

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

THE ANIMALS AND BIRDS ACT (CHAP.7)

**VETERINARY CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF  
HORSES (1/3)**

**I COUNTRY OF EXPORT**

Argentina, Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong SAR, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom (Great Britain, Northern Ireland) and United States of America.

**II PURPOSE**

Racing, polo or equestrian

**III IMPORT LICENCE**

Each consignment of horses shall be accompanied by a valid import licence issued by the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) of Singapore.

**IV VETERINARY CERTIFICATION**

Each horse shall be accompanied by an equine passport, or equivalent thereof which is approved by the AVA, and a veterinary health certificate dated not more than 7 days prior to export and signed or endorsed by the competent Veterinary Authority of the country of export describing the age, breed, sex, colour, markings or other points of identification, and the name and address of the premises of origin of each horse, and certifying to the effect that:

- (i) the country has been free from **African horse sickness** for the last 2 years prior to the date of export, and no vaccination is permitted in the country against this disease,
- (ii) the country has been free from **Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis** for the last 2 years prior to the date of export, and no vaccination is permitted in the country against this disease **OR** no case of Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis has occurred in the country for the last 2 years prior to the date of export,
- (iii) the country has been free from **Eastern** and **Western equine encephalomyelitis** for the last 2 years prior to the date of export, and no vaccination is permitted in the country against these diseases **OR** the horse has been vaccinated within 12 months but not within 30 days of export against Eastern and Western equine encephalomyelitis with inactivated vaccines approved by the Veterinary Authority of the country of export,
- (iv) the country has been free from **glanders** for the last 2 years prior to the date of export **OR** the horse was tested with mallein with negative result(s) within 15 days of export,
- (v) the country has been free from **trypanosomes** for the last 12 months prior to date of export **OR** no case of Surra and Dourine has occurred in horses in the country for the last 12 months prior to the date of export **OR** the horse was tested for **Trypanosoma evansi** by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) or haematological concentration methods with negative results within 30 days of export **AND** the horse was tested for **Trypanosoma equiperdum** by the complement fixation test with negative results within 15 days of export,
- (vi) the country has been free from **contagious equine metritis** for the last 12 months prior to the date of export **OR** the horse has never been mated or is gelded **OR** the horse was tested for contagious equine metritis by 3 samples taken at intervals not less than 7 days apart for bacterial culture with negative results within 30 days of export,
- (vii) the country has been free from **equine infectious anaemia** for the last 12 months prior to date of export **OR** the horse was tested for equine infectious anemia by the immunodiffusion (Coggin's) test with negative results within 30 days of export,
- (viii) the country has been free from **equine viral arteritis** for the last 12 months prior to date of export **OR** the horse was tested for equine viral arteritis by the serum neutralisation tests with negative results, or with stable or declining antibody titres at dilution of 1 in 4, twice 14 days apart, within 30 days of export,
- (ix) the country has been free from **equine piroplasmiasis** for the past 12 months **OR** the horse was treated with an approved long-acting broad spectrum parasiticide effective against ticks

