

PROTECTING THE EU EQUINE INDUSTRY AND EQUINE HEALTH AND WELFARE

Solutions to frictionless movement of high health horses -
competition, training, sales and breeding - across the EU
and between the EU and the UK



A dossier from The European Taskforce for Brexit and EU Animal Health Law, a collaboration of the key European Sport Horse and Thoroughbred horse racing and breeding industries, and formed by the International Sport Horse Confederation (IHSC) - constituted jointly by the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) and the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA)



A. INTRODUCTION

The existing system for moving sport, racing and pure-bred equidae across EU borders has successfully evolved over 50 years and has consistently ensured the highest standards of biosecurity, welfare and equine health. Brexit, combined with the Animal Health Law, pose risks to these industries, in particular in France and Ireland, but also in many other Member States. With the vastly increased volume of horse movements – particularly between France, Ireland and the UK - expedited movement is essential for competition, racing and for breeding. Over 80% of these cross -border movements of Thoroughbreds are for breeding purposes, where the use of natural service is obligatory under international agreement. Such equidae must be of a permanent high health and welfare status to allow such movement, to prevent disruption to racing, competition and breeding and to protect the high value of these horses.

B. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Continued economic growth for sport horse, race horse and breeding industries is predicated on the ability to move horses as freely as possible for competition, breeding and sales while maintaining the highest levels of biosecurity, and animal health and welfare.
2. Unlike other livestock, equidae are truly international. Each year there are more than **20,000 race horse cross-border movements** (temporary or permanent) between France, Ireland and Britain.
3. The annual economic value of the combined sport horse/equestrian, horseracing and breeding industries in Europe is **€52.1 billion per annum**. Direct full-time equivalent **jobs total 210,000** and in excess of **500,000 direct and indirect jobs are reliant upon the racing and sport horse/equestrian industries** [Refer Appendix 1]. The EU's 2017 Report *Responsible Ownership and Care of Equidae*, states: '*...The equid sports and leisure market in Europe is the largest in the world...*'
4. These industries have been working together, and continue to work together, to maintain health standards and expedite international equine trade, movement, breeding and competition within the EU and with third countries. These EU activities have been fully integrated with British activities for more than 50 years¹.
5. **A comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the EU and Britain would maintain free movement of high health equidae and the temporary movement of essential, skilled people (grooms, trainers, riders, jockeys, veterinarians, etc.). Any measures that reduce the fluidity of horse movements and associated people with the UK would have the immediate consequence of huge economic losses to the EU, particularly for Ireland and France, but also to other Member States such as, Germany, Spain, The Netherlands and Italy.**

¹ Example: Irish and British Thoroughbred racing share rules, stud book, data, and regulatory and drug testing regimes.

6. This document proposes sustainable solutions which do not damage the valuable ecosystem of European horse sport, racing and breeding and raise equine health and welfare standards. This model, supported by all equine sectors across Europe, builds on existing arrangements and provides industry-led and funded digital validation to ensure biosecurity, health and welfare standards are being met.



C. CHALLENGES

1. Sport horse and racehorse movements currently benefit from streamlined health certification and from the absence of the need for customs documentation under arrangements which are recognised by the EU and which further ease the administrative burden associated with the movement of horses.
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2. This current streamlined movement, with optimum equine welfare through collaboration between Competent Authorities on all aspects of equine health, welfare and traceability, and historic protection of high health status, has ensured continued equine trade and movement (horses and their keepers), and underpinned economic growth.
 3. This economic value is illustrated by the long-held, mutually beneficial trade in Thoroughbreds between Ireland and the UK. In 2018 Irish Thoroughbred exports sold at public auction (excluding private sales) totalled more than €330 million. Of this UK buyers purchased and exported to the UK €247 million, or 75%.
 4. The UK has left the EU and the Transition period will expire in law in December 2020. The UK will then have either negotiated a trade deal with the EU or assumed default EU 3rd Country standards for trade. Third country EU laws then apply until April 2021, namely, isolation and residency requirements, testing for certain diseases, export health certification and entry into the EU via designated Border Control Posts.

