Movement of horses: health requirements

Susanne Münstermann

Sub-Regional Workshop, Baku, 3 – 5 March 2020
Content

- Rationale for health certification
- Reasons for international movement
- Associated risks
- Import health requirements
  - Challenges
  - Options developed by OIE – IHSC
- Risk mitigation
  - HHP conditions
  - 6 diseases
- HHP Veterinary Certificate – new EU Health Certificate
- Discussion
- Conclusion
Recap on Rationale

- Minimise the risk of introducing disease into the importing country
- Maximising ease of international horse movement
- Many impediments to this seemingly simple rationale
- FEI\(^1\) and IFHA\(^2\) together with OIE work on appropriate solutions
  - The HHP framework
  - The diseases for compulsory control
  - EDFZ

\(^1\)FEI = Federation Equestre Internationale \quad \(^2\)IFHA = International Federation of Horse racing
Reasons for international movements

- For competition purposes (majority of all movements)
- For breeding purposes ("shuttle stallions")
- Change of ownership
- For processing

Impediments:

- Horses face welfare problems during extensive quarantine periods
- No permission to stop-over and offload at non-approved countries
- Testing and retesting
- Excessive paper work
- Long delays at customs
Risks associated with international horse movement

- single most important factor responsible for spread of infectious diseases
  - Risk is higher for countries with high “throughput”
- Horses imported for long-term or permanent residency likely represent greatest risk of introducing a disease
- Risk of disease transfer compounded by progressive growth in volume of international horse movements over past 50-60 years
Diseases imported through movement

1963 to 2018, Peter Timoney

- African horse sickness
- Contagious equine metritis
- Dourine
- Equine herpes virus -1
- Equine infectious anaemia
- Equine viral arthritis
- Glanders
- Piroplasmosis
- Venezuelan equine encephalitis
- Equine influenza
Sources of infection

- Sub-clinically infected animals (e.g. AHS, EI, EHV, EVA)
- Carrier animals (e.g. CEM, EVA, dourine, EIA, glanders, strangles, piroplasmosis, EHV)
- Semen/embryo (e.g. CEM, EVA)

AHS

Glanders
Link between level of risk and T or P import

Equine disease events resulting from international horse movements: Systematic review and lessons learned

M. DOMINGUEZ*, S. MÜNSTERMANN, I. DE GUINDOS† and P. TIMONEY‡

*World Organisation for Animal Health OIE, Paris, France
†Veterinary Faculty, University of Complutense, Madrid, Spain
‡Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center, University of Kentucky, Lexington, USA

*Correspondence email: m.dominguez@oie.int; Received: 12.05.15; Accepted: 14.10.15

Literature review on imported cases from 1995 to 2014
Results of the study

- Fifty-four equine disease events identified.
- Type of importation not determined for 13 disease events.
- Other 41 events resulted from permanent (>90 day) entries or illegal horse movements.
- No event associated with temporary (<90 day) horse importations.
- And yet, the EU under the new AHL will import horses on a permanent basis (as of 4/2021)
Import health requirements - challenges

- No distinction between temporary and permanent import, e.g. for intra-regional movement
- Import policies still zero-risk based
- Countries may not have reported survey results of their resident equine populations for diseases for which they restrict entry
- Counter the terms of the WTO Sanitary Phyto-Sanitary Agreement
- Frequency and kind of lab tests required excessive
Harmonisation of requirements

- Development of the HHP framework
  - Study on minimum requirements globally – “six diseases”

- Industry and OIE efforts to harmonise requirements at regional level
  - Regional workshops
Risk mitigation

- General risk mitigation – HHP concept

- Standard conditions
  - Biosecurity
  - Health management
  - Traceability
  - Contingency planning

- Disease specific mitigation measures
Decision tree for risk mitigation

Is the risk of disease spread mitigated by the HHP standard conditions?

Yes

Establishment of the high health status based solely on HHP standard conditions

No

Establishment of the high health status based on disease specific mitigation measures
Diseases mitigated by HHP standard conditions

- Rabies
- JE
- EEE
- WEE
- WNF

Horse dead-end host

- EHV-1 related disease
- EVA
- Screwworm myiasis

Clinical detection at early stages

- Anthrax
- Dourine
- CEM
- EHV-1 related disease
- EVA

Exposure by direct contact, fomites, environment, or venereal contact

- HHP health management
- HHP Biosecurity

Risk of disease spread mitigated by the HHP standard conditions
6 diseases requiring specific measures

- EI
- Glanders
- AHS
- EIA
- Piroplasmosis
- VEE

**Characteristics of transmission**
- Transmission possible by asymptomatic carriers or presymptomatic shedding
- Respiratory transmission or vector-borne transmission

**Mitigation**
- Not mitigated by the HHP health management
- Not mitigated by the HHP biosecurity

**Need for**
- Disease specific mitigation measures
Specific measures to mitigate risk

- Level of risk of these diseases to
  - Be undetected in the population
  - Be introduced into the population
  - Be transmitted within the population

have been assessed and described.