- immediately following the taking of the blood sample, which was subjected to a fluorescent antibody test (IFAT) for equine piroplasmiasis with negative results within 30 days of export,
- (x) (a) the country has been free from **rabies** in the past 2 years **OR**
  - (b) (1) during the 6 months prior to export, the horse has not suffered from or been exposed to nor been in premises infected with rabies, and
  - (2) the horse has not been vaccinated against rabies **OR** was vaccinated against rabies using an approved vaccine not less than 30 days and not more than 12 months prior to export,
  - (xi) no case of **Hendra-virus infection** has been reported in horses in the country for the last 3 months prior to export **OR** if **Hendra-virus infection** were reported, the horse will be subjected to a pre-export quarantine for 21 days continuously prior to export, under veterinary supervision and the horse has been tested for Hendra virus infection by ELISA test with negative results within 14 days prior to export,
  - (xii) no case of **Nipah virus infection** has been reported in horses in the country for the last 2 years prior to the date of export **OR** no case of **Nipah virus infection** has been reported in horses in the country for the past 6 months, or such other period as may be specified by AVA, prior to the date of export and the horse has undergone two 2 weeks' pre-export isolation at premises approved by AVA and tested during pre-export isolation for Nipah virus infection with negative results prior to export,
  - (xiii) (a) the country has been free from **West Nile virus infection** for the last 12 months prior to the date of export **OR**
  - (b) the horse has been subjected to an antibody-capture immunoassay for serum IgM to West Nile virus with negative results within 15 days of export **OR**
  - (c) the horse has been vaccinated within 12 months but not within 30 days of export against West Nile virus with inactivated vaccines approved by the Veterinary Authority of the country of export.
  - (xiv) all tests were carried out in a laboratory approved by the Veterinary Authority of the country of export and AVA,
  - (xv) the horses had been resident in the country of export continuously for at least 3 months immediately prior to export,
  - (xvi) during the 3 months prior to export, the horse has not suffered from or been exposed to nor been in premises infected with any condition or disease including the following: equine infectious anaemia, equine viral encephalomyelitis, horse pox, scabies, anthrax, glanders, dourine, surra, strangles, epizootic lymphangitis, ulcerative lymphangitis, equine rhinopneumonitis, equine viral arteritis, equine piroplasmiasis, equine influenza, vesicular stomatitis, Getah virus infection, Hendra virus infection, Nipah virus infection, West Nile virus infection or any other disease of horses notifiable in the country of export,
  - (xvii) the horse was treated with an approved long-acting broad spectrum parasiticide effective against ticks and a broad spectrum anthelmintic within 14 days of export,
  - (xviii) the horse had not been vaccinated with any vaccine within 30 days of export **OR** the horse had been vaccinated within 30 days with a vaccine or vaccines approved by AVA (submit name and purpose of vaccine and date of vaccination), and
  - (xix) the horse had been examined and was found clinically healthy and free from external parasites and any clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease at time of export.

**V DECLARATION FROM MASTER/CAPTAIN OF SHIP/AIRCRAFT**

Each consignment of horses shall be accompanied by a signed declaration from the master/captain of the ship/aircraft in which the horses were carried stating that:

- (i) the horses had been embarked or emplaned in the country of export (which country is to be named in the declaration) and had not been landed at any intermediate port (unless it is an approved stopover ports at Part XII) during the voyage or flight to Singapore;
- (ii) no horse from another country was carried in the ship/aircraft during the time that the horses to which such declaration refers were on board the ship/aircraft (unless prior approval obtained from AVA),
- (iii) no fodder from another country was carried in the ship/aircraft during the time that the horses to which such declaration refers were on board the ship/aircraft (unless prior approval obtained from AVA),
- (iv) in a case where the country of export or any other approved intermediate port at which the aircraft carrying the horses had made a stopover cannot be certified as being free from Venezuelan, Western and Eastern equine encephalomyelitis, trypanosomiasis, equine infectious



anemia or piroplasmiasis, the interior of the aircraft carrying the horses had been sprayed with an approved insecticide just prior to its departure from the country of export and any such approved intermediate port, and on landing in Singapore.

- (v) in a case where the aircraft has stopped at an intermediate port not approved by AVA as a stopover port but for refuelling purpose, the cargo hold where the horses are carried in the aircraft had not been opened during the entire time of its refuelling stop and the interior of the aircraft carrying the horses had been sprayed with an approved insecticide just prior to its arrival at the port and also prior to departure from the port.

**VI QUARANTINE**

- (i) All imported horses shall be quarantined for a period of not less than 14 days and may be subjected to testing and treatment before release from quarantine.
- (ii) In addition, horses from Sabah and Sarawak are subject to a mallein test with negative results while in quarantine and horses from Argentina, Canada, United Arab Emirates and the United States of America shall not be taken out of mosquito-proof stables within the first 10 days of arrival.
- (iii) The owner of the horses or his agent is responsible for ensuring that quarantine space is available.

