



Ref: CTO 2016 003 [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**

This CTO direction replaces CTO 2015 047 [B] signed on 1 June 2015.

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 clause 2.23 of the IHS for Horses (*HORANIIC.GEN*), issued 22 May 2014:

**2.23 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.

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 and lowering the PEI requirement 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.

## DECISION DOCUMENT FOR COUNTRY-SPECIFIC VETERINARY CERTIFICATE

### BACKGROUND:

Horses from the USA are currently imported into New Zealand under the IHS for horses from the United States of America, *HORANIIC.USA*, first issued on 12 May 2008.

During negotiations for a veterinary certificate under *HORANIIC.GEN*, USDA APHIS has proposed an equivalent measure for Vesicular Stomatitis. The IHS for horses *HORANIIC.GEN* has the requirement that imported horses must meet the OIE *Code* recommendations regarding VS. However, VS is no longer OIE-listed and the Chapter on OIE has been removed from the *Code* (<http://www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/oie-listed-diseases-2015/>).

USDA APHIS initially requested deletion of the requirements for VS from the veterinary certificate for horses from the USA, but consultation with the MPI Risk Team concluded that the consequence of importing a horse that subsequently showed signs of VS (being a possible response due to the similarities with FMD) warranted measures to remain in place for VS. This assessment was based on the import risk assessment for cattle (2009).

Currently the requirements for horses regarding VS are the following:

#### 2.23 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.

Considering horses are not cloven-hooved animals, the Risk Team agreed to the proposed changes to the veterinary certification as follows:

#### For **vesicular stomatitis** (VS)

34. The horses were kept for at least the 21 days before export **in a State** where VS has not occurred during the previous 2 years; AND the horses showed no clinical signs of VS at the final inspection prior to departure from the PEI premises; OR

35. The horses were kept for a **minimum 21 days before export in PEI in the United States during which time the United States was considered infected with VS**; AND

- a. VS is notifiable in the United States; AND
- b. An approved surveillance system is in place in the United States to provide rapid detection and on-going monitoring for VS; AND
- c. The horses were kept for the 21 days before export in premises where no case of VS was reported during that time; AND
- d. The horses were subjected to:
  - i. an OIE- or MPI-approved diagnostic test in the 21 days before export. The result of testing indicates negative, stable or declining titres; OR
  - ii. an OIE- or 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
- e. The horses were protected from vectors at all times in PEI; AND
- f. The horses were showing no clinical signs of VS at the time of final inspection prior to departure from the PEI premises and for the 21 days before export.

Addition on 18 January 2016:

Most shipments out of the USA contain one or more horses from Canada that do pre-export isolation in the USA. For this reason, the original clause stating: *"The United States was free of the following diseases and the horses were resident in the United States during the time period noted below immediately prior to export of the horses to New Zealand..."* would be incorrect to certify. On request of the USA, this clause was changed to: *"The United States was free of the following diseases and the horses were resident in North America during the time period noted below immediately prior to export of the horses to New Zealand..."*

MPI already has a CTO direction in place (CTOd 2013 084 [G]) allowing horses to spend their required residency periods in multiple approved countries.

Furthermore, the USDA requested the addition of a tabulated page of vaccinations and tests performed on the horses. This change was accepted as this is operational in nature only.

The attached comparison table and email correspondence give more background information.

## ASSESSMENT OF RISK:

The USA veterinary certificate effectively manages the biosecurity risk.

## LEGAL:

MPI is required to approve any proposed veterinary certificate in accordance with Clause 1.12.2 in HORANIIC.GEN issued 22 May 2014. This CTO direction and attached decision document, including all appendices serves as the formal record of negotiations with USDA APHIS.

## DECISION:

- (a) MPI accepts the proposed veterinary certificate for horses from the USA which proposes equivalent measures for vesicular stomatitis **and residency**;
- (b) The CTO issues the attached direction under section 27(1)(d)(iii) of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

## RECOMMENDATION:

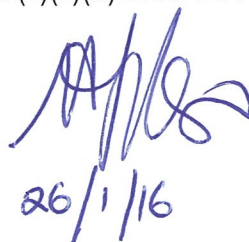
That you:

- (a) approve USDA APHIS' proposed veterinary certificate and the equivalent measure for VS **and residency** to be included on the veterinary certificate accompanying horses from the USA; and
- (b) Issue the CTO direction under section 27(1)(d)(iii) of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Group Manager:

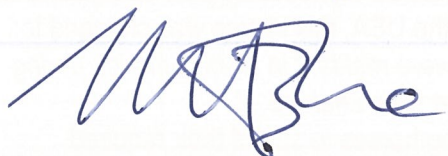
Howard Pharo

Sign and date:



AGREED / NOT AGREED

Signed at Wellington this 28<sup>th</sup> day of January 2016



Matthew Stone  
Chief Technical Officer  
Director, Animals and Animal Products  
Regulation & Assurance Branch  
Ministry for Primary Industries

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