

Support Needed To Modernize Temporary Equine International Movement Regulations

The industry is seeking USDA recognition of the World Organisation for Animal Health's (WOAH) classification of High Health High Performance Horses (HHP)

A category that meets stringent standards for identification, traceability, health monitoring, and biosecurity.

These horses are microchipped and verified through an official passport system, tracked during international travel for competition, and subject to veterinary examinations at each event. They remain under continuous veterinary oversight, including routine testing and treatments, and must comply with strict biosecurity protocols before, during, and after competition.

Current Regulations and Policies...

Fail to address Temporary Equine Movement as they focus primarily on permanent entry.

Ignore Global standards as other countries follow WOAH standards for equine athletes

Negatively Impact Equine Health as fit equine athletes are expected to only hand walk during import quarantine and be able to compete at top performance

Fail to recognize the high health high performance horses with a higher standard of care

Lack scientific basis as advances in science and technology have not been incorporated.

Are unnecessary trade barriers as top world equestrian Olympians refuse to compete in the U.S.



The American Horse Council is a Washington D.C.-based advocacy organization representing more than 1.6 million horse owners across all 50 states before Congress and the federal regulatory agencies. AHC member organizations include breed registries, national and state equine associations, state horse councils, recreational associations, and organizations representing racetracks, equestrians, horse shows, veterinarians, farriers, rodeos, and other equine-related stakeholders.

Federation Equestrian International Standards at U.S. International Competitions

- All upper-level competitions in the United States are sanctioned by the Federation Equestrian Internationale (FEI) and must adhere to the strict standards at least equivalent to those outlined in the WOAHS standards. If there is a National Horse show (lower level horses) on the same show grounds they must be completely segregated from FEI horses. The following highlights some of the required biosecurity measures for FEI events:
 - Identification: Microchips are verified at time of arrival and offloading and again at time of horse inspection.
 - Temperature Taking: On arrival before entry to the stabling and daily while on grounds
 - Health Monitoring- Continued health monitoring while on competition grounds with mandatory reporting of febrile or horse with signs of illness.
 - Veterinary Examination: Horses must complete a fitness to compete veterinary examination prior to competition.
 - Required Isolation: Any febrile horse or clinical horse is moved immediately to isolation. Additionally, veterinary examination of any febrile horse or horse showing clinical signs of illness.
 - Testing of Febrile Horses: Febrile horses are required to be tested for EHV-1.
 - Secure Enclosed Compound: FEI stabling is fenced with 24/7 security.
 - Credentialed Access: Access to the FEI enclosure is restricted to credentialed authorized individuals
 - Sharing of Equipment and Breeding on competition grounds is prohibited.
 - Required influenza vaccination and negative Coggins test for entry.

Because of these measures, the risk of equine infectious diseases is significantly reduced.

Equine Industry Seeks Your Support on the Solution

Industry is specifically seeking USDA recognition of the World Organization of Animal Health's classification of high health high performance horses, which meet the identification, traceability, health monitoring and biosecurity standards. Specifically, these horses are identified by microchips and verified in passport, traced during travels to competition, undergo veterinary examination at every event while being under continued veterinary monitoring, testing and treatments, and adhere to strict biosecurity protocols before, during and post competition.

Please direct questions or concerns to Dr. Katie Flynn, USEF Equine Health and Biosecurity Veterinarian (kflynn@usef.org)

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