Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

Import Health Standard

Horses

HORANIIC.GEN

8 April 2022

Issued under the Biosecurity Act 1993

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

TITLE

Import Health Standard: Horses

COMMENCEMENT

This consolidated Import Health Standard comes into force on 8 April 2022.

This Import Health Standard amends the *Import Health Standard: Horses*, which came into force on 2 June 2020, and consolidates all amendments up to 8 April 2022.

The amendment history to this Import Health Standard is set out in *Schedule 1: Document History.*

ISSUING AUTHORITY

This Import Health Standard is issued under section 24A of the Biosecurity Act 1993 and incorporates amendments made in accordance with section 24B(1)(a) of that Act.

Dated at Wellington this 8th day of April 2022.

Vicki Melville
Acting Manager, Animal Health
Ministry for Primary Industries
(acting under delegated authority of the Director-General)
A copy of the instrument of delegation may be inspected at the Director General's office.

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Introduction

This introduction is not part of the Import Health Standard (IHS), but is intended to indicate its general effect.

Purpose

This import health standard specifies the minimum requirements that must be met when importing horses.

Background

The Biosecurity Act 1993 (the Act) provides the legal basis for excluding, eradicating and effectively managing pests and unwanted organisms.

Import health standards issued under the Act set out requirements to be met to effectively manage biosecurity risks associated with importing goods. They include requirements that must be met in the exporting country, during transit, and during importation, before biosecurity clearance can be given.

This particular IHS sets out the minimum requirements that must be met when importing horses into New Zealand from MPI-approved countries.

A *Guidance Document* accompanies this IHS providing information on how the requirements may be met.

Who should read this Import Health Standard?

This IHS applies to importers of eligible consignments of Equidae.

Why is this important?

It is the importer's responsibility to ensure the requirements of this IHS are met. Consignments that do not comply with the requirements of this IHS may not be cleared for entry into New Zealand and/or further information may be sought from importers. Consignments that do not comply with the requirements of this IHS may be re-shipped or destroyed under the Act or treated/tested in accordance with this IHS prior to release or equivalence determined. Importers are liable for all associated expenses.

Equivalence

The Chief Technical Officer (CTO) may approve measures under section 27(1)(d) of the Act, different from those set out in this IHS, that may be applied to effectively manage risks associated with the importation of these goods. If an equivalent measure is approved a permit to import may be issued under section 24D(2) of the Act, if the Director-General considers it appropriate to do so.

For competition horses alternative approaches to risk management are available when New Zealand horses are exported internationally or international horses are imported into New Zealand for short durations for the purpose of competing in specific events. In such cases, MPI approval is required for any alternatives for specific circumstances. MPI's approval will be on the basis that the alternative measure/s effectively manages biosecurity risk to a level equivalent to that achieved through application of the measure/s described in this import health standard for horses permanently imported. Every MPI approval will be noted in the Guidance Document.

See Guidance Document for more information about equivalence and permits

Document History

Refer to Schedule 1.

Other information

This is not an exhaustive list of compliance requirements and it is the importer's responsibility to be familiar with and comply with all New Zealand laws.

Refer to Schedule 3 for information on the New Zealand MPI Standard for the Pre-Export Isolation (PEI) of Horses.

Refer to Schedule 4 for information on the Post-Arrival Quarantine of Horses.

See Guidance Document for more information about inspection and verification of consignments.

Part 1: Requirements

1.1 Application

(1) Equidae may be imported into New Zealand from all countries that meet the requirements of this IHS.

(2) The family of Equidae includes horses, donkeys and their crosses (mules, asses and hinnies).

(3) Eligible countries are Australia, Canada, European Union, Hong Kong, Japan, Macau, Singapore, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

1.2 Outcome

(1) The outcome this IHS is seeking to achieve is the effective management of biosecurity risks associated with eligible consignments.