5. In April 2021, the EU Animal Health Law comes into force. The same types of requirements then come into force, but are much more stringent.
6. To move horses to compete and breed in a way that continues to support the industry and does not economically damage it, is severely compromised under the Animal Health Law² – for example, international competition and racing, sales and 'walk-in' mares³ (this includes the majority of UK mares visiting Irish stallions and Irish mares visiting UK stallions).
7. Assuming the current version⁴ of the EU Animal Health Law applies, and the UK imposes some controls⁵, representative high health horse movement scenarios are described below.
8. Competing Horses/Race Horses:
 - 8.1 To move a competition/race horse **from the EU to Britain**, the owner/trainer needs an export health certificate and to notify the move on TRACES, and if the horse stays only at the arena/racecourse, it can then return to the EU, with another export health certificate and via a Border Control Post, as long as it is within 30 days. *Requirements might also include blood tests before initial departure, entry to the UK might be via a Border Control Post, the EU might require blood tests prior to return, and there could be a requirement for the horse to remain in the establishment of return destination in the EU for a period of at least 30 days.*
 - 8.2 To move a horse **from Britain to the EU** to compete or race, the horse must have been in a UK establishment for 30 days, if not, the horse must have been under official veterinary supervision, an export health certificate is required, blood tests are required, the move must be notified on TRACES and the horse enters the EU via a Border Control Post. If the horse stays only at the arena/racecourse it can then return to Britain with another export health certificate. *Requirements might also include blood tests, return to UK via a UK Border Control Post and the horse to remain in the establishment of return destination in Britain for at least 30 days.*
9. Breeding Horses:
 - 9.1 To move a broodmare **from the EU to Britain to a UK stallion**, the breeder needs an export health certificate, to notify the move on TRACES and then travel. Before it can then return to the EU the mare must remain in the UK for 40 days, no animals can be introduced into that UK establishment for 30 days, blood tests must be done, another export health certificate is needed, the move must be notified on TRACES, the return of the mare to the EU must be via a Border Control Post and the mare shall then remain in the establishment of return destination in the EU for at least 30 days. *Requirements might also include the mare remaining*

² Representations and submissions on challenges to equine movement presented by the Animal Health Law have been made to the EU by the European Equestrian Federation (EEF), European and Mediterranean Horseracing Federation (EMHF), the European and African Stud Book Committee (EASBC) and the European Federation of Thoroughbred Breeders' Associations (EFTBA).

³ Non-boarding mare visiting a stallion

⁴ [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=PI_COM:Ares\(2019\)3813997](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=PI_COM:Ares(2019)3813997)

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-confirms-plans-to-introduce-import-controls>

resident in the EU for 40 days, no animals introduced into that establishment for 30 days, blood tests before initial departure from the EU, and entry to the UK via a Border Control Post.

- 9.2 To move a mare **from Britain to the EU to an EU stallion**, the mare must have been in the UK for 40 days, no animals can be introduced into that establishment for 30 days, blood tests must be done, the breeder requires an export health certificate, the move must be notified on TRACES before it can travel to the EU, and it must travel via a Border Control Post. The mare must remain in the establishment of destination in the EU for at least 30 days. *Return to the UK as above – refer 8. Above.*

These requirements severely compromise international competition and racing, sales and breeding activity – for example, ‘walk-in’ mares now comprise the majority of Irish mares visiting UK stallions and UK mares visiting Irish stallions.



D. SOLUTIONS

1. Our joint proposal from the Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI) and the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) is:

- 1.1 A digital passport comprising identity, vaccinations & medical records, movement, and ownership (including change of ownership) which provides Competent Authorities of the countries of the Union with all the information and health guarantees they require.