**VII APPLICATION FOR IMPORT LICENCE**

The owner or his agent must apply for the import licence by submitting an online application through AVA's website ([www.ava.gov.sg](http://www.ava.gov.sg)>e-Services>Animals&Pet Sector>Licence to Import/Export/Transship of Animals/Birds/Eggs/Biologics) 30 days prior to the arrival of animals. The applicant must indicate the route of travel, including any stopover or refueling stops, at the time of application.

**VIII NOTIFICATION OF ARRIVAL**

The owner of the horse or his agent shall contact the Quarantine Office as stated in the Import Licence at least five (5) working days before the arrival of the animal.

**IX VETERINARY INSPECTION**

On arrival at the port of disembarkation in Singapore, the horses and documents (namely, the Import Licence, the Veterinary Health Certificate and the Master's/Captain's Declaration) shall be presented to and examined by an authorised Veterinary Officer. If the consignment of horses is found to be healthy and documents are in order, the horses shall be allowed entry into Singapore for quarantine at AVA-approved premises.

**X PENALTY**

If any animal is not healthy or if any document is not in order, the animals can be quarantined for a further 30 days or destroyed/returned or re-exported at the discretion of the Director-General of Agri-Food and Veterinary Services. In addition the owner of the animal or his agent is subject to prosecution.

**XI FEES**

- (i) Import Licence )
- (ii) Veterinary inspection and processing of documents ) see Fee Schedule: Attachment-2
- (iii) Quarantine fee )

**XII OTHER REQUIREMENTS/INFORMATION**

- (i) Stopover of aircraft at all Australian airports, all Canadian airports, Amsterdam, Anchorage, Bahrain, Basel, Berlin, Brussels, Chicago, Copenhagen, Dubai, Dublin, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, Honolulu, London, Los Angeles, Luxembourg, Manchester, New York, Paris, San Francisco, Taipei, Tokyo, Vienna and Zurich may be permitted.
- (ii) All mares destined for Singapore must not be pregnant. Any pregnant mare as well as in-contact material may be detained in quarantine or returned to the country of origin at the importer's/exporter's expense.
- (iii) It is the responsibility of the owner of the horses or his agent to ensure that quarantine space is available before importing the horses.
- (iv) Any expenditure incurred in the process of importation of the horse shall be borne by the owner of the horses or his agent.
- (v) If a horse dies or is destroyed while under the custody of AVA, AVA will not be liable for any compensation.
- (vi) Horses must be kept in places licensed by the Director-General of Public Health, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources, Singapore.
- (vii) Regulations and fees are subject to change without notice notwithstanding the issuance of a licence by AVA.
- (viii) Horses should be transported in accordance with the latest recommendations of the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) International Animal Health Code and the International Air Transport Association's Live Animal Regulations.



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- (ix) Application for import from any other country other than those listed in (l) should be made to AVA through the competent veterinary authority of the country of export at least 6 months prior to date of intended export to Singapore. The competent veterinary authority should also submit relevant details on its veterinary infrastructure, organisational structure and manpower strength, professional qualifications of its veterinary services personnel, veterinary laboratory diagnostic capabilities, national disease surveillance programmes, point of entry control capabilities, compulsorily notifiable diseases and current status of OIE-listed diseases in the country.

ISSUED BY:  
HEAD/REGULATORY & HEALTH PLANNING DIVISION  
AGRI-FOOD AND VETERINARY AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE  
5 MAXWELL ROAD #03-00  
TOWER BLOCK, MND COMPLEX  
REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE 069110  
FAX: [65] 62206068

APPLICATION/ENQUIRIES:  
HEAD/IMPORT & EXPORT DIVISION  
5 MAXWELL ROAD #02-00  
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SINGAPORE 069110  
TELEPHONE: [65] 62270670  
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