(2) The biosecurity risk organisms associated with horses that are managed by this IHS are:

a) African horse sickness
b) Anthrax
c) Borna disease
d) Contagious equine metritis
e) Dourine
f) Eastern and Western equine encephalomyelitis
g) Equine encephalosis
h) Equine herpesvirus type 1 (abortigenic and paralytic forms)
i) Equine infectious anaemia
j) Equine influenza
k) Equine piroplasmosis
l) Equine salmonellosis (*Salmonella abortus equi*)
m) Equine viral arteritis
n) Glanders
o) Hendra and Nipah viruses
p) Internal and external parasites (endoparasites and ectoparasites)
q) New World and Old World screwworm
r) Rabies
s) Surra
t) Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis
u) Vesicular stomatitis
v) Warble fly

1.3 Incorporation of material by reference

(1) The following international standards are incorporated by reference in this IHS under section 142M of the Act:

a) The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* (the *Manual*), available at the OIE website: Terrestrial Manual Online Access - OIE - World Organisation for Animal Health
b) The OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Code*), available at the OIE website: Terrestrial Code Online Access - OIE - World Organisation for Animal Health
c) The International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals Regulations (LAR): a copy is available for reading at MPI, Pastoral House, 25 The Terrace, Wellington, free of charge.

(2) The following material is incorporated by reference in this IHS under section 142M of the Act:

a) *MPI Approved Diagnostic Tests, Vaccines, Treatments and Post-arrival Testing Laboratories for Animal Import Health Standards, MPI-STD-TVTL.*

(3) Under section 142O(3) of the Act it is declared that section 142O(1) does not apply, that is, a notice under section 142O(2) of the Act is not required to be published before material that amends or replaces the above listed standards, guideline or lists has legal effect as part of these documents

See Guidance Document for more information about incorporation by reference and on section 142O

1.4 Definitions

(1) Refer to Schedule 2.

1.5 Eligibility

(1) All horses must be healthy and fit to travel at departure.

(2) No horse shall be under one month of age.

(3) Mares shall not be more than 300 days pregnant.

1.6 Exporting country systems

(1) Horses may only be imported from a country where the Competent Authority has provided the following evidence to the satisfaction of the CTO:

a) The verifiable animal health status of the equine populations in the exporting country or zone, with respect to biosecurity risk organisms of concern.
b) The national systems and/or programmes and standards in the exporting country for regulatory oversight of the equine industry.
c) The capabilities and preferences of the exporting country's Competent Authority with respect to achieving equivalent outcomes to requirements stated in this IHS.

(2) Once satisfied with the exporting country systems, MPI and the Competent Authority may commence negotiation of a country-specific veterinary certificate.

MPI reserves the right to perform an in-country or desk-top audit at any time, including prior to the first shipment of horses.

See Guidance Document for more information about exporting country systems and certification.

1.7 Pre-export isolation (PEI)

(1) When required, horses must be held in PEI premises approved and supervised by the exporting country's Veterinary Authority and compliant to New Zealand's *MPI Standard for the Approval of Pre-Export Isolation Premises for Horses.*

1.8 Laboratory

(1) Diagnostic test(s) must meet the standards of MPI's document MPI *Approved Diagnostic Tests, Vaccines, Treatments and Post-arrival Testing Laboratories for Animal Import Health Standards, MPI-STD-TVTL*.

(2) Diagnostic testing must be conducted at a laboratory approved by MPI and/or the exporting country's Veterinary Authority to conduct diagnostic testing for horses to be imported into New Zealand.

(3) Laboratory samples must be collected, processed, and stored as recommended in the OIE *Code* and Terrestrial Manual.

1.9 Transport

(1) Horses imported into New Zealand must, as a minimum, meet the following transport requirements:

a) The date, expected time of arrival and the flight number or ship's name must be provided by the importer to the New Zealand Official Veterinarian at the port of entry at least 72 hours in advance of importation.
b) Transport containers must meet the design and species specifications published in the *International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals Regulations (LAR),* unless otherwise agreed by MPI.
c) Horses transported by sea must meet the New Zealand Marine Rules Part 24C.
d) The vehicle in which horses are transported to the port of departure must be cleaned, disinfected and treated with an effective residual insecticide. The date of treatment, the chemical(s) used, and the active ingredient(s) must be recorded on the veterinary certificate.
e) Horses must be loaded into containers that are new or cleaned, disinfected and treated with an effective residual insecticide. The date of treatment, the chemical(s) used, and the active ingredient(s) must be recorded on the veterinary certificate.
f) Only sterile peat, soft board, treated wood shavings, shredded paper or other inert MPI-approved products may be loaded for use as bedding during transportation and must be disposed of as biosecurity waste according to MPI Facility Standard: *Standard for Transitional Facilities for General Uncleared Risk Goods, TFGEN*.
g) During transport to the port of departure and during transit to New Zealand horses must not be transported with animals that are not eligible for importation into New Zealand.
h) Horses transiting a third country on their way to New Zealand must receive MPI-approval prior to export. MPI-approval and any special conditions must be noted on the permit to import. Note: Horses transiting countries where there is a risk of insect borne pathogens must meet the requirements of the MPI Standard: *Importation of Livestock into New Zealand by Air Routes Transiting Countries where Health Risks Associated with Insect Borne Pathogens Exist, ANITRAIC.ALL*.
i) All aircraft transporting horses must be disinfected and a treatment certificate must accompany the horses and be available for inspection by an authorised Inspector at the arrival port.