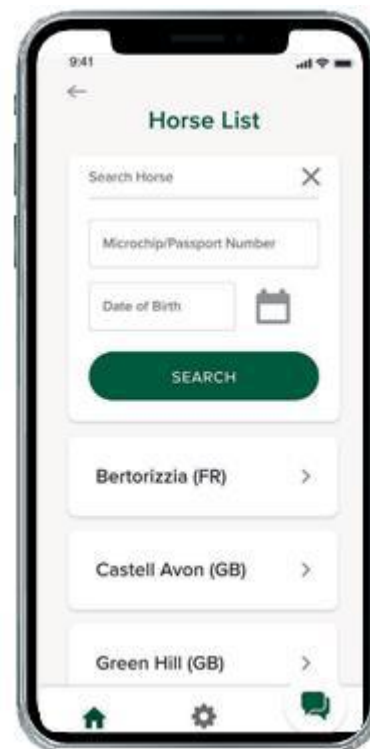


- 1.2 Health Status - in reality, horses in Great Britain have the same health status as EU Member States. A trade agreement between these parties should reflect this fact. In case of a trade agreement not being reached, the horse industry in Great Britain and particularly Ireland and France will be severely impacted since British horses will have to meet the requirements of an A-listed 3rd country. In this event the Taskforce suggests that the EU declares an Equilibrium of Health Status for A-listed 3rd countries.
- 1.3 Regional agreements on horse movement - agreements on bio-secure, traceable movement of high health horses should be signed between neighbouring EU Member States. Previous examples of such agreements are the Tripartite Agreement between France, Great Britain and Ireland. A current example is the agreement between France and the Benelux countries.
2. Digital Passports have been built by both the sport horse and race horse industries. They deliver secure, real time traceability and high health in accordance with EU Animal Health Law.
3. By virtue of the fact high health horses are athletes, they carry multiple IDs (markings, microchips and DNA parentage-verification), are monitored regularly by veterinarians, and all movements, vaccinations and medications maintained in secure databases available to Competent Authorities.
4. These technical solutions, available now:
 - 4.1 allow us to preserve the high level of biosecurity we have maintained for 50 years;
 - 4.2 provide EU Competent Authorities with all the information and health guarantees without it being necessary to meet new requirements;
 - 4.3 allow identification, traceability and sanitary surveillance of our horses with real-time data transfer to EU Competent Authorities;
 - 4.4 avoid the need for costly and welfare-sensitive checks on Border Inspection Posts by Government services; and
 - 4.5 reduce border wait times with their welfare risks, including avoiding unloading bloodstock, such as foals at foot, at border crossings.
5. These solutions bring together EU Member States and the UK, through an immediately available, simple consensus solution, which enables European interests to be fully safeguarded. An example of this collaboration is the current bilateral agreement between the Irish Horse Racing (Regulatory) Board and the British Horseracing Authority with a Vaccination App, which can be incorporated into a Digital Passport.
6. This privately funded technology, available to any equidae (and other species) within the EU and third countries, provides a platform for a private-public partnership (PPP) initiative between equine sectors and Competent Authorities.
7. It is maintained through a data share agreement between Member States and third countries or a central data repository.
8. This year historical vaccinations of more than 22,000 racehorses in Ireland and the UK have been digitally uploaded for the resumption of racing. Regulators can audit vaccinations prior to travel across borders or to racecourses, sales and other premises.
9. The use of technology (Digital Passports) underpins this high health status, raises animal health standards and expedites movement between countries.

10. The technical solutions proposed by this Task Force allow the sport horse, racing and breeding industries to preserve the high level of biosecurity that is characteristic of our history and current activity.

