUB-GROUP ON HEALTH CERTIFICATION TO THE
OIE AD HOC GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL HORSE MOVEMENT FOR EQUESTRIAN SPORT

Paris, 13, 16 and 17 January 2014

List of participants

MEMBERS

Dr Alberto Gomes da Silva
Responsible for Equine Movement
Control and Equine Health
Coordination for Animal Quarantine and
Movement Control
Ministério da Agricultura,
Pecuária e Abastecimento
Esplanada dos ministérios
Bloco-d, Anexo A, Sala 305
70043-900 Brasilia, DF
BRAZIL
Tel.: +61 2182735
Fax: +61 2244180
alberto.gomes@agricultura.gov.br

Prof. Alan J. Guthrie
Equine Research Centre
Private Bag X04
Onderstepoort 0110
SOUTH AFRICA
Tel.: (27-12) 529-8068
Fax: (27-12) 529-8301
alan.guthrie@up.ac.za

Dr Alf-Eckbert Füssel
Head of Sector
DG SANCO/D1
B-1040 Brussels
BELGIUM
Tel.: +32-2 295 08 70
Fax: +32-2 295 31 44
alf-eckbert.fuessel@ec.europa.eu

Dr Graeme Cooke
Director of Veterinary Department
Fédération Equestre Internationale
HM King Hussein I Building
Chemin des Délices 9
1006 Lausanne
SWITZERLAND
graeme.cooke@fei.org.jp

Dr Anthony Kettle
BVSc BSc DipSc MSc MBA MRCVS
MACVS
Head of Veterinary Department
Dubai Racing Club
Dubai
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
Tel.: (971) 4 336 1626
Fax: (971) 4 336 1579
Mob: (971) 50 459 4348
anthony.kettle@dubairacingclub.com

Dr Kenneth Lam
Veterinary Consultant
Hong Kong Jockey Club
Department of Veterinary Regulation
and International Liaison
Sha Tin Racecourse, Sha Tin, NT
HONG KONG
Mobile: +852- 9497 1303
kenvet@usa.net

OIE REPRESENTATIVES

Dr Susanne Münstermann
OIE Scientific and Technical
Department
s.munstermann@oie.int

Dr Sarah Kahn
OIE Consultant
Argentina
s.kahn@oie.int

Dr Etienne Bonbon
Terrestrial Animal Health
Standards Commission
et.bonbon@oie.int

Dr Gardner Murray
OIE Special Adviser
4, Weingarth Street, Holder
Canberra, ACT 2611
AUSTRALIA
gardner.murray@grapevine.com.au

Sub-Group on Health Certification to the AHG International Horse Movement for Equestrian Sport/January 2014
Model Health Certificate for the International Movement of HHP\textsuperscript{1} Horses between the country of usual residence and countries of temporary residence for the purpose of competition

\begin{itemize}
\item This certificate covers the temporary movement of a HHP horse to \ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots \text{(Country)} \* \item This certificate covers the return of a HHP horse to \ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots \text{(Country of usual residence)} \* \end{itemize}

* Select the appropriate option.

Import Permit No. (if applicable): \hspace{1cm} Export Permit No. (if applicable): 
\text{issued by (Government Authority) of (Country)} \hspace{1cm} \text{issued by (Government Authority) of (Country)}

\section*{I. IDENTIFICATION OF THE HORSE}

Name: \hspace{1cm} \text{Colour:} \hspace{1cm} \text{Sex:} 

Microchip Number: \hspace{1cm} \text{HHP identification number:} 

Accompanying Passport Number: \hspace{1cm} \text{Authority that issued the passport:} 

\section*{II. ORIGIN OF THE HORSE}

(a) Country of usual residence: \hspace{1cm} 

(b) Exporting country: \hspace{1cm} 

(c) Name and Address of Consignor: \hspace{1cm} 

(d) Address(es) and HHP registration number(s) of all premises where the HHP horse was held in the 14 days prior to export: 

(e) Premises of dispatch: 

(f) Other premises where the horse was held in the 14 days prior to export: 

---

\textsuperscript{1} High Health, High Performance Horses.
Appendix III (contd)

