

# BREXIT HUB

## HORSES AND OTHER EQUINES

### Introduction

The transition period between the UK and the EU will end on 31 December 2020. This means that the UK will no longer be a member of the EU's Single Market nor the Common Customs Union. These changes will result in a series of significant, and depending on the timing, abrupt changes to how rural businesses operate. Arrangements for horses and other equines will change.

This briefing note, and others on different subjects that can be found on the CLA Brexit Hub -<https://www.cla.org.uk/brexit> - provides rural business owners with a detailed framework for the steps which will need to be taken and where you can find more information relating to the export of animals and animal products and has been independently compiled by CLA experts. It covers:

- Export Health Certificates (EHCs);
- Exports to non-EU countries;
- Exports to EU countries;
- Border Control Posts (BCPs);
- Rejected goods;
- UK listing as a Third Country;
- Transport rules.

Of course, the decision about what actions to take will be unique to every businesses' needs. This guidance is not intended to make a judgement on the specific activities you should be undertaking, or about the longer-term effects of the UK's exit from the EU.

### How do I move horses and other equines from the UK to the EU after a No Deal Brexit? Who do I contact?

The UK has to be listed as a third country by the EU before any horses or other equines can move from the UK to the EU at the end of the transition period. It is anticipated that the EU will grant the UK third country status so you will need to contact:

- An Official Veterinarian (OV) so that you can book an appointment for blood tests to be taken in time. This could take six weeks;
- An agent or transporter and tell them when you plan to travel. You will need to consider that you will need to travel through an EU Border Inspection Post and this is likely to take more time.

### What tests will need to be taken before I can export my horses?

There will need to be two tests to ensure the horses are disease free:

- Equine infectious anaemia - This must be conducted within 30 days before travel for permanent exports. For temporary exports, such as sporting competitions, as long as the event is less than 90 days long, you will need to test within 90 days before travel;



- Equine viral arteritis - This needs to be done within 21 days of travel for uncastrated male horses older than 180 days unless they meet vaccination conditions.

## **Will I need to keep my horses in isolation before I can export?**

Yes, there are certain isolation conditions that need to be met.

### **PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY EXPORTS**

If a horse is exported for fewer than 90 days for sporting competition purposes, it will need to be kept on a holding in the UK or a country with a similar health status for 40 days. If the horse is to be permanently exported it needs to be kept separate from other equines that do not have the same health status for at least 30 days.

If the horse was imported direct from the EU and is then to be exported it must be kept on the holding for 90 days before it can be exported.

### **IMPORTS**

If the horse was imported directly from the EU into the UK, or a country with a similar health status to the UK, it can be kept on a holding for less than 40 days.

### **VETERINARY SUPERVISION BEFORE EXPORT**

The horse will need to be kept on a holding in the UK (or a country with similar health status) under veterinary supervision for 90 days. A horse will also need to be kept on a holding for at least a period of 90 days if it was born on the holding.

If the horse was imported direct from the EU and is then to be exported it must be kept on the holding for 90 days before it can be exported.

An Official Veterinarian (OV) will need to confirm that the conditions set out here have been met before the horse can be exported.

## **What process do I need to follow to export horses and other equine?**

As with other animals and animal products, there is a set process which needs to be followed:

- Apply for an Export Health Certificate (EHC). This will replace the Intra Trade Animal Health Certificate (ITAHC) for exports to the EU. You can find guidance on where to get the EHC online at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-an-export-health-certificate>
- An Official Veterinarian (OV) will need to be nominated in order to inspect the horse and other equines. There are three ways of finding an OV:
  - Check the list of professionals who can authorise EHCs. More guidance can be found online at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-an-export-health-certificate>
  - Contact the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) by email: [cscconehealthovteam@apha.gov.uk](mailto:cscconehealthovteam@apha.gov.uk) ;



- o Ask your local vet.
- Complete the EHC and email to the APHA on the address given on the EHC;
- APHA will send the EHC to your nominated OV within seven working days, or within one working day if the horse or other equine is to be exported in the next seven days. The EHC will be translated into the language(s) of both the destination country and the country where the horse first enters the EU;
- The OV will need to inspect the horse and check that the requirements of the EHC have been met. The OV will then complete and sign the EHC and send a copy to the APH;
- You need to receive the EHC from the OV on the same day the horse or other equine is loaded for travel;
- The completed EHC must go with the horse during travel.

The EHC is free but you will need to pay for the inspection and other services by the OV.

### **What kind of equine ID will I need?**

You will still be able to use the horse passport (details can be found online at [claeu.info/006](http://claeu.info/006)) to export equines as long as they are registered with either:

- An EU-recognised studbook or pedigree register; or
- A national branch of an international racing or competition organisation.

If you are exporting horses and other equines which are not registered you will need to apply for a government-issued equine ID from the APHA for Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales). Further guidance can be found online at [claeu.info/007](http://claeu.info/007).

APHA will tell you when they have sent the equine ID to the OV, who will give you the equine ID with the EHC when the equine is inspected before travel. The equine ID should be kept with the horse passport and the EHC during travel.