1.10 Transitional facility

(1) Following biosecurity authorisation being given, the animals must proceed directly to the transitional facility named on the permit to import.

(2) The documentation will be checked to ensure it meets all requirements noted under *Part 2 Specified Requirements (Veterinary Certification)* and *General Requirements in Part 1* of this IHS.

(3) The crates must be cleaned and disinfected and all feed, bedding material and faeces from the crate and transitional facility must be destroyed as biosecurity waste.

1.11 Treatment

(1) Horses imported into New Zealand must, as a minimum, be treated as follows:

a) Vaccinations required for import of horses into New Zealand must be administered not less than 35 days before export (for adequate immunity prior to entering PEI), except where Venezuelan equine encephalitis (VEE) and African horse sickness (AHS) vaccines are required. These latter two vaccines must be administered as described in the OIE *Code*. Vaccines for risk organisms

must meet all other recommendations described in the Terrestrial Manual and *MPI-STD-TVTL*. The vaccination requirements for each risk organism are stated in part 3 of this standard.

b) All product(s) and vaccination(s) required for import of horses into New Zealand must be administered according to the manufacturer's instructions. The generic product name(s), active ingredient (where applicable), dose rate and date of treatment must be recorded on the veterinary certificate.

c) Equine Influenza (EI) vaccinations must contain equivalent strains of EI virus as recommended by the OIE expert surveillance panel for EI vaccinations or otherwise agreed by MPI.

d) Vaccinations must be either:

   i) The final dose of a primary course; or
   ii) The recommended booster to complement the primary course.

1.12 Additional information

(1) All equipment entering New Zealand with horses must comply with the MPI Import Health Standard for the Importation into New Zealand of Equipment Associated with Animals or Water.

(2) Containers made of timber must be inspected by an authorised Inspector at the arrival port and must comply with the MPI *Import Health Standard for Importing Wood Packaging Material from All Countries*.

(3) Horses must be inspected by the Official Veterinarian within 48 hours of export and certified free of clinical signs of disease (including ectoparasites) and fit to travel. MPI must be notified in writing by the Official veterinarian at least 72 hours prior to arrival should a horse under veterinary treatment and/or exhibiting clinical symptoms of disease or be released from PEI.

(4) All feed loaded for use during transport to the port of departure and during transit to New Zealand must be treated as biosecurity waste on arrival and meet the requirements of the MPI Facility Standard: *Standard for Transitional Facilities for General Uncleared Risk Goods, TFGEN.*

(5) All transport containers used during transport (e.g. airstalls and modified horse shipping containers) must be treated on arrival according to the requirements of the MPI Facility Standard: *Standard for Transitional Facilities for General Uncleared Risk Goods, TFGEN.*

(6) Horses must be uniquely identified with either a microchip or visible brand and may be accompanied by an original/copy of their passport or silhouette to assist with identification.

1.13 The documentation that must accompany goods

(1) The consignment must arrive in New Zealand with the following:

a) Permit to import issued by MPI (copy acceptable).

b) A permit to import is required for the importation of all horses from all countries, except Australia, into New Zealand. An application form for a permit to import can be obtained from the MPI website: http://mpi.govt.nz/importing/live-animals/horses/forms-and-templates/. The permit to import will be issued for a single consignment.

c) The importer must supply the following information to obtain a permit:

   i) Name and address of exporter.
   ii) Number, sex, age, species and microchip transponder or other identification of the animal(s).
   iii) Date of proposed importation.
   iv) Name and address of the containment facility in New Zealand to which the consignment is to proceed following importation.
   v) Port of arrival, and route and means of transport to the containment facility.

d) Veterinary certificate

(2) The exporting country's Official Veterinarian must certify the consignment meets all the requirements of this IHS. Where equivalent measures have been negotiated and agreed with MPI, a country-specific veterinary certificate must be certified.

