

TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION  
FEBRUARY 2011 REPORT

CHAPTER 12.6.

**EQUINE INFLUENZA**

Article 12.6.1.

**General provisions**

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, equine influenza (EI) is defined as an *infection* of domestic horses, donkeys and mules.

~~For the purposes of *international trade*,~~ This chapter deals not only with the occurrence of clinical signs caused by equine influenza virus (EIV), but also with the presence of infection with EIV in the absence of clinical signs.

For the purposes of this chapter, isolation is defined as ‘the separation of domestic equids from domestic equids of a different equine influenza health status, utilising appropriate biosecurity measures, with the purpose of preventing the transmission of *infection*’.

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, the *infective period* for EI 21 days.

Standards for diagnostic tests and vaccines are described in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

When authorising import or transit of the *commodities* listed in this chapter, with the exception of those listed in Article 12.7.2., *Veterinary Authorities* should require the conditions prescribed in this chapter relevant to the EI status of the equine population of the *exporting country*, *zone* or *compartment*.

Article 12.6.2.

**Safe commodities**

When authorising import or transit of the following *commodities*, *Veterinary Authorities* should not require any EIV related conditions, regardless of the EI status of the equine population of the *exporting country*, *zone* or *compartment*:

1. semen;
2. *in vivo* derived equine embryos collected, processed and stored in conformity with the provisions of Chapters 4.7. and 4.9., as relevant (under study).

Article 12.6.3.

**Determination of the EI status of a country, a zone or a compartment**

The EI status of a country, a *zone* or a *compartment* can be determined on the basis of the following criteria:

1. the outcome of a *risk assessment* identifying all **potential risk factors for EI occurrence** and their historic **perspective relevance**;

2. whether EI is notifiable in the whole country, an on-going EI awareness programme is in place, and all notified suspect occurrences of EI are subjected to field and, where applicable, *laboratory* investigations;
3. appropriate *surveillance* is in place to demonstrate the presence of *infection* in the absence of clinical signs in domestic equids.

Article 12.6.4.

### **EI free country, zone or compartment**

A country, *zone* or *compartment* may be considered free from EI provided the *disease* is notifiable in the whole country and it shows evidence, through an effective *surveillance* programme, planned and implemented according to the general principles in Chapter 1.4., that no *case* of EI occurred in the past 2 years.

The *surveillance* may need to be adapted to parts of the country, *zone* or *compartment* depending on historical or geographical factors, industry structure, population data, movements of equids within and into the country, *zone* or *compartment*, wild equid populations or proximity to recent *outbreaks*.

A country, *zone* or *compartment* seeking freedom from EI, in which vaccination is practised, should also demonstrate that EIV has not been circulating in the population of domestic and wild equids during the past 12 months, through *surveillance*, in accordance with Chapter 1.4.

In a country in which vaccination is not practised, *surveillance* may be conducted using serological testing alone. In countries where vaccination is practised, the *surveillance* should include agent identification methods described in the *Terrestrial Manual* for evidence of *infection*.

A country, *zone* or *compartment* seeking freedom from EI should apply appropriate movement controls to minimise the risk of introduction of EIV in accordance with this chapter.

If an *outbreak* of clinical EI occurs in a previously free country, *zone* or *compartment*, free status can be regained 12 months after the last clinical *case*, providing that *surveillance* for evidence of *infection* has been carried out during that twelve-month period in accordance with Chapter 1.4.

Article 12.6.5.

### **Recommendations for the importation of domestic equids for immediate slaughter**

*Veterinary Authorities* should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the domestic equids showed no clinical sign of EI on the day of shipment.

Article 12.6.6.

### **Recommendations for the importation of domestic equids for unrestricted movement**

*Veterinary Authorities* should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the domestic equids:

1. came from an EI free country, *zone* or *compartment* in which they had been resident for at least 21 days; in the case of a vaccinated domestic equid, information on its vaccination status should be included in the veterinary certificate;

OR

2. came from a country, *zone* or *compartment* not known to be free from EI, were subjected to pre-export isolation for 21 days and showed no clinical sign of EI during isolation nor on the day of shipment; and
3. were immunised according to the manufacturer's instructions with a vaccine complying with the standards described in the *Terrestrial Manual* between 21 and 90 days before shipment either with a primary course or a booster; information on their vaccination status should be included in the veterinary certificate.

For additional security, countries that are free of EI or undertaking an eradication programme may also request that the domestic equids were tested negative for EIV by an agent identification test for EI described in the *Terrestrial Manual* conducted on samples collected on two occasions at 7 to 14 days and less than 5 days before shipment.

Article 12.6.7.

**Recommendations for the importation of domestic equids which will be kept in isolation (see Article 12.6.1.)**

*Veterinary Authorities* should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the domestic equids:

1. came from an EI free country, *zone* or *compartment* in which they had been resident for at least 21 days; in the case of a vaccinated domestic equid, information on its vaccination status should be included in the veterinary certificate;

OR

2. showed no clinical sign of EI in any premises in which the domestic equids had been resident for the 21 days prior to shipment nor on the day of shipment; and
3. were immunised according to the manufacturer's instructions with a vaccine complying with the standards described in the *Terrestrial Manual*; information on their vaccination status should be included in the veterinary certificate.

Article 12.6.8.

**Recommendations for the importation of fresh meat of equids**

*Veterinary Authorities* should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the *fresh meat* came from equids which had been subjected to ante- and post-mortem inspections as described in Chapter 6.2.