

International Movement of High Health Performance Horses

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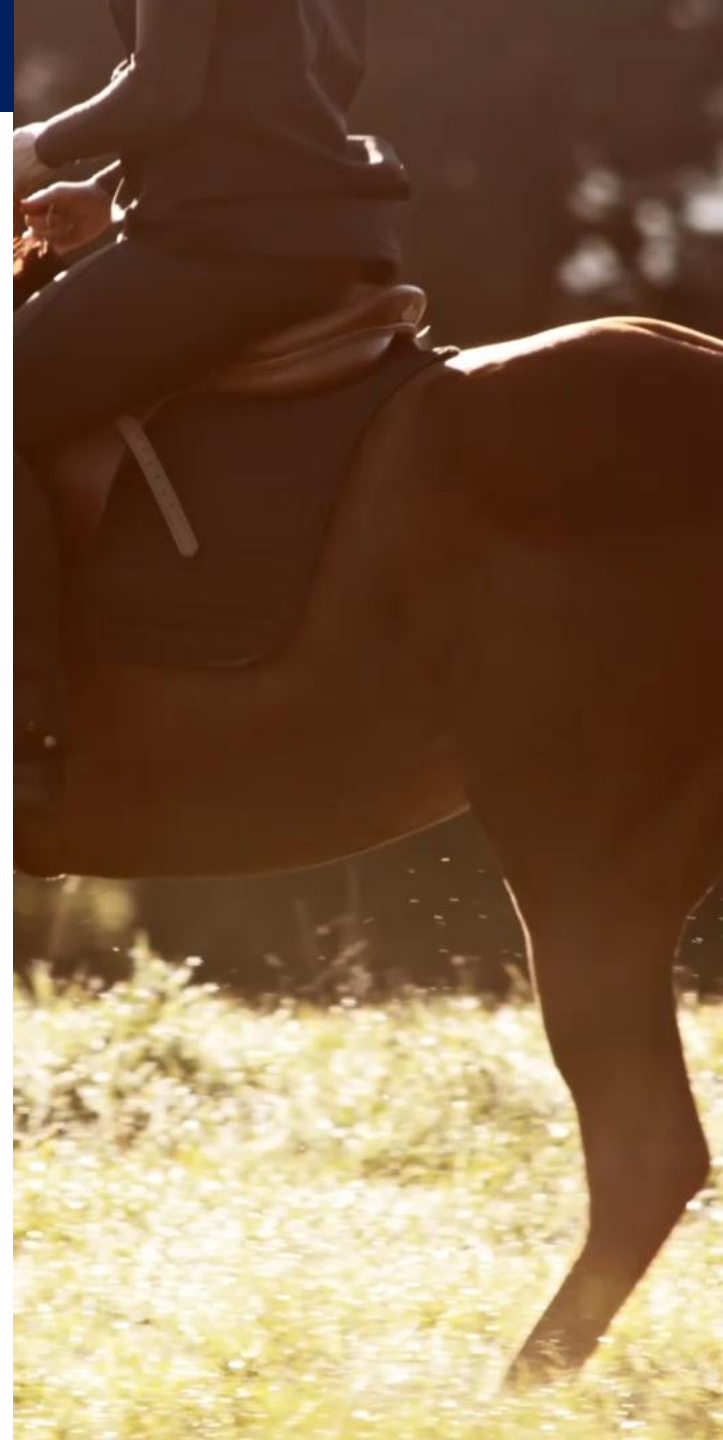
Equine Health and Biosecurity

Veterinary Department



What is a High Health Performance Horse?

- WOAAH Terrestrial Code Chapter 4.17
 - Recognizes the Subpopulation of Horses
- WOAAH Standards Framework for the subpopulation
 - Based on Science



WOAH High Health Status Horse Subpopulation

Terrestrial Animal Health Code

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CHAPTER 4.16.

HIGH HEALTH STATUS HORSE SUBPOPULATION

Article 4.16.1.

General provisions

This chapter provides recommendations for the establishment of a [subpopulation](#) of horses that are moved internationally to compete in equestrian competitions, including thoroughbred races, and that have a high health status certified by the [Veterinary Authority](#), in order to facilitate their safe temporary importation, onward movement and return to the country of usual residence.

