Notice To all Horse Exporters:

Re: TRADE IN Equidae*: Inspections at Ports/Airports

This circular revises and replaces our previous circular Vet 24/2011.

1. Welfare and Health Inspection Requirements

(a) Approved transport
In accordance with European legislation (Regulation 1/2005) all horse transport vehicles engaged commercially in international transport of horses are required to be approved. In addition, drivers must hold a certificate of competence and the transport company must be authorised. Copies of the three documents (vehicle approval certificate, driver certificate of competence, and transport company authorisation) must be carried in the vehicle and be available for inspection. Information on certification and authorisation is available at www.agriculture.gov/animaltransport or from the Transport Section, NBAS Division Tel: 01 5058881.

(b) Exports of Registered Equidae or Equidae for breeding and production to UK or France
These equidae do not require an EU health certificate, but must travel with their passports. Official welfare inspections will continue to be conducted on a random basis.

(c) Exports of Equidae for slaughter
These equidae require an official EU health certificate, issued by this Department if travelling within the EU.

(d) Exports of Equidae to EU Countries (other than UK and France)
These equidae require an official EU health certificate, issued by this Department if travelling within the EU. If travelling through the UK a transit licence may be required. Please contact DEFRA at 0044 8459335577 for information.

(e) Exports of Equidae to Third Countries via the EU
These equidae require a Third country certificate if travelling outside the EU together with an official EU health certificate for travel within the EU – both issued by this Department. All horses at paragraphs (c), (d) and (e) must be inspected at Dublin or Rosslare Ports or Dublin or Shannon airports by an Official Veterinarian. Such consignments will be liable for a veterinary inspection fee.

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* Domestic animals of the equine or asinine species, or their crossbreeds
2. Passports

It is a legal requirement (European Communities (Equine) Regulations 2011 S.I. 357 of 2011) that original (not copy) passports corresponding to each animal transported accompany equidae being moved. These must be readily available for inspection. Please note that this requirement applies to all exports of equidae, including exports to the UK and France. Unregistered horses with passports must also have a journey log. For queries please contact transport Section at 01 5058881.

3. Requirement for Advance Notification

Exporters wishing to export equidae in categories (c), (d) and (e) above must apply (to Live Trade, Animal Health Division, 3C, Agriculture House, Kildare St., Dublin 2) on one of the attached application forms (revised January 2012)

(i) "Export of Horses - Application for Export Certificate"

or

(ii) "Export of Horses - Application for Export Certificate to the USA or Canada"

not less than 3 working days in advance of the intended date of export. This form must be completed in full and accompanied by a health certificate issued by a private veterinary practitioner and dated within 10 days of the date of export, and a copy of markings from the animal's passport, together with the required laboratory test results where required for a Third country.

Please note that the completion of all the points on the application form is a mandatory requirement. Your attention is drawn in particular to point 13 - request for Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) veterinary inspection.

The provision of 3 days advance notice is essential if the Department is to provide the necessary veterinary presence at the inspection point on the proposed day of export. Applications, which fail to provide the necessary documentation in accordance with the advance notice requirements specified in this circular, will be returned.

The Department will not accept any liability whatsoever for travel or other consequential costs arising from a failure to make the necessary prior arrangements for veterinary certification of exports of equidae in accordance with this circular. DAFF also does not accept responsibility for applications incorrectly addressed.

4. Inspection arrangements at Ports / Airports.

Equidae for both export and import will normally be required to be inspected at the DAFM facility at Dublin or Shannon airport.

Exports - To facilitate inspection, arrangements must be made well in advance with the Department's veterinary inspector to allow for the timely presentation of equidae in advance of the scheduled departure time of the aircraft/ferry and to discuss any anticipated difficulties in respect of fractious animals. A DAFM official from the airport or port may contact you to ensure adequate arrangements are in place regarding the pre-export certification.

We wish to firmly advise exporters that late / untimely presentation of equidae at the DAFM facility could lead to inability to issue official licence / certification on that day.
For some 3rd country destinations, all means of transport including the aircraft and/or transport dollies may require to be cleaned and disinfected as part of the certification requirement and arrangements in this respect should also be discussed well in advance with the veterinary inspector.

5. Imports from third countries -- To facilitate inspection, equidae must be off-loaded at the Border Inspection Post (BIP) facility for inspection by the official veterinary inspector as European Community rules for entry of animals from 3rd countries require specific identity and physical checks on all imported animals, in addition to documentary checks. Failure to cooperate with this requirement may lead to refusal of entry of such equidae into the European Community or may have longer-term consequences for the continuation of BIP facilities at the airport in question.

Importers must ensure that health certificates are in full compliance with European Community requirements.
If incorrect or incomplete certificates are presented, the animals in question may be refused entry and returned to destination or subjected to other appropriate measures at the expense of the importer.

Importers wishing to import equidae from Third Countries, must submit (to Live Trade, Animal Health Division, 3C, Agriculture House, Kildare St., Dublin 2, Fax: 01 6619031) one of the attached completed forms entitled:
(i) "Import of Horses - Application for a permit to import a horse“ to be used if importing from a Third Country other than the USA or Canada.
or
(ii) "Advance Notice And Declaration“ to be used if importing from the USA or Canada.

6. Availability of Inspection Service

The system of veterinary inspection for equidae requiring an official health certificate is available only IF REQUESTED and as follows:

**Please note equine inspection fee is €12.50 per animal**

(a) Dublin Port: No service Sundays and Bank Holidays
Mornings: 06.30 – 09.30
Evenings: 18.30 – 21.30

Veterinary checks will be carried out at the relevant ferry offices for those horses for which 3 working days advance notice has been provided to the Department.

(b) Rosslare:

Veterinary checks will be carried out at the port at the normal time relevant to the sailing provided the 3 working days advance notice is given.

(c) Dun Laoghaire: No Service

Where horses requiring a veterinary cert are exiting through Dun Laoghaire port, arrangements must be made to have the animal checked at Dublin port.
(d) **Dublin Airport:**

Veterinary checks will be carried out for those equidae for which **3 working days advance notice** has been provided to the Department.

(e) **Shannon Airport:**

Veterinary checks will be carried out for those equidae for which **3 working days advance notice** has been provided to the Department.

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*Kathleen O'Connor*

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Animal Health Division (Trade)

24th January 2012