

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards
Commission Report

October 2008

CHAPTER 12.7.

EQUINE INFLUENZA

Article 12.7.1.

General provisions

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, equine influenza (EI) is defined as an *infection* of domestic horses, donkeys and mules.

For the purposes of *international trade*, this Chapter deals not only with the occurrence of clinical signs caused by equine influenza virus (EIV), but also with the presence of *infection* with EIV in the absence of clinical signs.

For the purposes of this Chapter, isolation is defined as ‘the separation of horses from horses of a different equine influenza health status, utilising appropriate biosecurity measures, with the purpose of preventing the transmission of *infection*’.

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, the *infective period* for equine influenza is 21 days.

Standards for diagnostic tests and vaccines are described in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

Article 12.7.1.bis

Recommendations on safe commodities

Regardless of the EI status of the *exporting country, zone or compartment*, the *Veterinary Authority* of a *country, zone or compartment* should authorise without restriction on account of EI the importation into their territory of the following *commodities*:

1. *semen*;
2. *in vivo* derived equine embryos collected, processed and stored in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 4.7. (under study).

Article 12.7.2.

The EI status of a country, a *zone* or a *compartment* can be determined on the basis of the following criteria:

1. the outcome of a *risk assessment* identifying all potential factors for EI occurrence and their historic perspective;
2. whether EI is notifiable in the whole country, an on-going EI awareness programme is in place, and all notified suspect occurrences of EI are subjected to field and, where applicable, laboratory investigations;

3. appropriate *surveillance* is in place to demonstrate the presence of *infection* in the absence of clinical signs in horses.

Article 12.7.3.

Equine influenza free country, zone or compartment

A country or a *zone* or a *compartment* may be considered free from EI provided the *disease* is notifiable in the whole country and it shows evidence of an effective *surveillance* programme, planned and implemented according to the general principles in Chapter 1.4. The *surveillance* may need to be adapted to parts of the country, *zone* or *compartment* depending on historical or geographical factors, industry structure, population data, movements of equids into the country, *zone* or *compartment*, wild equid populations or proximity to recent *outbreaks*.

A country, a *zone* or a *compartment* seeking freedom from EI, in which vaccination is practised, should also demonstrate that EIV has not been circulating in the population of domestic horse equidae ~~population~~ during the past 12 months, through *surveillance*, in accordance with Chapter 1.4. In a country in which vaccination is not practised, *surveillance* could be conducted using serological testing. In countries where vaccination is practised, the *surveillance* should include methods of virus detection.

If an *outbreak* of clinical equine influenza occurs in a previously free country, *zone* or *compartment*, free status can be regained 12 months after the last clinical case, providing that *surveillance* for evidence of *infection* has been carried out during that 12-month period in accordance with Chapter 1.4.

Article 12.7.4.

Recommendations on safe commodities

Regardless of the EI status of the ~~exporting country, zone or compartment~~, the *Veterinary Authority* of a country, *zone* or *compartment* should authorise without restriction on account of EI the importation into their territory of the following ~~commodities~~:

- 1- semen;
- 2- *in vivo* derived equine embryos collected, processed and stored in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 4.7. (under study).

Article 12.7.5.

Recommendations for the importation of horses for immediate slaughter

Veterinary Authorities should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the horses showed no clinical sign of EI on the day of shipment.

Article 12.7.6.

Recommendations for the importation of horses for unrestricted movement

Veterinary Authorities should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the horses:

1. came from an EI free country, *zone* or *compartment* in which they had been resident for at least 21 days; in the case of a vaccinated horse, information on its vaccination status should be included in the veterinary certificate;

OR

2. came from a country, *zone* or *compartment* not known to be free from EI, were subjected to pre-export isolation for 21 days and showed no clinical sign of EI during isolation nor on the day of shipment; and
3. were immunised according to the manufacturer's instructions with a vaccine complying with the standards described in the *Terrestrial Manual* between 21 and 90 days before shipment either with a primary course or a booster.

Article 12.7.7.

Recommendations for the importation of horses which will be kept in isolation (see Article 12.7.1.)

Veterinary Authorities should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the horses:

1. came from an EI free country, *zone* or *compartment* in which they had been resident for at least 21 days; in the case of a vaccinated horse, information on its vaccination status should be included in the veterinary certificate;

OR

2. showed no clinical sign of EI in any premises in which the horses had been resident for the 21 days prior to shipment nor on the day of shipment; and
3. were immunised according to the manufacturer's instructions with a vaccine complying with the standards described in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

Article 12.7.8.

Recommendations for the importation of fresh meat of horses, mules or donkeys

Veterinary Authorities should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the *fresh meat* came from horses, mules or donkeys which had been subjected to ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections as described in Chapter 6.2.