

**PROTOCOL FOR HOLDING PERFORMANCE AND PLEASURE HORSE EVENTS IN QUEENSLAND DURING THE EQUINE INFLUENZA RECOVERY PERIOD**

If an Equine Influenza outbreak occurs, the Chief Inspector of Stock reserves the right to cancel the approved Event.

**Background**

Key mechanisms for controlling the spread of EI involve the control of horse movement and the knowledge of immune status of individual horses. However it has also been recognized that the cost to industry of these controls is significant. The national strategy recognizes the need to reduce these industry costs through establishment of risk-based protocols that provide an acceptable balance between disease control and industry risk mitigation. The staging of horse events is a part of this balance.

**Definitions**

**Event:** means an event involving animals of the family Equidae, including

- a horse show
- a horse sale
- gathering of horses
  - for a competition – eg. Pony club gymkhanas, dressage/show jumping competitions, endurance riding events, agricultural shows
  - run by a recognized organization – e.g. trail rides
  - run by a commercial operator – eg. Training/coaching schools

## PROTOCOL FOR HOLDING PERFORMANCE AND PLEASURE HORSE EVENTS IN QUEENSLAND DURING THE EQUINE INFLUENZA RECOVERY PERIOD

Summary of processes required to hold an event in the **green zone** during the recovery period of the Equine Influenza outbreak in Queensland.

- The event organizer should ensure that the event property is registered.  
<http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/horse-registration>
- Events for competitors coming from within the Green Zone can be held without restriction provided all horses traveling by vehicle carry a waybill.
- A copy of the waybill must be held by event organisers for two years.
- Permits are required for all cross zonal movements.

Summary of processes required to hold an event in the **Amber** or **Red** Zones during the recovery period of the Equine Influenza outbreak in Queensland.

The event organizer must:

- Ensure the event property is registered.  
<http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/horse-registration>
- Determine where the competitors are likely to come from. Additional biosecurity considerations will apply if horses are coming from outside the zone where the event is being held.
- Determine whether you will have the necessary number of competitors from the catchment area.
- Apply to Chief Inspector of Stock (CIS) for Preliminary Approval to run the event.
- Advertise the event.
- Accept nominations.
- Send final competitors list and all required information to CIS.
- Obtain Final Approval from CIS.
- Run event with the relevant biosecurity requirements.
- Collect waybills and keep on file for 2 years.

Detailed requirements to conduct an event in the recovery period of Equine Influenza, in the **Amber** or **Red** Zones are included in this document. The following forms and plans are also required and are available on the DPI&F Equine influenza website.

- *Biosecurity Plan for event organizers.*
- *Pleasure and Performance Horse Application to hold an event Form.*
- *Health Declaration Form.*
- *Pleasure and Performance Horse Details Form.*

## PROTOCOL FOR HOLDING PERFORMANCE AND PLEASURE HORSE EVENTS IN QUEENSLAND DURING THE EQUINE INFLUENZA RECOVERY PERIOD

### STAGING EVENTS

#### Within the **Green Zone**\* – Green Zone horses only

Event organizers can stage an event for horses coming from within the Green Zone. Horses travelling by vehicle require a waybill.

No Event Approval or Travel Permits are required for events involving Green Zone horses only.

The event organizer must ensure:

- *that the Event Property is registered, <http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/horse-registration> and complete the required information;*
- *that a copy of each competitor's waybill is kept for 2 years.*

It is *suggested* that the event organizer develop:

- *a system of pre-nominations is to allow event organizers to determine that competitors are coming from within the green zone only.*
- *advertise to competitors that good biosecurity measures should always be practised and all horses, equipment and vehicles should leave their property in a clean state. If competitors coming from outside the zone or interstate to ride other people's horses, need to be aware of the extra biosecurity measures they need to take with regards to personal, tack and clothing.*
- *develop a biosecurity plan and contingency plan in case of an outbreak of EI infection (refer Biosecurity Plan for event organizers).*

**\* If it is intended to host horses from outside the Green Zone, there is an increased risk and horses would need to have the appropriate permits to travel across zones. Competitors need to make themselves aware of the conditions of movement across zones, including quarantine and testing requirements.**

## PROTOCOL FOR HOLDING PERFORMANCE AND PLEASURE HORSE EVENTS IN QUEENSLAND DURING THE EQUINE INFLUENZA RECOVERY PERIOD

### Within the **Amber Zone**

#### **It is the event organizer's responsibility to:**

- *ensure the Event Property where the event is to be held is registered.*  
<http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/horse-registration> and complete the required information;
- *submit a fully completed Pleasure and Performance Horse Application to hold an Event Form to the Chief Inspector of Stock at least one month prior to the staging of that event;*
- *submit Pleasure and Performance Horse Details Form at least 7 days before event date.*

Preliminary approval to stage the event will include any specific requirements deemed by the Chief Inspector of Stock as necessary for the event to proceed.

