

## USA Comments

General Comment : The United States has reviewed the draft chapter and finds that it provides a very succinct summary of a definition of what would constitute a subpopulation of horses that move internationally for performance purposes (equestrian competitors and racing events). We have no suggested changes/modifications to the chapter as it is currently drafted.

### DRAFT CHAPTER 4.X.

## HIGH HEALTH STATUS HORSE SUBPOPULATION

### Article 4.X.1.

#### General provisions

This chapter provides recommendations for the establishment of a *subpopulation* of horses that are moved internationally to compete in equestrian competitions, including thoroughbred races, and that have a certified high health status, in order to facilitate their safe temporary importation, onward movement and return to the country of usual residence.

In line with the provisions in Chapter 4.4., the *subpopulation* is established by the application of documented health management practices and biosecurity measures to create a functional separation between horses within the defined *subpopulation* and all other equids. The separation, at all times, of high health status horses from all other equids is essential to maintain their membership in the *subpopulation*.

Horses that are moved internationally for the purpose of breeding or any other purpose not linked to competitions are not included in this *subpopulation*.

### Article 4.X.2.

#### Criteria for the inclusion of horses in the high health status subpopulation

1. High health status

Each horse in the *subpopulation* is subjected to specific measures to protect its health and minimise the probability of spreading *diseases* to other horses.

These measures comprise a specific set of laboratory tests and *vaccinations* appropriate to the disease status of the horse's region of origin and the regions that it will visit. Records of all *vaccinations*, and results of tests and clinical inspections are documented in an individual passport that complies with Chapter 5.12.

2. Identification and traceability

Consistent with the provisions of Chapter 4.2., horses in the *subpopulation* are individually identified as follows:

- a) Each horse bears an individual identification, preferably a microchip.
- b) Each horse is accompanied at all times by its individual passport that contains the horse's unique identifier.

c) Each horse has an individual document that identifies it as a member of the high health status *subpopulation* and refers to the passport and the identifier.

d) Horses are registered in an international database that contains relevant information linked to the passport and the identifier. *Veterinary Authorities* should have access to this database.

3. Management of the subpopulation

a) In the course of each veterinary examination of a horse, its passport is checked, its identity verified and the details of all official tests and treatments, including *vaccinations*, are recorded and signed by the examining *veterinarian*.

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- b) The high health status of each horse in the *subpopulation* is maintained by ensuring compliance at all times with an international Biosecurity Plan. This compliance is assured and validated through continual veterinary supervision of horses at the *establishment* of usual residence, during transport and at competition venues. This supervision is provided by authorised *veterinarians*. Non-compliance results in suspension of the high health status of the horse.
- c) An appropriate qualification period is required for entry or re-entry of a horse into the *subpopulation*.
- d) A maximum period is set for each absence of a horse from its country of usual residence.

Article 4.X.3.

**Recommendations for the Veterinary Authorities**

*Veterinary Authorities* are encouraged to officially recognise organisations that will be responsible for ensuring compliance with this chapter. *Veterinary Authorities* are also encouraged to develop specific protocols for the temporary importation of horses of high health status entering the country solely for the purpose of competition at equestrian events.

*Veterinary Authorities* are encouraged to recognise the biosecurity guidelines developed by the OIE in collaboration with the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) and the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA). (Under study)