

17 JANUARY 2008

EQUINE INFLUENZA

CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER COMMUNICATION # 23

Update on changes to Equine Influenza (EI) Certificates

The Horse Health Certificate has now been replaced with two one-page stand alone documents:

- **Certificate of Immunity**
- **Declaration of Health**

This change is in response to the nationally agreed introduction, from Monday 4th February 2008, of movements in the Purple Zone on the basis of a Transported Horse Statement (THS) and evidence of immunity, both of which must accompany the horse during movement.

The Certificate of Immunity may only be issued to horses that are recovered or approved vaccinates. It requires the certifying practitioner to enter a 'start' and 'end' date indicating the time during which the Certificate is valid, based on the following definitions.

A **recovered horse** is a horse that:

- is permanently identified with a microchip or unique identifying brand, or is a thoroughbred foal, and
- has a history indicating that it has been infected with EI more than 30 days and no more than 9 months ago, and
- has tested positive by ELISA test for antibodies to EI within the last 6 months.

An **approved vaccinate** is a horse that:

- is permanently identified with a microchip or unique identifying brand, or is a thoroughbred foal, and
- has been vaccinated twice with ProteqFlu at a 2-6 week interval, and it is more than 7 days and less than 4 months since the second dose, or
- has been vaccinated twice with ProteqFlu at a 4-6 week interval and vaccinated a third time 3-6 months after the first vaccination, and it is more than 7 days and less than 12 months since the third vaccination, or
- has been vaccinated twice with ProteqFlu at a 2-3 week interval and vaccinated a third time 3-4 months after the first vaccination, and it is more than 7 days and less than 12 months since the third vaccination, or
- has been vaccinated two or more times with ProteqFlu within intervals and time periods that have been approved in writing by the CVO.

Note: although the definition of approved vaccinate states that a horse must receive its second (V2) vaccination 2-6 weeks after its first (V1) vaccination, the CVO has, in accordance with dot point 4 and advice from the vaccine manufacturer, approved an extended interval of up to 8 weeks between V1 and V2 vaccinations.

The Declaration of Health is a short term declaration by a veterinary practitioner that on the basis of clinical examination, history and where required PCR testing, a horse shows no signs of being infected with EI virus. This document will be required mainly for movements from higher risk to lower risk zones.

Both documents require the horse to be uniquely identified by a microchip or a legible unique brand unless it is a young thoroughbred foal, in which case it can be identified by description.

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (17 January 2008). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of New South Wales Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.