- The respective measure is prescribed (vaccination, testing) and forms part of the requirements stipulated in the Health Certificate
HHP INITIAL VETERINARY CERTIFICATE
[Model for the temporary export of not more than 90 days of a High health-high performance (HHP) horse dispatched from its country of usual residence(1) to a country of temporary residence for competition or races]

Part II: Zoosanitary information

Certificate reference number:

The undersigned certifies that the horse described above satisfies the following requirements:

1. has been examined today, this being within 48 hours prior to shipment, and found free from distal signs of infectious or contagious disease, free from obvious signs of enzootic infection, and fit to travel in accordance with the proposed itinerary;

2. is a registered HHP horse accompanied by its passport in which all vaccinations related to this Certificate are documented;

3. after due enquiry and to the best of my knowledge, during the 90 days prior to shipment

   3.1. has not been used for natural or artificial reproduction and has not been kept on a premises where natural or artificial reproduction activities are carried out during this period;

   3.2. has not come into contact with any equine not of equivalent health status and has continuously been resident on qualified HHP premises;

   3.3. has not visited premises under official restriction for equine health reasons;

4. after due enquiry and to the best of my knowledge, for at least 15 days prior to shipment has not come into contact with equine showing signs of infectious or contagious disease;

5. comes from a country/countries of dispatch,

   a. from which there have been no reports of African horse sickness (AHS) by the OIE;

   b. or where AHS is compulsorily notifiable, and the horse was not vaccinated within 40 days prior to the introduction into an approved AHS vector-protected quarantine station where it was isolated for at least 14 days and was subjected to a validated PCR test carried out on a blood sample taken after at least 14 days after introduction into the quarantine and not more than 5 days before release from quarantine and the horse is transported directly from the quarantine station to the place of dispatch in a vector-protected vehicle and appropriate vector protection is applied during transportation;

6. comes from a country of dispatch

   a. in which Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis is compulsorily notifiable and which has been free from Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis for at least the last two years;

   b. or not known to have been free from Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis for at least the last two years, and as a result prior to shipment, has not shown a rise in temperature (taken at least once daily), or if it has shown a rise in temperature, it has been subjected to a blood test for virus isolation with negative result, and

   c. or has been vaccinated not less than 60 days prior to shipment with an inactivated vaccine against Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer;

7. has been kept for six months prior to shipment.

AHS
Residence, isolation, PCR

VEE
Temp., vector protection, HI test
glanders

CFT

piro

IFAT

EIA

Coggins

EI

vaccination

Ext. parasites

Either

...
Changes in Europe

- Europe is an important partner for Third countries in horse sport (racing and competition)
- The “new” Animal Health Law was adopted in March 2016 and will be in force as of 21.4.2021 – will replace all previous regulations, including for horse certification for movement.
- Sanitary groups for Third countries remained; categories of “registered” horses, horses for slaughter and horses for breeding remained; need for countries to get on the “list of third countries” (2018/659/EU) remained; however:
  - No more “temporary” importation into the EU! Only permanent importation, which thereafter allows free movement in EU Member States
  - The new import health certificate has a number of changes to the health requirements, most importantly the ability of Veterinary Services to demonstrate surveillance for glanders, surra, dourine, EIA to be able to declare parts of the country free of the disease
Discussion

- Could the use of one single Import Health Certificate at regional level reduce intra-regional movement issues for you?
- Level of testing might need to be harmonized – inter-laboratory ring tests?
- Follow OIE recommendations concerning EI vaccine
Conclusion

- Mitigation of risk for the majority of diseases of importance can be met through observance of the HHP standard conditions.
- The HHP Health Certificate is based on risk analysis and regulates the “six diseases” with specific measures.
- Allows for harmonization of import conditions for Temporary import.
Thank you for your attention
## The major changes in the EU health certificate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>As of April 2021</th>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Current regulation (2018/659/EU)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Country free for 3 yrs or surveillance program and establishments free for 6 months and test</td>
<td>Glanders</td>
<td>Country free for 6 mths or test neg after 6 mths of infection in establishment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No longer requirement</td>
<td>VS</td>
<td>Country free from 6 mths or test neg after 3 weeks of infection in establishment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country free for 2 yrs or surveillance program and establishments free for 6 months and test</td>
<td>Surra</td>
<td>Was no requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country free for 2 yrs or surveillance program and establishments free for 6 months and test</td>
<td>Dourine</td>
<td>Country free for 6 months; 30 days after last infected animal was slaughtered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country free for 1 yrs or quarantine plus 2 tests for 3 mths</td>
<td>EIA</td>
<td>Country free for 6 months; 3 mths after last case was slaughtered, confirmed by test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country free plus two years</td>
<td>AHS</td>
<td>Country free for 2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country free for 2 yrs or surveillance program and insect proof quarantine... different options</td>
<td>VEE</td>
<td>Country free for 2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No longer a requirement</td>
<td>All EEM</td>
<td>6 mths after slaughter of diseased animal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>