

Schedule 2 – New Zealand MPI Standard for the Pre-Export Isolation (PEI) of Horses

Approval and audit

- (1) The premises and facility must be approved by an Official Veterinarian of the Veterinary Authority of the exporting country as meeting the requirements of this Standard.
- (2) The premises and facility must be audited annually by an Official Veterinarian and records of inspections and management must be retained for audit purposes for at least 2 years.
- (3) MPI reserves the right to audit facilities and their standard operating procedures, on a case-by-case basis, in countries approved to export horses to New Zealand.

Location

- (1) The pre-export isolation supervising Official Veterinarian must approve the transport route and methods to the port of departure to ensure the biosecurity status of the horses is maintained and their animal welfare needs met.

Note: MPI suggests PEI premises be located less than 240km from the port of embarkation, but recognises that alternatives may be approved by the Official Veterinarian with specific arrangements to address biosecurity and animal welfare documented in the standard operating procedures for the facility.

Premises

- (1) The premises must be surrounded by two stock-proof perimeter fences at least 2 metres apart. Sections of the perimeter where the wall of an enclosed building forms part of the perimeter do not require fencing.
- (2) The premises must be lockable to ensure that there is no contact with other livestock and no entry of unauthorised personnel.
- (3) The premises must have:
 - a) An area for the cleaning and disinfection of vehicles separated from the stables, holding pens and the loading area.
 - b) An area for unloading and loading of horses which manages the biosecurity risk of horses entering or exiting the facility coming into contact with unauthorised personnel and animals.

Facility

- (1) The Veterinary Authority must manage the risk of airborne spread of equine contagious diseases and ensure adequate distance is maintained between quarantine and non-quarantine horses. Standard Operating Procedures must include details of how this risk is managed.
- (2) The facility must not keep domesticated animals and must take measures to prevent wild/feral animals entering the facility. Measures such as baits, trapping, bird deterrents, and their use, must be included in standard operating procedures for the facility.
- (3) Stables must be constructed so that they can be effectively cleaned and disinfected.
- (4) Stables, yards, fences, and feeding and watering arrangements must be constructed so that horses are protected from injury and other welfare needs are met.
- (5) The facility must have an adequate drainage system and ensure hygienic management of waste.
- (6) The stable must have facilities for veterinary examination and collection of samples.

- (7) Adequate showering facilities must be present e.g. piped hot water, change area, lockers/hangers; or the standard operating procedures must provide for all personnel attending to the horses to have showered at home immediately prior to entering the facility.
- (8) External yards or paddocks within the facility may be used for exercise. The perimeter must be stock-proof.

Management

- (1) During PEI horses must remain isolated from all other livestock not of an equivalent isolation and tested health status; and whilst in isolation horses must be free from clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease.
- (2) The PEI premises must have a designated manager who takes responsibility for the day to day running of the premises, and who must report any problems promptly to the Official Veterinarian of the Veterinary Authority.
- (3) Access to the PEI premises should be limited to staff essential to the running of the quarantine premises and animal health. Other personnel (for example farriers) may be granted access provided approval is given by the Official Veterinarian. The necessity for access must be justified as required for the health and welfare of the horse. A register of visitors must be maintained.
- (4) All personnel attending the horses (e.g. grooms, vets, stable hands, truck loading assistants etc) must shower and change outer clothing and footwear before entering the pre-export isolation facility and handling the consignment.
- (5) Personnel and visitors to the facility must have thorough knowledge of the isolation requirements and the sanitation procedures of the PEI.
- (6) During PEI, transportation, and before departure at the port of export horses must be protected from insect vectors where required by Part C of the *MPI Import Health Standard for Horses*, and must not be naturally mated or artificially inseminated.

Supervision

- (1) The Official Veterinarian must ensure that horses for export have met the relevant requirements of the *MPI Import Health Standard for Horses* before horses enter PEI.
- (2) The Official Veterinarian must visit the premises at least weekly during the isolation period to ensure that the requirements of this standard and the *MPI Import Health Standard for Horses* are being met. During the visit, the veterinarian must inspect horses, observe the operation, review the records and record the visit and activities undertaken.
- (3) The veterinary clinician employed by the premises must record in a register all their visits and activities undertaken while on the PEI premises and amend the health records of any horse treated during PEI.
- (4) If any horse in the consignment tests positive to any pre-export test, is removed from the consignment for any reason, or isolation has been breached, MPI must be notified and give clearance for the importation to proceed.
- (5) The Official Veterinarian must examine the animals within 48 hours of export. Horses must be found to be free of evidence of infectious or contagious disease, ectoparasites and seeds, and be certified fit to travel.

Operation

- (1) The premises must be emptied and thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before the commencement of each PEI.
- (2) The PEI period will start when the last horse has joined the consignment in the premises.
- (3) During the PEI, the premises must be occupied only by horses of the same export consignment.

- (4) All equipment used in the feeding, handling and treatment of horses in PEI must be new or cleaned and disinfected before the commencement of the PEI.
- (5) Personnel attending horses must wear outer clothing and footwear used exclusively in the premises.
- (6) A detailed health record, including twice daily temperature check, must be kept for each horse on the premises during the PEI period and it must be available to the supervising Official Veterinarian. An abrupt onset of fever ≥ 39.4 degrees Celsius (≥ 103 degrees Fahrenheit) accompanied by other clinical signs such as loss of appetite, diarrhoea, and nasal discharge must be investigated to conclusion by the Official Veterinarian and subsequently reported to MPI, prior to the export of in-contact animals.
- (7) Bedding used must be visually clean and free of evidence of contamination with ticks.

Duration

- (1) When horses are to be imported into New Zealand from countries where the diseases listed below are considered present and pre-export isolation is the agreed risk mitigation measure in the approved veterinary certificate, the duration and type of PEI is stated in brackets:
 - a) Equine influenza (minimum 21 day PEI)
 - b) Vesicular stomatitis (minimum 30 day PEI protected from insect vectors)
 - c) Equine encephalosis (minimum 40 day PEI protected from insect vectors)
 - d) Surra (minimum 21 day PEI protected from insect vectors)
 - e) Japanese encephalitis (minimum 21 day PEI protected from insect vectors)
 - f) VEE, EEE and WEE (minimum 21 day PEI protected from insect vectors)
 - g) African Horse Sickness (minimum 40 day PEI at a MPI-approved and audited vector-proof premises)
 - h) Cattle tick infected country/zone (minimum 3 day PEI)

Transport

- (1) Vehicles for transport of horses from the premises to the port of embarkation must be cleaned and disinfected to the satisfaction of the Official Veterinarian before loading.

Vector-proof facilities

- (1) Where vector-proofing in PEI is a requirement of the standard, MPI must evaluate the exporting country's standards, and an official MPI audit of the PEI facility and premises may be required at the exporting country's expense. Repeat audits at a negotiated time-frame may also be required. MPI may conduct an evaluation of veterinary services when adding countries to the approved country list, particularly for countries with which there is no existing trade.