Digital Passports – The Facts

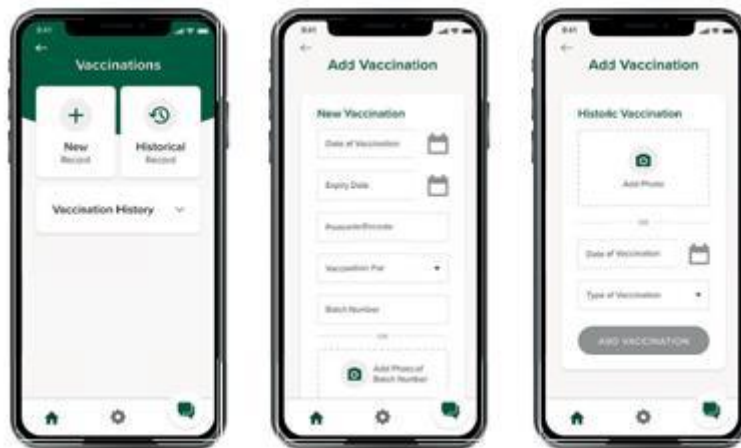
1. The paper passport will continue to be issued alongside the Digital Passport, as required by the EU for all equidae.
2. Digital Passports will be available and operational in 2021, to cater for the Animal Health Law.
3. Digital Passports are the digital lifetime document for equidae, encompassing the following four components:
 - Identification
 - Movement
 - Vaccinations and Medical Records
 - Ownership (including change of ownership)
4. Additional functionality includes health data, such as CEM6/EVA7 reports.
5. The data the Digital Passport will collect, from registration to end of life, will deliver real-time, comprehensive welfare traceability and validation for equidae.
6. This data set, with secure access, is delivered to Competent Authorities via log in to the database. This data can be illustrated via dashboards or interrogated as required by the Competent Authorities to deliver enhanced data information for control, traceability and ownership records.
7. The Digital Passport is multispecies.
8. The Digital Passport provides the Competent Authorities of the countries of the Union all the information and health guarantees they require without it being necessary to meet new requirements and carry out systematic checks at Union entry points.
9. The Digital Passport provides the platform for the continued development of additional identification technologies (photographic ID and bio metrics, etc).
10. The Digital Passport provides a platform for monitoring any modifications to the heritable genome.



The frequency of equine movements necessitates a robust and unhindered process which is completely different from other species. For example, beef cattle are estimated to move, on average, five times in their lifetime (from birth to slaughter) whereas many horses can move at least five times in a month. The average lifespan of food producing species is between 18 and 24 months whereas horses can live for 25+ years.

⁶ CEM - Contagious Equine Metritis

⁷ EVA – Equine Viral Arteritis



DIGITAL MOVEMENT EXPLAINED

1. Customs officers, shippers, regulators and vets can check and validate online each horse's health status, medication and vaccination records, ownership, previous locations and future destination, with the option for pre-clearance in advance, entry or exit from a specific holding or premises.
2. All information collected is visible in real time and, crucially, includes the sanitary and traceability history. The geo-location functionality provides key data for interrogation and restricts certain data – for example, health certificates – to be viewed only as complete at border crossings on validation by the respective authorities.

Quick User Guide



- STEP 1** Keeper / Shipper selects animal and Vet
- STEP 2** Vet receives notification and confirms health status or schedules a call-out to inspect
- STEP 3** Vet approves health status and certifies on E-Passport - automatically pushed to Govt.
- STEP 4** Govt. validates and assigns INTRA certificate 'pending' until status approval is validated at Port (time of departure)
- STEP 5** Keeper / Shipper receives Code 'green' to travel on E-Passport and payment made
- STEP 6** At Port notification is reconciled on behalf of Keeper / Shipper and Govt. and animal departs

Appendix 1

A. Analysis of the Economic Impact of the Sport Horse and Racehorse Industries in Europe

1. For the first time, using existing EU and third party independent reports, this dossier quantifies the very considerable size and economic impact to Europe of its sport horse/equestrian and horseracing industries.
2. The European and Mediterranean Horseracing Federation's (EMHF) analysis reveals an economic impact of horseracing activities of €20.3 billion per annum (excluding contributions to Governments in betting taxes).
3. The Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) has undertaken detailed studies of 9 European equestrian nations⁸. This shows an economic impact from horse activities of €52.1 billion per annum. This total includes racing activities. Accordingly, we have subtracted total racing activity (€20.3 billion per annum) from this horse activity total and submit the total sport horse/equestrian economic impact is €31.8 billion per annum for sport horses.
4. European Governments receive more than €1.5 billion per annum in taxes on horserace wagering (tax rates vary between 1% and 29%).
5. Over the last 5 years Europe has exported an estimated €1.48 billion in sport and race horses to third countries. With Britain's departure this will rise to €2.80 billion⁹.