(3) A veterinary certificate that accompanies a consignment must include the following:

a) Unique consignment identifier.
b) Description, species, and number of animals.
c) Name and address of the importer (consignee) and exporter (consignor).
d) The name, signature and contact details of the Official Veterinarian.
e) Specified requirements, outlined in Part 2 of this IHS, to be certified and endorsed by the Official Veterinarian;

(4) All documents must:

a) Be original, unless otherwise stated.
b) Accompany the imported goods.
c) Be in English or have an English translation that is clear and legible.
d) Be endorsed on every page by the Official Veterinarian with their original stamp, signature and date or be endorsed in the space allocated and all pages have paper based alternative security features [does not apply to the permit to import].

(5) Copies of all documentation must be sent to the New Zealand Official Veterinarian at the airport/port of arrival at least 72 hours in advance of importation.

1.14 Biosecurity authorisation

(1) All documentation accompanying the horses must be inspected.

a) The identity of each horse confirmed by the Official Veterinarian on arrival.
b) The consignment must be compliant to the standard prior to issuing biosecurity clearance or authority to move the horses to a transitional facility.

(2) The Official Veterinarian must inspect the consignment, or a sample of the consignment as stated in the approved country's veterinary certificate before biosecurity clearance is given.

(3) The consignment must be compliant to the MPI Facility Standard: *Standard for Transitional Facilities for General Uncleared Risk Goods, TFGEN*. An authorised MPI Inspector at the arrival port (seaport or airport) must confirm all aspects of *TFGEN* are met. This includes hygiene requirements for personnel, containers and biosecurity waste disposal.

(4) A biosecurity authorisation may be given, by an Official Veterinarian, under section 29 of the Act authorising the horses to the transitional facility named on the MPI permit to import.

1.15 Biosecurity clearance

(1) A biosecurity clearance, under section 26 of the Act, may be issued when the Equidae meet all the requirements of this IHS, provided the applicable requirements of the section 27 of the Act are met.

Part 2: Specified Requirements for Identified Risk Organisms

(1) The Veterinary Authority of the exporting country is required to issue a signed, stamped and dated veterinary certificate containing declarations regarding the following diseases:

2.1 African horse sickness (AHS)

(1) For African horse sickness (AHS), the horses are from:

a) An AHS-free country or MPI-approved zone or seasonally free zone and have met the recommendations as described in the OIE *Code*; or
b) An AHS-infected/at-risk country or zone, or have transited through an infected country or zone, and have met the recommendations as described in the OIE *Code*.

2.2 Anthrax

(1) The horses were showing no clinical signs of anthrax at the final inspection prior to export and anthrax is notifiable in the country of export.

(2) The horses were kept for the 20 days before export on premises where anthrax was not reported during that time; or

a) Were vaccinated not less than 35 days and not more than 6 months before export, as described in the document *MPI-STD-TVTL*. Antibiotics were not administered to the horses in the 7 days prior to and after vaccination and there was strict adherence to the manufacturer's instructions.

2.3 Borna disease

(1) The horses were kept since birth or for at least the 90 days prior to export in a free country; or

(2) The horses were kept since birth or for at least the 90 days prior to export on premises in which no case was reported during the past 12 months.

2.4 Contagious equine metritis (CEM)

(1) For contagious equine metritis (CEM) the stallions and mares (excludes geldings, and pre-pubertal fillies and colts that are less than 731 days of age if accompanied by documentation showing equivalent CEM testing of their dams):

a) Were from a CEM-free country, approved by MPI; or
b) Were considered free from CEM; an official control programme for CEM or MPI-approved equivalent is established in the country of export; and horses have met the recommendations as described in *MPI-STD-TVTL* (or pre-mating testing followed recommendations in *MPI-STD-TVTL* but was done in the 60 days prior to mating or artificial insemination); or
c) Have been known to be infected with CEM and were subject to an effective method of treatment and testing approved by MPI.

2.5 Dourine

(1) The horses were from a free country and have met the recommendations as described in the OIE *Code* for the importation of domestic equines*;* or

(2) The horses were from a country considered infected and have met the recommendations as described in the OIE *Code* for the importation of domestic equines.

2.6 Ectoparasites

(1) For ectoparasites (mites, lice, ticks and fleas) the horses were treated twice: first immediately on entry into PEI; and second in the 48 hours prior to export. The product(s) used is highly effective against ectoparasites and was applied as described in the manufacturer's instructions.