Events in the Amber Zone are more likely to receive preliminary approval if they are attracting competitors from the Amber Zone only. Green / Red Zone horses would need to undergo appropriate testing and quarantine to travel to (or from) the event. Additional biosecurity measures will need to be in place if Red Zone horses are attending.

On preliminary approval, event schedules can be publicised and should include the following:

#### **It is the competitor's responsibility to:**

- *complete a waybill for travel that must be produced for copying at the event;*
- *complete an owner Health Declaration that must be produced for copying at the event;*
- *pre-nominate;*
- *ensure that all horses, equipment and vehicles leave their property in a clean state;*
- *monitor horses and their temperatures daily for the duration of the event;*
- *make horses available for testing at the event by DPI&F for surveillance purposes.*

Nominations can be taken provided competitors agree to the above criteria. In nominating, competitors should include the horse's microchip number, vaccination and/or immune status, and the Lot on Plan or Property Identification Code (PIC) of the property of origin.

#### **It is the event organizer's responsibility to:**

- *forward the full List of Competitor's Horses to the Chief Inspector of Stock for final event approval and travel permitting not less than 7 days prior to the event. This approval will be based on competitors meeting the relevant movement of stock criteria.*
- *advise competitors 3 days prior to the event if the event has received final approval and they are permitted to attend under the permit numbered provided by the CIS.*
- *ensure biosecurity requirements as set out in the Application for Holding an Event, are implemented at the event.*
- *keep waybills for 2 years post event.*
- *inform competitors of contingency plan conditions and any cross- zonal movement conditions.*
- *collate and store the information required to be supplied by competitors when nominating.*

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### Within the **Red Zone**

#### It is the event organizer's responsibility to:

- ensure Event Property is registered.  
<http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/horse-registration> and complete the required information
- submit a fully completed Pleasure and Performance Horse Application to hold an Event Form to the Chief Inspector of Stock at least one month prior to the staging of that event
- submit Pleasure and Performance Horse Details Form at least 7 days before event date.
- that the horses are not from an Infected Property, Suspect Property or Dangerous Contact Property.

Preliminary approval to stage the event will include any specific requirements deemed by the Chief Inspector of Stock as necessary for the event to proceed.

Events in the Red Zone are more likely to receive preliminary approval if they are attracting competitors from the Red Zone only. Amber/Green zone horses would need to undergo additional testing and appropriate quarantine to get to (or from) the event.

On preliminary approval, event schedules can be publicised and should include the following.

#### It is the competitor's responsibility to:

- that the horses are not from an area where Equine Influenza is known to be active.
- ensure they are vaccinated or immune, from a resolved property, and that they are microchipped;
- complete a waybill for travel that must be produced for copying at the event;
- complete a Health Declaration Form that must be produced for copying at the event;
- pre-nominate;
- **not** attend if there is known respiratory disease on the property of origin within the previous 14 days ;
- ensure that all horses, equipment and vehicles are disinfected and leave their property in a clean state;
- monitor horses daily for temperature and for signs of illness for the duration of the event;
- make horses available for testing at the event by DPI&F for surveillance purposes.

Nominations can be taken on the basis of competitors agreeing to the above criteria. In nominating, they should include their microchip number, vaccination status and/or immune status, and the Lot on Plan or Property Identification Code (PIC) for the property of origin.

#### It is the event organizer's responsibility to:

- forward the Pleasure and Performance Horse Details Form to the Chief Inspector of Stock for final event approval and travel permitting not less than 7 days prior to the event. This approval will be based on competitors meeting the relevant movement of stock criteria.
- advise competitors 3 days prior to the event, if the event has received final approval and they are permitted to attend using the permit number provided by the CIS.
- ensure biosecurity requirements as set out in the Pleasure and Performance Horse Application to hold an Event, are implemented at the event.
- keep waybills for 2 years post event.
- inform competitors of contingency plan conditions and any cross- zonal movement conditions.
- collate and store the information required to be supplied by competitors when nominating.

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### Within a defined district within the **Red Zone**

A district is a local area where there are horses and properties of similar risk status. All horses must originate from within the specified district in which the event is to be held. It is recommended that these be described by map. These events should be held within daylight hours.

It is possible that approval to hold multiple events, of the same nature and location, could be issued. A schedule of planned events should accompany any application of this nature.