III. DESTINATION OF THE HORSE

(a) Country of destination: -----------------------------------------------

(b) Transport: AEROPLANE/VEHICLE/SHIP (delete as applicable)

Details: ---------------------------------------------------------------------

(c) Name and address of consignee:

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------

(d) Address and HHP registration number of the premises of destination:

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------

IV. DECLARATION BY THE CERTIFYING VETERINARY OFFICIAL

Declaration by the veterinary official of the competent Veterinary Authority

I, (full name of official) -------------------------------, veterinary official of the competent

Veterinary Authority of ---- (Country) ----------- hereby declare that:

1. Certification regarding the country of export

1.a The following conditions are of compulsory notification in the country:

‒ infection with African horse sickness virus
‒ equine encephalomyelitis (Eastern and Western)
‒ equine infectious anaemia
‒ glanders
‒ venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis
‒ Japanese encephalitis
‒ rabies.

1.b The country or zone is officially free from African horse sickness and no case has been
reported in the country/zone (as appropriate) in 12 months preceding the date of export
of the horse.

1.c The country or zone has been free from Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis for at least
two years preceding the date of export.

2. Certification regarding the premises from which the horse was sent for export

2.a. Prior to export, the horse was kept continuously for at least 90 days on a premise or
premises that meet(s) the disease certification requirements for an HHP premise. Such
premises are not used for the reproduction of equidae.

2.b During the 30 days prior to the period of residence of the horse (see point 2 a), the
premise was not under official restrictions for any of the following diseases: equine
encephalomyelitis (Western or Eastern), equine infectious anaemia, equine
influenza and rabies.
2.c Prior to export the horse was held for a minimum of 14 days at a premise or premises that has a current HHP registration number (which is shown in Part II).

2.d During the 90 day period prior to the date of export, the horse has been held on premises where there has been no case of glanders during the previous 180 days.

3. Certification regarding the horse

3.a After due enquiry and to the best of my knowledge:

The horse is a registered member of the HHP subpopulation.

The horse has not been mated naturally nor subjected to artificial reproduction during the 90 days prior to qualification as a HHP horse nor during the entire period of membership of the HHP subpopulation.

During the 14 days prior to export the horse did not come into contact with any horse that was not a member of the HHP subpopulation.

3.b I have in the period within 48 hours of export examined the horse identified in this certificate and found it to be free from clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease and fit to travel.

The horse’s vaccination and testing status is clearly indicated in the passport.

3.c Equine influenza

At the time of the examination there were no clinical signs of equine influenza.

The horse was immunised according to the recommendations of the manufacturer with a vaccine, complying with the standards in the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*, between 21 and 90 days before export from the country of usual residence either with a primary course or a booster.

In the case of export to countries that are free of equine influenza, HHP horses should be tested negative for the causal virus by an agent identification test, as described in the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*, conducted on samples collected less than five days before shipment to such countries.

3.d Equine piroplasmosis (infection with *Theileria equi* or *Babesia caballi*)

At the time of the examination there were no clinical signs of equine piroplasmosis (*Theileria equi* and *Babesia caballi*).

Horses were tested for the disease using both tests prescribed in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, according to the conditions recommended in the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*, within 14 days prior to export from the country of usual residence.

3.e Glanders

At the time of the examination there were no clinical signs of glanders.

In the case of export from a country that is not free from glanders, the horse was subjected to a test prescribed in the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* for glanders, with negative results, during the 90 days prior to departure from the country of usual residence.
3.f Equine infectious anaemia

At the time of the examination there were no clinical signs of equine infectious anaemia.

The horse has been tested with negative results for equine infectious anaemia, according to the recommendations in the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*, on blood samples collected during a period of no more than 90 days prior to this shipment.

3.g Examination and treatment for external parasites

The horse was thoroughly examined using a systematic approach, with close examination of ears, false nostrils, under body areas (axilla, inguinal, under mandible), perineum, mane and tail.

No external parasites were found and the horse was treated with a broad spectrum parasiticide, licenced or registered for use on horses and used according to the manufacturer's recommendations within 48 hours prior to the date of export.