(2) The horses were thoroughly examined in the 48 hours prior to export by a registered veterinarian and there was no evidence of tick infection; or

a) The horses were thoroughly examined in the 48 hours prior to export by a registered veterinarian and ticks were found. MPI was notified and the animals in the consignment were re-treated, and then re-inspected, and ticks were not found.

Refer to the Guidance Document for more information on meeting the requirements for ectoparasites.

2.7 Endoparasites

(1) For endoparasites the horses were treated twice: first immediately on entry into PEI; and second in the 48 hours prior to export. The product used is a highly effective broad spectrum endoparasiticide and was administered as described in the manufacturer's instructions.

2.8 Equine encephalomyelitis (Eastern and Western)

(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.

2.9 Equine encephalosis

(1) The horses were kept since birth or for at least the 40 days prior to export in a country where no case of EE has been reported in the past 12 months; or

(2) The horses were kept since birth or for at least the 40 days prior to export on premises where no case of EE was reported during that time; and

a) Were kept for a minimum 40 days before export in PEI and were protected from vectors at all times whilst in PEI and during transportation to the port of departure.

2.10 Equine herpesvirus-1 [abortigenic and paralytic forms (EHV-1)]

(1) The horses were showing no clinical signs of EHV-1 infection (abortigenic and paralytic forms) at the final inspection prior to export and were kept for at least 21 days before export in premises where no case of EHV-1 infection (abortigenic and paralytic forms) was reported during that time.

2.11 Equine infectious anaemia (EIA)

(1) The horses have met the recommendations as described in the OIE *Code*.

(2) Samples for testing were collected in pre-export isolation or in the 21 days prior to export if PEI is not required.

2.12 Equine influenza (EI)

(1) The horses were from an EI-free country, have met the recommendations as described in the OIE *Code*, and EI vaccination is not practised in the exporting country, with the exception of horses for export to a third country; or

(2) The horses were from a country considered infected with EI or where EI is not notifiable and have met the recommendations as described in the OIE *Code* (including additional security recommendations), except samples for agent identification testing were collected on two occasions, the first taken 5-7 days after entry into PEI and a second sample taken not less than 5 days later.

2.13 Equine piroplasmosis

(1) The horses showed no clinical sign of equine piroplasmosis on the day of shipment.

(2) The horses were kept since birth or for at least 30 days prior to export in a country:

a) recognised by MPI as free from equine piroplasmosis,
b) that does not import seropositive equids (with the exception of horses temporarily imported for competition purposes), and
c) where no case of equine piroplasmosis has been reported in the 2 years prior to export, or

(3) The horses were:

a) Tested for both *Theileria equi* and *Babesia caballi* using an indirect fluorescent antibody test (IFAT) and a competitive enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (cELISA) as listed in *MPI-STD-TVTL* for both with negative results, during the 30 days prior to export; or
b) Confirmed negative for equine piroplasmosis (*B. caballi* and *T. equi*) by an OIE reference laboratory using both an indirect fluorescent antibody test (IFAT) and competitive enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (cELISA) as described in the OIE *Manual* on a single serum sample taken during the 30 days prior to export; and
c) Maintained free from ticks, by preventive treatment when necessary, during the 30 days prior to export.

2.14 Equine salmonellosis (*Salmonella abortus equi*)

(1) For equine salmonellosis *(Salmonella abortus equi)* the horses were kept since birth or for at least the 90 days prior to export on premises where no case of equine salmonellosis has been reported during that time.

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.

2.16 Glanders

(1) The horses were from a free country and have met the recommendations as described in the OIE *Code* for the importation of domestic equines*;* or

(2) The horses were from a country considered infected and have met the recommendations as described in the OIE *Code* for the importation of domestic equines.

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.

2.18 New World and Old World screwworm

(1) The horses were from a country approved by MPI as free of screwworm fly; or

(2) The horses were from a country considered infested with screwworm fly and have met the recommendations as described in the OIE *Code* for importation, quarantine and transportation of horses.

2.19 Rabies

(1) The horses were from a free country and have met the recommendations as described in the OIE *Code* for the importation of domestic equines*;* or

(2) The horses were from a country considered infected and have met the recommendations as described in the OIE *Code* for the importation of domestic equines.

