



Ref: CTO 2014 151 [B]

Horses: Veterinary Certification from Australia

CTO direction to biosecurity inspectors relating to the clearance of horses from Australia according to the approved Department of Agriculture of Australia's veterinary certificate

Replaces CTO direction(s): 2014 105 [B] and 2014 144 [G].

Pursuant to section 27(1)(d)(iii) of the Biosecurity Act 1993 I, Matthew Stone, Chief Technical Officer, Ministry for Primary Industries, give the following directions for horses from Australia relating to whether to give clearance in accordance with the approved veterinary certificate from the Department of Agriculture of Australia. The approved veterinary certificate contains the following measures, different from those in clause numbers 2.11, 2.15 and 2.17 of the applicable import health standard for horses *HORANIIC.GEN* (22 May 2014):

2.11 Equine infectious anaemia (EIA)

- (1) The horses have met the recommendations as described in the *OIE Code*.
- (2) The required vaccination was administered at least 35 days prior to export.
- (3) Samples for testing were collected in pre-export isolation or in the 21 days prior to export if PEI is not required.

2.15 Equine viral arteritis (EVA)

- (1) Uncastrated male horses have met the recommendations as described in the *OIE Code* for the importation of uncastrated male horses; or
- (2) Horses other than uncastrated males have met the recommendations as described in the *OIE Code* for horses other than uncastrated males.

2.17 Hendra and Nipah viruses

- (1) The horses were kept since birth or for at least the past 90 days in a country approved by MPI as free of Hendra and Nipah; or
- (2) The horses were kept since birth or for at least the past 90 days in premises where no case of infection in animals or humans has been reported during that time; and Hendra and Nipah are notifiable in the country of export; and horses were showing no clinical signs of infection with Hendra and Nipah virus at the final inspection prior to export.

Australian veterinary certification:

Clause 18: Import testing for equine infectious anemia (EIA) does not apply to horses exported from New Zealand to Australia for less than 21 days prior to re-export to New Zealand.

Clauses 19, 20 and 21: import testing for equine viral arteritis (EVA) does not apply to unweaned foals (accompanied by their negative tested dam) less than 6 months of age.

Clause 22. a. Hendra virus infection is notifiable in Australia;
b. the horses were kept since birth or for at least 90 days prior to export (or since being imported into Australia) at premises where no case of Hendra virus infection in horses was reported during that time.

Not testing horses exported from New Zealand to Australia less than 21 days prior to re-export to New Zealand for EIA as well as not testing foals less than 6 months of age for EVA is deemed by MPI as equivalent to the requirements in *HORANIIC.GEN*. The reason for directing clearance is that the biosecurity risks associated with this CTO direction have been assessed and are managed effectively.

For horses imported into Australia from a third country, less than 90 days prior to re-export to New Zealand, a residency period in Australia of less than 90 days prior to export to New Zealand is deemed by MPI as equivalent to the requirements in *HORANIIC.GEN* with regards to Hendra virus. This is justified by the fact that Hendra virus occurs in Australia only. The risk of horses coming in contact with Hendra virus whilst in Australia is mitigated by veterinary certification stating premise freedom from Hendra for the time the horses were in Australia.

The reason for directing clearance is that the biosecurity risks associated with this CTO direction have been assessed and are managed effectively.

This direction takes effect from the date of signing and continues in effect until amended or revoked.