

CHAPTER 12.6.

INFECTION WITH EQUINE INFLUENZA VIRUS

Australian Comments – indicated in blue font

[...]

Article 12.6.6.

Recommendations for the importation of domestic equids for unrestricted movement

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

- 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 domestic equid, 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~~ vaccinated in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer with a vaccine complying with the standards described in the *Terrestrial Manual* and considered effective against the epidemiologically relevant virus strains, ~~between 21 and 90 days before shipment either with a primary course or a booster; information on their vaccination status should be included in the veterinary certificate or the passport in accordance with Chapter 5.12. in accordance with one of the following procedures:~~
 - a) between 14 and 90 days before shipment either with a primary course or a booster;~~or~~
 - b) between 14 and 180 days before shipment, if they are older than four years of age, previously having received at least four doses of the same vaccine at intervals not greater than 180 days.

General comment: Australia reiterates its concerns about the rationale for accepting the equine influenza vaccine protocol listed in Article 12.6.6 point 3. b). Australia has reviewed the report of the meeting of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission from September 2019. The report states that the paper by the Irish Equine Centre, which Australia understands to be the scientific basis for this point, has not yet been published.

Consistent with transparency and scientific rigor underpinning the Code's recommendations, Australia requests that the relevant data and scientific papers are made available for review by Members before adopting the proposed point, which assumes a longer protective effect from vaccination for this sub-population of vaccinated horses than was previously advised in the Code.

Australia suggests that until the data and scientific papers underpinning these changes have been published and are hence available to members to review as required, point 3.b) should not be included in the chapter.