

# WOAH Standards on Equine Influenza- Newly Adopted Code Chapter- impact on international horse movement

Webinar on Equine Influenza

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World  
Organisation  
for Animal  
Health  
Founded as OIE

Organisation  
mondiale  
de la santé  
animale  
Fondée en tant qu'OIE

Organización  
Mundial  
de Sanidad  
Animal  
Fundada como OIE



3 Chapters newly drafted were adopted during the 90<sup>th</sup> WOAAH General Session (May 2023)

- Contagious equine metritis
- Equine piroplasmosis
- Infection with equine influenza virus

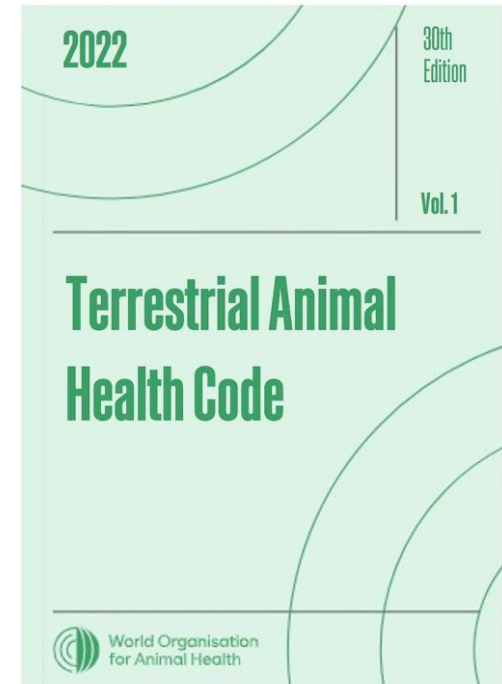
Circulated for Members (and partners’) comments: AHS Chapter

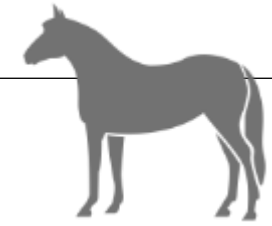
Diseases Chapters under revision in 2023-2024:

- Equine encephalomyelitis (Eastern and Western)
- Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis
- Japanese Encephalitis
- Surra & Dourine



**Inclusion of provisions for temporary importation of competition horses**





## Chapter 12.6. Infection with equine influenza virus



**Comprehensive  
revision**



**First Circulated for  
comments in February  
2019**



**Circulated 6  
times**



**Collaboration  
with SCAD,  
BSC and  
WOAH  
Reference Lab.**



**Report of the Meeting of  
WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health  
Standards Commission**

Original: English (EN)  
7 to 17 February 2023  
Paris

**Introduction and Member contribution**

This report presents the work of the WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (hereinafter 'the Code Commission'), which met from 7 to 17 February 2023, in Paris, France.

The Code Commission thanked the following Members for providing comments: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China (People's Republic of), Chinese Taipei, Indonesia, Japan, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom (UK), the United States of America (USA), Members of the WOAH Americas Region, the Member States of the European Union (EU). The Commission also thanked the following organisations for providing comments: the International Coalition for Animal Welfare (ICFAW), the International Meat Secretariat (IMS), as well as various experts of the WOAH scientific network.

The Code Commission reviewed all comments that were submitted prior to the deadline and were supported by a rationale. The Commission focused its more detailed explanations on issues that were deemed significant. Where amendments were of an editorial nature, no explanatory text has been provided. The Commission wished to note that not all texts proposed by Members to improve clarity were accepted; in these cases, it considered the text clear as currently written. The Commission made amendments to draft texts, where relevant, in the usual manner by 'double underline' and 'strike-through'. In relevant Annexes, amendments proposed at this meeting are highlighted in yellow to distinguish them from those made previously.

**Status of annexes**

Texts in Part A (Annexes 4 to 22) will be proposed for adoption at the 90th General Session in May 2023. Texts in Part B (Annexes 3 and 23 to 34) are presented for comments.

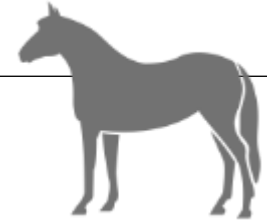
**How to submit comments**

The Code Commission strongly encourages Members and International Organisations that have a Cooperative Agreement with WOAH to participate in the development of WOAH International Standards by submitting comments on this report and on relevant annexes of this report. All comments should be submitted to WOAH through the WOAH Delegates or from organisations with which the WOAH has a Cooperative Agreement.