V. TRANSPORT INFORMATION

After due enquiry and to the best of my knowledge:

The horse will be sent directly from the premises of dispatch to the premises of destination under conditions that ensure it will only come into contact with horses that have current HHP registration, accompanied by the required veterinary health certificate, in a vehicle that was cleaned and disinfected in advance with a disinfectant approved in the country of export.

The transportation of the horse will be managed in such a way that the health and welfare of the horse will be protected effectively.

VI. AUTHENTIFICATION OF CERTIFICATE

Name of official veterinarian: ________________________________

Position: ________________________________________________

Office address: __________________________________________

Telephone: ........................................ Fax: ..............................................

Email address: __________________________________________

Emergency (out of hours) contact information: _________________________

Signature: ______________________________________________

Date: ___________________________ Place: ___________________________

Official stamp: ______________________________________________

This certificate is valid for 10 days from the date of signature.
VII. DECLARATION TO BE SIGNED BY THE OWNER OR DESIGNATED RESPONSIBLE PERSON

I, the undersigned, ………………… declare:

1. With reference to this Health Certificate, the horse will be outside its country of usual residence for a period no longer than 90 days.

2. Since qualifying for membership of the HHP subpopulation, the horse has been in direct contact only with horses that are members of the HHP subpopulation.

3. The horse has either:
   - ☐ resided in ………………… (country of usual residence) since birth; or
   - ☐ entered ………………… (country of temporary residence) on ……… (date).

4. During its stay in ………………… (the country of temporary residence) the horse has been held only on premises that have a current HHP registration and under supervision of the Competent Veterinary Authority of that country.

5. The horse will be sent directly from the premises of dispatch to the premises of destination under conditions that ensure it will only come into contact with horses that have current HHP registration, accompanied by the required veterinary health certificate, in a vehicle that was cleaned and disinfected in advance with a disinfectant approved in the country of export.

Signature: …………………………………………………

Place: …………………………………………………

Date: …………………………………………………
Appendix IV

Explanatory notes to the Model Health Certificate
for the International Movement of HHP horses between the country of usual residence
and countries of temporary residence for the purpose of competition

GENERAL NOTES

1. This model certificate covers the movement of a HHP horse for a maximum period of 90 days from the date of departure from the country of usual residence to the date of return to the same country. To ensure that this requirement is satisfied, the certifying veterinarian must check the date of export of the HHP horse from the country of usual residence before issuing (1) a health certificate for temporary movement between countries and (2) the certificate for a HHP horse to return to the country of usual residence.

2. A copy of the health certificate issued for each movement, including the departure from the country of usual residence, must accompany the horse on each leg of its journey, including its eventual return to the country of usual residence.

3. After returning to the country of usual residence, a HHP horse may continue to be a member of the HHP subpopulation or may exit, temporarily or permanently, from the HHP subpopulation.

   When a HHP horse is shipped back to the country of usual residence, it may return to the premises of usual residence (which may or may not retain its HHP registration at this time) or may go to another premises, which may or may not have current HHP registration.

   If the destination premise does not have a current HHP registration, the horse will lose its membership of the HHP subpopulation.

4. The certificate should be printed on paper bearing the official letterhead of the Competent Authority and the country of export.

5. The certificate should be filled in using, as a minimum, the official language of the exporting country and that of the importing country.

6. An individual Health Certificate should be used for each international movement.

7. An individual Health Certificate should be used for each horse.

8. The passport comprises part of the identification of the horse. Both the passport and the Health Certificate should accompany the horse at all times. It is a mandatory requirement for a HHP horse to have a passport.

9. Each page should be endorsed with the initials and official stamp of the certifying veterinary official. The initials should be printed using ink of a different colour to that of the paper and the printed text.

10. Each Health Certificate should have attached the original (or certified copies) of all Health Certificates and laboratory test results relevant to previous movements, including the original movement from the country of usual residence.

11. Relevant details of vaccination and testing are recorded in the passport according to the FEI Veterinary Regulations and the IFHA rules as appropriate.

12. A consignment of HHP horses may only contain horses of equivalent (or higher) health status.

13. The HHP system in each country is approved by the national Veterinary Authority, within the framework of a public-private partnership. This process of approval includes the approval of HHP premises, both temporary and permanent.
SPECIFIC NOTES

Part I: Identification of the horse

Microchips used to identify HHP horses should comply with the ISO 11784 standard.