2.20 Surra

(1) The horses were kept since birth or for at least the 60 days prior to export in a country where no case of surra has been reported during the past 2 years; or

(2) The horses were kept since birth or for at least the 60 days prior to export on premises where no case of surra has been reported during that time; and

   a) Were kept for a minimum 30 days before export in PEI and were protected from vectors at all times whilst in PEI and during transportation to the port of departure.
   b) Were subjected to diagnostic test(s) as recommended by the MPI document *MPI-STD-TVTL* for surra, with negative results from samples collected in the 10 days after entry into PEI.

2.21 Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis (VEE)

(1) The horses were from a free country and have met the recommendations as described in the OIE *Code* for the importation of domestic equines*;* or

(2) The horses were from a country considered infected and have met the recommendations as described in the OIE *Code* for the importation of domestic equines.

2.22 Vesicular Stomatitis (VS)

(1) The horses were resident for at least the 21 days prior to export in a country that is free of VS, and met the recommendations as described in the OIE *Code*; or

(2) The horses were from a country considered infected with VS, and have met the recommendations as described in the OIE *Code*, except the results of testing indicate horses have negative, stable or declining titres.

2.23 Warble fly

(1) The horses were kept since birth or for at least the 90 days prior to import in a country/zone where no case of warble fly has been reported during the past 12 months; or

(2) The horses were showing no clinical sign of warble fly disease at the final inspection prior to export and were treated with an ectoparasiticide approved by the Veterinary Authority as capable of killing warble fly larvae, applied as described in the manufacturer's instructions during the 48 hours prior to export.

Schedule 1 – Document History

Date First Issued	Title	Shortcode
22 May 2014	Import Health Standard: Horses	HORANIIC.GEN
Date of Issued Amendments	**Title**	**Shortcode**
2 June 2020	Import Health Standard: Horses	HORANIIC.GEN
8 April 2022	Import Health Standard: Horses	HORANIIC.GEN

Schedule 2 – Definitions

For the purposes of this standard and the attached guidance document, terms used that are defined in the Act have the meanings set out there. The following specific definitions also apply:

Biosecurity Authority

Written authority from an inspector, given under Section 29 of the Act, to move restricted organisms from a transitional facility, biosecurity control area or containment facility to another transitional facility, biosecurity control area or containment facility or to export those goods from New Zealand.

Biosecurity Clearance

A clearance under section 26 of the Act for the entry of goods into New Zealand.
(Explanatory Note: Goods given a Biosecurity Clearance by an Inspector are released to the importer without restriction).

Competent Authority

The Veterinary or other Governmental Authority of an OIE Member, that has the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in the *Code* in the whole territory.

CTO Direction

Chief Technical Officer (CTO) Direction - equivalent measures recorded by number under section 27(1)d(iii) of the Act, to enable border staff to clear the goods and record the number in the MPI database.

Director-General

The chief executive of the Ministry for Primary Industries.

Disinfectant

A substance applied to non-living objects to destroy micro-organisms living on those objects and approved for use by the Veterinary Authority. MPI-approved biosecurity treatments for risk goods, including links to approved disinfectants, can be found in the *MPI Standard (BNZ-STD-ABTRT) Approved Biosecurity Treatments.*

European Union

European Union member countries.

Facility

Stables and associated yard of the pre-export or post-arrival quarantine.

Highly Effective

For the purposes of the standard when referencing endo- and ecto-parasiticides; with claims registered as highly effective (>98%) for use in horses, at the manufacturer's prescribed doses and intervals of administration.

IATA

The International Air Transport Association.

Inspector

A person who is appointed an inspector under section 103 of the Act. Explanatory Note: An Inspector is appointed to undertake administering and enforcing the provisions of the Act and controls imposed under the Hazardous Substances and New Organism Act 1996, and the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species.

MPI

Ministry for Primary Industries.

Official Veterinarian

A veterinarian authorised by the Competent Authority of the country to perform certain designated official tasks associated with animal health and/or public health and inspections of commodities and, when appropriate, to certify in conformity with the provisions of the OIE *Code* Chapter for certification procedures.

OIE

The World Organisation for Animal Health.

Permit to Import

A permit issued by the Director General of MPI pursuant to section 24D(2) of the Act.

Premises

Area surrounding and including the facility of the pre-export isolation (PEI) or post-arrival quarantine (PAQ), or in the case of premise freedom the place the horses reside or have temporarily visited.