The Commission also draws the attention of Members to those instances where the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (the Scientific Commission), the Biological Standards Commission, a Working Group or an ad hoc Group have addressed specific comments or questions and proposed answers or amendments. In such cases the rationale is described in the reports of the relevant entity and Members are encouraged to review these reports together with the report of the Code Commission. These reports are no longer annexed to the Commission's report. Instead, they are available on the dedicated webpages on the WOAH website, e.g., ad hoc Group reports:

<https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards-setting-processes/ad-hoc-groups/>

For more info: Terrestrial Code:  
[www.woah.org/terrestrial-code](http://www.woah.org/terrestrial-code)



- **Case definition (domestic and captive wild equids):**

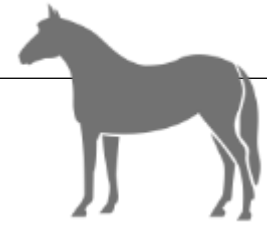
1- Isolation and Identification of EIV; OR

2- Detection of antigen nucleic acid specific to EIV in an equid showing clinical signs or pathological lesions, or epidemiologically linked to a confirmed or suspected case; OR

3- Seroconversion which is not the consequence of vaccination detected in an equid showing clinical signs or pathological lesions, or epidemiologically linked to a confirmed or suspected case.

*infective period reduced from 21 to 14 days*





- **List of safe commodities:**

- 1) equine semen;

- 2) equine embryos;

- 3) **meat and meat products from equids** 

- **Determination of the EI status**

- 1) A risk assessment identifying all risk factors and their historic relevance

- 2) EI is notifiable, an EI awareness programme in place, and all suspect occurrences of EI subjected to field/laboratory investigations

- 3) Appropriate surveillance in place to demonstrate the presence of infection in the absence of clinical signs



- **Country, zone or compartment free from Equine Influenza:**

- 1) infection with EIV is **notifiable** in the whole country;
- 2) Evidence through an effective surveillance programme, implemented in accordance with principles in Chapter 1.4., that **no case of EI in the past two years;**
- 3) i. If **vaccination is practiced**: evidence through surveillance (serological + agent identification) of **absence of EIV circulation** in the population of domestic, captive wild, feral, and wild equids during the past 12 months;  
ii. If **vaccination is not practised**: **serological surveillance** is sufficient;
- 4) Apply appropriate **movement controls** to minimise the risk of introduction of EIV