### It is the event organizer's responsibility to:

- ensure Event Property is registered.  
<http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/horse-registration> and complete the required information
- submit a fully completed Pleasure and Performance Horse Application to hold an Event Form to the Chief Inspector of Stock at least one month prior to the staging of that event. The map outlines the district as determined by event organisers - allowing adequate time for a departmental risk assessment to be completed which verifies location of IPs.
- submit Pleasure and Performance Horse Details Form at least 7 days before event date.
- that the horses are not from an Infected Property, Suspect Property or Dangerous Contact Property.

On preliminary approval, the event can be publicised and should include the following.

### It is the competitor's responsibility to:

- that the horses are not from an area where Equine Influenza is known to be active.
- complete a waybill for travel that must be produced for copying at the event;
- complete a Health Declaration Form that must be produced for copying at the event;
- pre-nominate;
- **not** attend if there is known clinical disease on the property of origin within the previous 14 days. Daily temperature monitoring during this period is recommended;
- ensure that all horses, equipment and vehicles should leave their property in a clean state;
- make horses available for testing at the event by DPI&F for surveillance purposes.

Nominations can be taken on the basis of competitors agreeing to the above criteria. In nominating, they should include their microchip number, vaccination status and/or immune status, and the Lot on Plan or Property Identification Code (PIC) of the property of origin.

### It is the event organizer's responsibility to:

- forward the Pleasure and Performance Horse Details Form to the Chief Inspector of Stock for final event approval and travel permitting at least 7 days prior to the event. This approval will be based on competitors meeting the relevant movement of stock criteria.
- advise competitors 3 days prior to the event, if the event has received final approval and they are permitted to attend under the permit number issued by the CIS.
- ensure biosecurity requirements as set out in the Application for Holding an Event, are implemented at the event.
- keep waybills for 2 years post event.
- inform competitors of contingency plan conditions and any cross- zonal movement conditions.
- collate and store the information required to be supplied by competitors when nominating.

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**Generic Biosecurity Actions applicable to all events**

R = Recommended M= Mandatory

<i>People</i>	Green	Amber	Red (Across Zone)	Red (District)
Unnecessary contact between spectators and horses should be minimised.	R	M	M	M
All people should wash hands with antimicrobial solution on entering and leaving the grounds.	R	M	M	M
All people must present themselves to the venue in a clean manner having undertaken appropriate personal hygiene measures. This will include showering, washing hair and changing clothes prior to attending.	R	M	M	M
There should be strategically placed hand wash stations around the venue, and people should be encouraged to wash their hands after handling any horses or equipment with which a horse could have been in contact.	R	M	M	M
Public address announcements should be made on a regular basis on biosecurity matters. Appropriate and prominent signage on biosecurity should be on display throughout the venue.	R	R	R	R
All persons leaving the venue should wash their hands, wash off any residual debris that may be on their boots/clothing and be reminded strongly of their biosecurity obligations on return home ie shower and change clothes before going near any other horses. This should be provided in the form of a document for people to take with them.	R	M	M	M
Approved persons requiring close contact with horses - eg. veterinarians, farriers, should be limited and understand their biosecurity obligations and take all measures to minimise the risk of transfer of EI through their equipment.	R	M	M	M
<b><i>Vehicles and fomites</i></b>				
Vehicles to be used to travel horses to the venue must be presented in a clean state to the event.	R	M	M	M
Disinfection of the vehicle must occur prior to use with any other horses.	R	R	M	M
All equipment to be used with the horses must be cleaned prior to travel to the venue.	R	M	M	M
Only dogs participating in a dog event are allowed at the venue and the area for the dog event is to be separate from horse events location. No other dogs allowed.	R	R	M	M
<b><i>Veterinary assessments</i></b>				
There must be a nominated veterinarian available on call 24/7 for the duration of the event. The health status of all horses must be monitored daily and any change in health status immediately reported to the veterinarian on duty.	R	M	M	M
The nominated Veterinarian has the required equipment to test for EI:-nasal swabs/blood testing/decontamination kits	R	M	M	M
The health status of each horse at the venue must be monitored daily by the competitor and any changes reported to the vet on duty.	M	M	M	M
An isolation stable/area must be identified to handle sick horses.	R	M	M	M
Any horse showing a cough or nasal discharge should be removed to the isolation stable immediately and PCR samples collected immediately and sent for high priority testing. The horse's temperature should also be taken, although it is recognised this may not be a sensitive indicator for EI in a vaccinated horse.	M	M	M	M
A register of horses with clinical signs of respiratory disease must be kept by the vet on duty and be available for inspection by DPI.	M	M	M	M
<b><i>Contingency planning</i></b>				
In the event of an outbreak of EI at the event, the venue must have the facilities and resources to secure the site for a period of at least 30 days after the last confirmed case. This is to meet the AUSVETPLAN guidelines to release an IP from 30 days after the last clinical symptoms of EI.	M	M	M	N/A