The registered HHP number of horses includes information on the owner / trainer or other designated person responsible for a HHP horse. The HHP number of premises where the horse has been held should also be provided.

In addition to the passport number, the authority issuing the passport (e.g. national Federation or national Thoroughbred Studbook Authority) should be identified.

Part II: Origin of the horse

II (a) The country of usual residence is the country where the horse and its place of usual residence are registered for the purpose of HHP membership.

II (d) The horse may be held on one or more registered HHP premises during the 14 days immediately prior to export. The address and HHP registration number of each premise should be provided.

Premises where HHP horses are held must only contain horses of equivalent (or higher) health status. Premises have a registration number that is approved (authorised) by the Veterinary Authority. Temporary premises (event venues) have a temporary registration number; this is also approved by the VA.

Part III: Destination of the horse

III (b) Identification details of the transport should be provided. For air transport, this should include the airline and flight number. For land transport, this should include the vehicle registration number and the registered owner or company in whose name the vehicle is registered. For sea/river transport, this should include the name of the vessel.

III (d) In the case of a HHP horse that is being shipped back to the country of usual residence, the HHP horse may return to the premises of usual residence (which may or may not retain its HHP registration at this time) or another premises, which may or may not have current HHP registration.

If the destination premise does not have a current HHP registration, the horse will lose its membership of the HHP subpopulation.

Part IV: Declaration by the certifying veterinary official

General Notes

The disease certification requirements are as follows:

1. The declaration by the certifying veterinarian is divided into three sections.

2. Part 1 (country and zone) and Part 2 (premises) fall within the purview of official control. As stated in Point 13 above, the HHP system in each country is approved by the national Veterinary Authority, within the framework of a public-private partnership. This process of approval includes the approval of HHP premises, both temporary and permanent. The certifying veterinary official should confirm the registered status of HHP horses and premises by making enquiry in the national HHP database or by contacting the FEI or IFHA, as appropriate.
3. Part 3, which contains certification of the individual horse, depends in part on the official veterinary examination and in part on a declaration made by the owner or designated person responsible for the horse. The form of this declaration is provided in Section VII of the Model Health Certificate.

4. Immunisation: consistent with the recommendations in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*, immunisation should always be performed according to the manufacturer’s instructions on the use of the vaccine. In the case of horses that are being immunised for the first time, the same vaccine (and vaccine manufacturer) should be used in the first two doses.

**Specific Notes**

IV (1.b) With respect to the certification on country or zone freedom from African horse sickness, the certifying veterinarian should certify regarding (1) the OIE recognised (official) status of the country or zone for African horse sickness and (2) that no outbreak has occurred in the country (if the export is from a free country) or in the zone (if the export is from an African horse sickness-free zone) in the 12 months preceding the export of the horse.

IV (2.a) The 90-day period refers to two specific points:

1. it is a period of ‘qualification’, i.e. it establishes the health status of the horse as a member of the HHP subpopulation; and
2. it provides for the maintenance of the health status of the HHP horse subsequent to qualifying as a member of the HHP subpopulation.

After qualification as a member of the HHP subpopulation, the horse should always be held at a HHP registered premises. Providing that this is the case, there is no need to restart the 90-day period. If a HHP horse moves to a premise that does not have a current HHP registration, it will need to restart the 90-day qualification period of residence on premises that meet the disease certification requirements.

IV (3.a) ‘The horse has not been mated naturally’ (etc.) should be covered in the Declaration by the owner or designated person responsible for the horse.

IV (3.c) applies to the movement of an HHP horse to a country that is free of equine influenza – such as Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong – regardless of whether the movement is from or to the country of usual residence.

IV (3.d) Equine piroplasmosis – it is recommended to test horses using both of the prescribed tests recommended in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, with the objective of assuring the greatest sensitivity and specificity of test results.

IV (3.f) Equine infectious anaemia – it is recommended that the official veterinarian certify regarding the absence of clinical signs at the time of the examination. It is not feasible for the veterinarian to certify regarding the absence of clinical signs during the 48 hours prior to shipment as stated in Article 12.5.2.