B. Methodology

1. Two comprehensive studies of horseracing (including breeding) in European countries have been conducted. They were both by Deloitte¹⁰:
 - a) Great Britain (£3.45bn based on 2012 figures) and,
 - b) Ireland (€1.84bn per annum based on 2016 figures).
2. Inflation of 21% has been applied to the GB figures since the Deloitte's study (2012)¹¹ and 1.4% to the Irish figures since the Deloitte's study (2016)¹².
3. After this adjustment for inflation, and calculations for industry growth subsequent to the studies, the current combined total is €7.52bn per annum.
4. This report has extrapolated the data from these two countries as a percentage of total European racing activity and applied the IFHA¹³ annual statistics from a further 19 European countries.

⁸ France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Russia, Sweden, UK

⁹ European Equine Auction Houses, namely Arqana (France), Goffs (UK & Ireland) and Tattersalls (UK & Ireland)

¹⁰ Economic Impact of British Horseracing 2013 (Deloitte/British Horseracing Authority 2013); Economic Impact of Irish Breeding and Racing 2017 (Deloitte/Horse Racing Ireland 2017)

¹¹ Office for National Statistics <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/timeseries/chaw/mm23> shows June 2012 RPI at 241.8 and March 2020 at 292.1, an increase of 20.009%.

¹² Central Statistics Office <https://www.cso.ie/en/interactivezone/visualisationtools/cpiinflationcalculator/> shows an increase of 1.4% from June 2016 to March 2020.

¹³ <https://www.ifhaonline.org/Default.asp?section=Resources&area=4>

5. Racing and breeding measures selected from 2018 were: number of foals, races, individual horses to have raced, prize money (and related disbursements) and betting turnover across 21 countries¹⁴.
6. An estimate of 105,000 direct full-time equivalent jobs in racing has been calculated by extrapolating Deloitte's figures for Great Britain and Ireland. By way of illustration, Deloitte estimated the total number of jobs supported by the industry in Great Britain was nearly five times the number of direct jobs, and in Ireland three times the number.
7. It is estimated that the sport horse industry and equestrian sport employ a broadly similar number of people as horseracing.
8. Combined equestrian sport and racing direct full-time equivalent jobs: 210,000.

¹⁴ Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Rep., Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey.

Appendix 2

The European Taskforce for Brexit and EU Animal Health Law

The Taskforce for Brexit and EU Animal Health Law comprises representatives from the key European Sport Horse and Race Horse industries. It was formed by the International Sport Horse Confederation (IHSC) - constituted jointly by the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) and the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA). Its purpose is to work with Governments and key individuals to devise and present solutions which would facilitate movement of Sport Horses and Thoroughbreds (competition, training and breeding animals) across the EU and including between the EU and the United Kingdom post Brexit and the implementation of the EU Animal Health Law.

Members:

Göran Akerström	Veterinary Director, Fédération Equestre Internationale (Chair)
Simon Cooper	Vice Chairman, International Stud Book Committee Director, The General Stud Book, Weatherbys
Paul-Marie Gadot	Veterinary Advisor, France Galop & International Federation of Horseracing Authorities
Des Leadon	Chairman, Veterinary Committee of the European Federation of Thoroughbred Breeders' Associations
Brian Kavanagh	Chief Executive, Horse Racing Ireland Vice Chairman, International Federation of Horseracing Authorities
Ronan Murphy	Chairman, European and Mediterranean Horseracing Federation European Equestrian Committee