Stock-Proof

A fence that livestock cannot get through. For the purposes of this import health standard livestock are regarded as cattle and other farm animals such as horses, mares, mules, jacks, jennies, colts, cows, calves, yearlings, bulls, oxen, sheep, goats, lambs, kids, alpacas, llamas and pigs (this list is not exclusive) that are reared to produce meat, milk or other products.

The *Code*

The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code as found on the OIE website.

The Manual

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals.

Vector

An insect or any living carrier that transports an infectious agent from an infected individual to a susceptible individual or its food or immediate surroundings. The organism may or may not pass through a development cycle within the vector.

Vector-Proof

For the purposes of this standard, vector-proof refers to a horse PEI facility which is able to provide maximum protection from insect vectors. This should be a building, ideally a compartment within a building, which should have no gaps in the construction greater than 1 mm in width, combined with risk management strategies to protect animals and the facility from *Culicoides.*

Vector Protection

A combination of risk management strategies, guided by the OIE *Code*, to protect animals from attacks by *Culicoides* during transport and PEI, taking into account the local ecology of the vector.

Veterinary Certificate

A certificate, issued in conformity with the provisions of the *Code* Chapter for certification procedures, describing the animal health and/or public health requirements which are fulfilled by the exported commodities.

Schedule 3 – 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: 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) VEE, EEE and WEE (minimum 21 day PEI protected from insect vectors)
f) African Horse Sickness (minimum 40 day PEI at a MPI-approved and audited vector-proof premises)
g) 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.

Schedule 4 – Post-Arrival Quarantine of Horses

(1) The PAQ facility must be approved by MPI as a transitional facility approved to the MPI *Facility Standard: Equids, MPI-STD-EQUIDS* and be under the supervision of an Authorised Supervisor.

(2) Written approval/advice from the Authorised Supervisor must be provided with the permit to import application.

Inspection and treatment

(1) PAQ stay, testing, treatment(s) and procedure(s) must be undertaken as required under the supervision of the Authorised Supervisor.

(2) Within 24 hours of arrival into New Zealand, horses authorised to proceed to PAQ must receive from the attending registered veterinarian:

a) A thorough inspection confirming horses were visibly free of external parasites and clinical signs of disease.
b) Horses from countries considered infested with screwworm fly must be thoroughly inspected for wounds and possible New World or Old World screwworm infestation.
c) A single treatment for ectoparasites with a fully effective ectoparasiticide, applied according to the manufacturer's recommendations.
d) A single treatment for endoparasites with a fully effective broad spectrum endoparasiticide, administered according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

(3) Temperature readings must be taken from horses in the PAQ premises twice daily and records must be available for inspection by the attending veterinarian or the Authorised Supervisor, when requested.

(4) Any horse that shows a rise in temperature during PAQ shall be subjected to such tests and treatments as determined by the attending veterinarian.

a) The attending veterinarian must record the differential diagnoses and inform the Authorised Supervisor within 24 hours of commencement of treatment and testing;
b) Further investigation, testing, treatment and/or an extension of the consignment isolation period may be required as determined in consultation with the Authorised Supervisor, MPI and the attending veterinarian if atypical clinical signs are present or for non-responsive cases;
c) 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 reported to MPI immediately and subsequently investigated by the attending veterinarian under Veterinary Authority supervision to conclusion.

Post-arrival quarantine duration

(1) When horses are to be imported into New Zealand from countries where the diseases listed below are considered present the duration and type of PAQ is stated in brackets:

a) Equine infectious anaemia (EIA) if considered by MPI as highly prevalent in the country of export (minimum 7 day PAQ)
b) Equine influenza (minimum 14 day PAQ)
c) Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis (minimum 7 day PAQ)
d) Surra (minimum 30 day PAQ protected from insect vectors)

Diagnostic tests required

(1) Horses imported from countries where equine influenza is considered present must be subject to an agent identification test (with negative results) on nasopharyngeal swabs collected at least 5 days after entering PAQ.

(2) Horses imported from countries where equine infectious anaemia is considered by MPI as highly prevalent must be subject to an OIE prescribed test or one listed in *MPI-STD-TVTL* for international trade (with negative results) during PAQ.

(3) Horses imported from countries where Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis (VEE) is considered present must be subject to virus isolation (with negative results) on blood samples collected from any horse showing a significant rise in temperature during PAQ.