

**PROTOCOL BETWEEN THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF QUALITY SUPERVISION,
INSPECTION AND QUARANTINE OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ON QUARANTINE AND HEALTH
REQUIREMENTS FOR HORSES TO BE EXPORTED FROM THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as "AQSIQ") and the United States Department of Agriculture (hereinafter referred to as "USDA"), through friendly negotiations, have decided to reach the following agreements on quarantine and health requirements for horses to be exported from the United States of America to the People's Republic of China.

Article 1

USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), shall be responsible for the implementation of quarantine procedures and the issuance of the health certificate for the horses to be exported to China.

1.1. After having received the import permit for the horses issued by AQSIQ, USDA may start to implement the quarantine and inspection for horses.

1.1.1. Each import permit can only allow for the importation of one consignment of horses.

1.1.2. Horses for export should be in accordance with the requirements specified in the import permit.

1.2. USDA shall provide a sample health certificate in advance for AQSIQ's approval before it comes into effect.

1.2.1. An official veterinarian of USDA will be responsible for confirming the compliance of horses with all provisions of the protocol, and for issuing the health certificate. The health certificate will include the following:

1.2.1.1. Names and addresses of consignor and consignee.

1.2.1.2. The sex, age, breed, quantity and micro-chip or passport number of horses

for export.

1.2.1.3. Results of clinical examination, test methods and results, names of the official laboratories.

1.2.1.4. Names, dosages and manufacturers of the parasiticides, disinfectants and medicines that have been used, dates and places of such treatments, the type and the effective period of the vaccines and the date vaccinated.

1.2.1.5. Date of embarkation, port of departure, the carrier and flight number.

1.2.1.6. Date of issuance of the health certificate, typewritten name and (digital or handwritten) signature of the veterinary officer of USDA.

1.2.1.7. USDA will provide an official mechanism for verification of digitally signed health certificates.

1.2.2. There will be one original and at least two copies of the health certificate.

1.2.3. The health certificates shall be typed in English and Chinese. Handwritten (except the signature of the veterinary officer) or altered versions are invalid.

1.2.4. The original health certificates shall accompany the horses and shall arrive in China at the same time.

1.2.5. Should the horses arrive at the Chinese port of entry with invalid certificate or without a certificate, the horses will be returned or destroyed by AQSIQ.

Article 2

AQSIQ shall send animal quarantine officer(s) to the original farms of the horses to be exported, to the related isolation premises, and to the testing laboratories to cooperate with the American veterinarians in carrying out the quarantine and inspection procedures for the horses for export.

Article 3

3.1. USDA confirms that the country is free from African horse sickness, Japanese encephalitis, epizootic lymphangitis, glanders, Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis, horse pox, dourine and Surra.

3.2. Whenever any outbreak of diseases in Article 3.1 occurs, USDA shall employ the following actions immediately:

3.2.1. Notify AQSIQ with the details of the outbreak as soon as possible and the control measures that have been taken; and

3.2.2. Refrain from exporting horses to China at once.

Article 4

4.1 The States of origin for the horses to be exported has been free from equine piroplasmiasis, contagious equine metritis, and vesicular stomatitis for the past 12 months.

4.2 The farms of origin and the zone of extended radius of 8 kilometres for the horses to be exported has been free from equine infectious anemia for the past 12 months.

4.3 The farms of origin for the horses to be exported has been free from West Nile fever, equine encephalomyelitis (Western and Eastern), equine paratyphoid, equine leptospirosis, strangles, equine rhinopneumonitis, equine viral arteritis, equine influenza and equine mange for the past 2 years.

4.4 The horses for export shall be born and raised in the United States, or shall be raised in the United States for at least 6 months.

Articles 5

Within 30 days, prior to entry into the quarantine premises, the horses to be exported to China shall be subject to clinical examination and found to be free from clinical signs of contagious and infectious diseases, as well as the following tests for the corresponding diseases in the laboratory approved by USDA with negative results:

5.1. Equine infectious anemia:

5.1.1 Agar gel immunodiffusion test with negative results; or

5.1.2 ELISA with negative results.

5.2. Equine viral arteritis:

5.2.1 Serum neutralization test at a serum dilution of 1:4 with negative result;

or

5.2.2 In case of positive antibody titres, two serum neutralization tests of paired samples at 14 days interval, the second result which demonstrated stable or declining antibody titres, and virus isolation test shall be subject with negative results.

5.3. Equine paratyphoid (*salmonella abortus equi*): Tube agglutination test, negative at 1:320 of serum dilution.

5.4. Equine encephalomyelitis (Western and Eastern):

5.4.1 IgM antibody capture ELISA with negative results; or

5.4.2 Two haemagglutination inhibition tests of paired samples at 14 days interval, with less than 4-fold increase in titres.

5.5 Equine influenza:

5.5.1 Two haemagglutination inhibition tests of paired samples at 14 days interval, with less than 4-fold increase in titre; or

5.5.2 Antigen-capture ELISA with negative results (Nasal swab); or

5.5.3 Real-time RT-PCR with negative results (Nasal swab).

5.6 Contagious equine metritis: Bacterial culture examination for samples collected in reproductive organs from mares and semen from stallions with negative results (the castrated horses and sexually immature animals less than 2 years of age are exempted from the bacterial culture).

5.7 Equine piroplasmiasis (*Theileria equi* and *Babesia caballi*):

5.7.1 Competitive ELISA (c-ELISA) with negative results; or

5.7.2 IFA test with negative results at a serum dilution of 1:80; or

5.7.3 CFT with negative results at a serum dilution of 1:5.

5.8 West Nile fever: IgM antibody capture ELISA with negative result.

5.9 Vesicular stomatitis:

5.9.1 Competitive ELISA (c-ELISA) with negative results; or

5.9.2 Complement fixation test at a serum dilution of 1:5 with negative results.

5.10 Equine rhinopneumonitis:

5.10.1 The non-vaccinated horses shall be subjected to a serum neutralization test at a serum dilution of 1:4 with negative result;

5.10.2 The vaccinated horses shall be subjected to two serum neutralization tests at 14 days interval, with less than 4-fold increase in titre.

5.11 Strangles: Nasal swab culture with negative results.

Article 6

Horses which passed the inspection and isolation in the farms of origin shall undergo quarantine for at least 30 days in the quarantine premises approved by USDA. During the quarantine period, all horses shall be examined clinically one by one and found to be healthy and free of any sign or evidence of infectious and contagious diseases and shall be subject to the tests defined in article 5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9, 5.10 (non-vaccinated horses only) , in the laboratory approved by USDA with negative results.

Article 7

During the quarantine period, under the supervision of a USDA accredited veterinarian, the horses for export shall be treated against internal and external parasites using effective parasiticides approved by USDA, and all horses shall be treated against leptospirosis with an appropriate treatment (medication, dosage, and date will be listed).

Article 8

All means of transportation for the horses shall be cleaned and disinfected with disinfectant approved by USDA under the supervision of a USDA accredited

veterinarian.

Article 9

Within 24 hours prior to export, the horses for export shall be examined by an official veterinarian of USDA, and found to be free from clinical symptoms or signs of infectious and contagious diseases.

Article 10

The fodder and bedding used during the quarantine and transportation period shall not come from areas infected by infectious and contagious diseases, and meet the veterinary hygiene requirements.

Article 11

During the transportation period, the horses to be exported to China shall not be mixed with other animals, and have no contact with other animals.