



Ref: CTO 2015 047 [B]

Veterinary Certification for horses from the USA

CTO direction to biosecurity inspectors relating to the clearance of horses from the USA according to the approved USDA APHIS veterinary certificate

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 the USA relating to whether to give clearance in accordance with the approved veterinary certificate from the United States Agriculture Department (USDA) Agriculture and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The approved veterinary certificate contains the following measures, different from those in clauses 54 and 55 of the applicable model certificate under the Import Health Standard for Horses (*HORANIIC.GEN*), issued 22 May 2014:

54. The horses were kept for at least the 21 days before export in a country or zone that is free of Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) as described in the *OIE Code*; horses showed no clinical signs of VS at the final inspection prior to export;

OR

55. the horses were:

- a. from a country considered infected with VS; and
- b. VS is notifiable in the country of export; and
- c. an approved surveillance system is in place to provide rapid detection and on-going monitoring; and
- d. the horses were kept for the 21 days before export in premises where no case of VS was reported during that time; and
- e. the horses were subjected to:
 - i. an MPI-approved diagnostic test in the 21 days before export. The result of testing indicates negative, stable or declining titres; OR
 - ii. an MPI-approved diagnostic test in the 21 days before export with positive results then re-tested not less than 14 days later. The result of testing indicates negative, stable or declining titres; and
- f. the horses were kept for a minimum 30 days before export in PEI and were protected from vectors at all times in PEI and during transportation to the port of departure; and
- g. the horses were showing no clinical signs of VS at the time of final inspection and for the 21 days before export.

VS has been de-listed by the OIE, but MPI keeps measures in place due to the difficulty in distinguishing VS from Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and the possibility of an incursion response as a consequence of importing a horse showing signs of VS. However, MPI accepts the fact that VS only occurs in certain states of the USA and hence accepts certifying State freedom (clause 54) and lowering the PEI requirement (clause 55f) to 21 days 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.

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