**NEW**



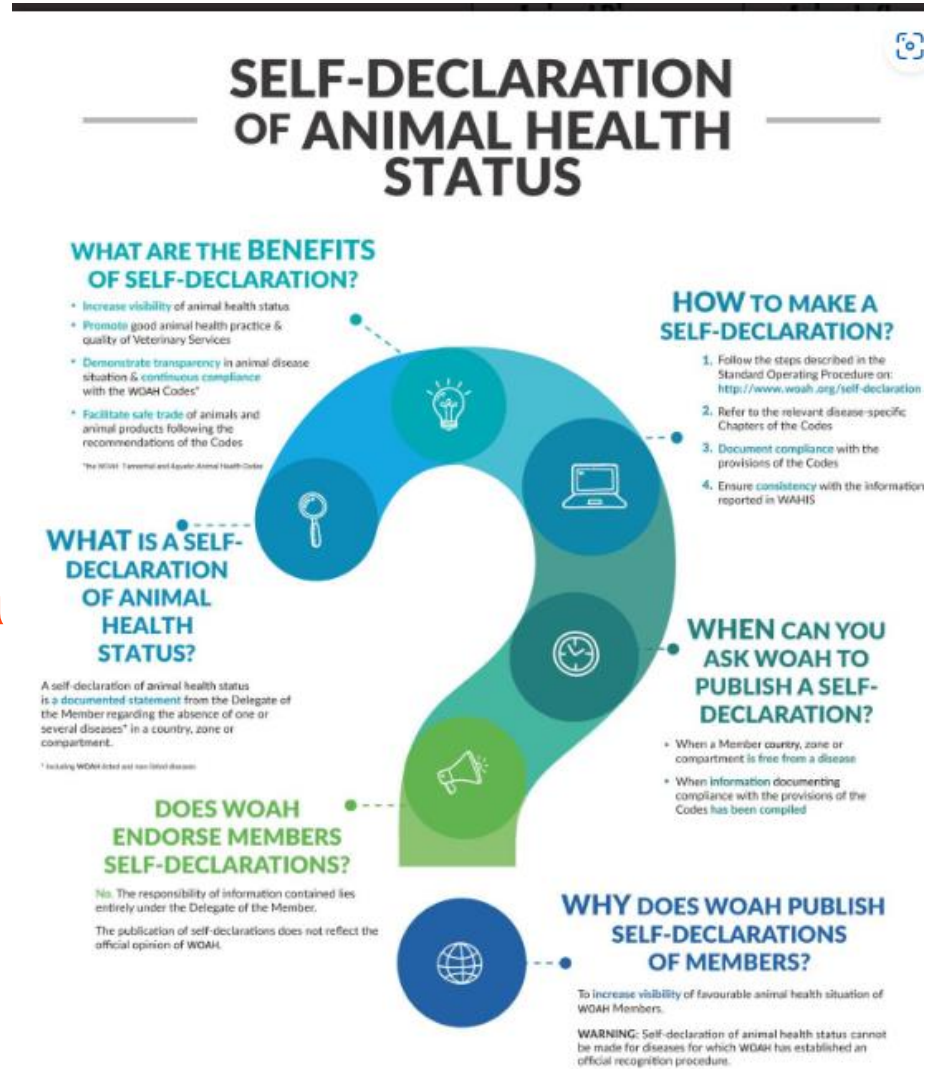
## • Recovery of Free Status

Regained of free EI status 12 months after the last case (management of outbreaks and surveillance for 12 months to demonstrate absence of EIV)

**NEW**

Possibility to submit to WOAH for publication a **self-declaration** of disease freedom (country/zone/compartiment)

For more information [www.woah.org/self-declaration](http://www.woah.org/self-declaration)  
or contact: [self-declaration@woah.org](mailto:self-declaration@woah.org)



- **Recommendations for importation of domestic and captive wild equids**
  - For immediate slaughter** (no clinical sign of EI on the day of shipment)
  - Importation for other purposes** (i.e., permanent import, reproduction, etc.)

**NEW**

An **international veterinary certificate** attesting that domestic or captive wild equids comes from:

- Either EI free country/zone (last 14 days) and information on their **vaccination status** included in the certificate; **OR**
- were subjected to **pre-export isolation** for **14 days** and **showed no clinical sign** of EI during isolation nor on the day of shipment; **AND**
- **were vaccinated** with a vaccine complying with the standards described in the **Terrestrial Manual** and effective against the relevant virus strains according to the protocol mention in this Chapter





## Vaccination protocols prior to shipment:

- i. between 14 and 90 days before shipment either with a primary course or a booster; **OR**
- ii. between 14 and 180 days before shipment, if they are **older than four years of age**, having received up to the date of this pre-shipment vaccination, **at least four doses of vaccine** at intervals not greater than 180 days.

**NEW**

Vaccination Protocols included in the Code Chapter are based on a scientific assessment [study](#) on equine influenza vaccination protocols prior to shipment conducted by a WOAHP Reference Laboratory for equine influenza.

Information on the **vaccination status** should be included in the international veterinary certificate or the passport in accordance with Chapter 5.12.



Article  
**Evaluation of Current Equine Influenza Vaccination Protocols Prior to Shipment, Guided by OIE Standards**

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**Abstract:** To facilitate the temporary importation of horses for competition and racing purposes, with a minimum risk of transmitting equine influenza, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), International des Epiphytiotes, or OIE, formally engaged in a public-private partnership with the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) and the International Federation for Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) to establish, within the context of existing OIE standards, a science-based rationale to identify the ideal time period for equine influenza vaccination prior to shipment. Field trials using vaccines based on different technologies were carried out on three continents. The antibody response post-booster vaccination at intervals aligned with the different risk/commodities of the OIE, FEI, and IFHA, was monitored by single radial haemolysis. It was determined that 14 days was the optimum period necessary to allow horses adequate time to respond to booster vaccination and for horses that have previously received four or more doses of vaccine and are older than four years, it is adequate to allow vaccination within 180 days of shipment. In contrast, the results indicate that there is a potential benefit to younger (four years old or younger) horses in requiring booster vaccination within 90 days of shipment, consistent with the current OIE standard.

**Keywords:** equine influenza; vaccination; shipment; OIE; FEI; IFHA; harmonization; age; horses

## i. Recommendations for **Temporary** importation of horses

**ONLY** for horses and for competition purposes, not exceeding 90 days, lab test are not required but horses should be accompanied by:

- A **passport** in accordance with Chapter 5.12. and individual identification, belonging to HHP horse subpopulation as defined in Chapter 4.17;
- An **international veterinary certificate** attesting that horses either come from an EI free country/zone **OR showed no clinical sign** of EI in any premises horses had been resident for the 14 days prior to shipment **AND were vaccinated**
- During their stay ensure that horses are kept separated from domestic and captive wild equids of a different EI health status through **appropriate biosecurity**

**NEW**



# Thank you

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