The equine ID is only valid for a single journey to the EU and return into the UK. You will need to apply for a government-issued equine ID every time an unregistered horse or other equine is exported to the EU.

## What will happen at an EU border?

There are three steps that need to be taken:

### STEP 1

- Complete a customs declaration form, which can be found online at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-full-export-declaration>, before the horse arrives at the EU border.

### STEP 2

- Plan your route so that the horse can be inspected at an EU Border Control Post (BCP). Although some EU BCPs accept both registered and unregistered horses, not all do. You can check the nearest appropriate EU BCP online at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1563184991622&uri=CELEX:02009D0821-20190107>

### STEP 3

Make sure either you or your EU-based import agent has notified the EU BCP you are going to use the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES), before the export arrives at the EU BCP. Check with the EU BCP how much notice is required.

## What do I do if I import horses and other equines into the UK?

After the end of the transition period you will need to be aware of the following issues when importing from the EU:

- There will be no immediate change to the present entry paperwork needed for horses entering the UK from:
  - France when using a commercial document;
  - Ireland without any animal health documentation. This is part of the Tripartite Agreement between France, Ireland and the UK.
- Registered horses travelling from the EU will also be able to continue using health attestations.
- Horses and other equines originating from the EU will not have to enter the UK through a BCP.
- EU owners returning horses to the EU are able to use a streamlined re-entry process for registered horses that have been in the UK for 30 days or less for racing or other competitions. Under EU regulations, these horses will need an animal health attestation from their own country showing that the horse left the EU.
- These horses will still need an EHC and equine ID but will not need blood tests.



## **What happens if my horse and/or other equine are rejected at an EU Border Control Post before 1 July 2021?**

From 1 January to 30 June 2021, the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) will carry out a risk assessment of horses and other equines rejected at EU BCP and will decide which point of entry they may use to re-enter Great Britain.

You will need to apply to APHA Centre for International Trade (CIT) on the Import of Products, Animals, Food and Feed System (IPAFFS) to submit a notification to return horses or other equines.

You must submit the notification one working day in advance or at least 4 hours before arrival if it is not possible to do so sooner.

In addition you will have to attach the following documentation to the IPAFFS notification:

- the original export certificate and related documentation;
- a statement from the EU BCP of the reasons why the horses or other equines were refused by the EU BCP;
- a statement from the EU BCP with details of the premises in which the horses or other equines were kept since leaving Great Britain, for example in quarantine or in isolation;
- a declaration by the person responsible for the returned horses or other equines that the import conditions relating to transport have been complied with;
- a declaration by the person responsible for the horses or other equines that they have not been in contact with any other animal of a lesser health status since leaving Great Britain.

APHA will then decide:

- the conditions of import; and,
- if the consignment will have BCP checks on entry to Great Britain

APHA will then authorise the return of the horse and/or other equine and you must comply with the conditions of the authorisation.

## **What happens if my horse and/or other equine are rejected at an EU Border Control Post from 1 July 2021?**

From 1 July 2021, returned horses and other equines must enter Great Britain at a designated BCP for checks on entry. More information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-border-control-posts-animal-and-animal-product-imports>

You will need notify the Import of Products, Animals, Food and Feed System (IPAFFS) and present the relevant documents to the BCP. For more information on IPAFFS go to: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/import-of-products-animals-food-and-feed-system>



## **Are your key inputs going to be affected after the end of transition? Do you import any of your inputs directly from an EU-based business?**

### **IF YES...**

- Check their level of readiness. Ask them what they have done to prepare for customs checks etc. If they are not ready, you might want to look for an alternative supplier who is.
- You may want to consider building stocks of inputs and consumables that may be delayed temporarily at ports in the weeks after a No Deal Brexit, finding UK sources, or a mixture of both.
- This may also help manage exchange rate fluctuations. Sterling has weakened since the referendum and may continue to do so if we leave the EU without a deal, making imported goods more expensive.

### **IF NO...**

- Check with your suppliers where the products they sell come from. Are they ready for Brexit? If not, you might want to consider an alternative supplier who is.
- Ask them whether there will be any increases in the cost of inputs and other materials. You may want to consider building stocks of inputs and consumables that may be delayed temporarily at ports in the weeks after a No Deal Brexit, finding UK sources, or a mixture of both. This may help manage exchange rate fluctuations. Sterling has weakened since the referendum and may continue to do so if we leave the EU without a deal, making imported goods more expensive. Buying forward (e.g. imported animal feed) may also help mitigate any further fall in the value of Sterling.

## **Are there other changes that will affect the horse and equine sector?**

It is possible that there may be a shortage of available medicines for veterinary practices. These should stockpile the most used medicines in the event that supplies may be held up at UK ports.

It is also possible that prices of some drugs may increase in the short term. You should therefore factor this into your short-term planning in consultation with your vet.

The weakness of Sterling is likely to have an effect on goods coming into the UK, making them more expensive. This is particularly the case with horses being imported to the UK, for example, from the Middle and Far East, such as Dubai, as horse sales are valued in dollars. You should therefore monitor the value of Sterling if you are importing horses from a non-EU country in order to mitigate any possible losses.

## THE EXPORTING PROCESS