For the purpose of the [Terrestrial Code](#), a high health status horse [subpopulation](#) is one with a distinct status with respect to specified [listed diseases](#), which has been established in accordance with the provisions in Chapter 4.4., by the application of documented health management practices and biosecurity measures to create and maintain a functional separation between horses within the defined [subpopulation](#) and all other equids at all times.

For the purpose of the [Terrestrial Code](#), a high health, high performance (HHP) horse means one belonging to a high health status [subpopulation](#) and registered by the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) or the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) as eligible to take part in international competitions and races accompanied by a certificate for temporary international movement in accordance with the [Terrestrial Code](#).

Horses that are moved internationally for the purpose of breeding or any other purpose not linked to competitions are excluded from the high health status [subpopulation](#).



Recognition of High Health Performance Horse Subpopulation



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'High-health, high-performance' horses: risk mitigation strategies for OIE-listed diseases

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Summary

The 'high-health, high-performance' (HHP) horse concept has been developed by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) together with the Fédération Equestre Internationale and the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities. This concept is outlined in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (Chapter 4.16). It aims to address impediments to the international movement of competition horses through a harmonised, practically feasible, globally applicable framework based on simplified certification requirements for the temporary importation of HHP horses and for their return to their country of usual residence. Based on the principle of compartmentalisation, the high health status of these horses would be established by the application, at all times, of stringent health management practices and biosecurity measures to create and maintain a functional separation between horses within the defined compartment and all other equids. These provisions are intended to mitigate the risk of disease spread for most OIE-listed diseases.

For six OIE-listed diseases (African horse sickness, equine influenza, equine infectious anaemia, equine piroplasmiasis, glanders and Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis), the OIE recommends disease-specific mitigation measures, which have been included in a model HHP Veterinary Certificate, to provide additional guarantees to mitigate the risk of disease spread.

This article presents the HHP disease risk mitigation strategy. It demonstrates how continuous observance of the HHP biosecurity measures and health management practices provides a scientific rationale for limiting the list of diseases for which HHP horses should be screened with respect to their temporary importation for competition purposes.

Keywords

Disease – Epidemic – High-health, high-performance horse – Horse – International movement – Outbreak – Risk.

Special focus on infectious disease and global risks

Equine disease events resulting from international horse movements: Systematic review and lessons learned

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Handbook for the management of High Health, High Performance Horses



FEI



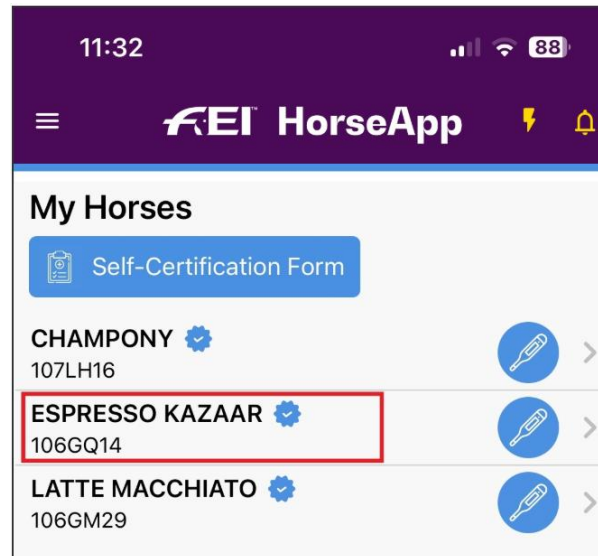
Components of the HHP Horse Framework

- Identification



- Traceability

- Biosecurity



- Health Monitoring

National vs International Competitions in the U.S.

- International Olympic Disciplines- Jumping, Dressage, Eventing
- International Non-Olympic Disciplines- Driving, Endurance, Vaulting, Reining
- National Events Sanctioned By National Governing Bodies
 - United States – United States Equestrian Federation
- International Events - Sanctioned by Federation Equestrian Internationale (FEI)
- National and International Events ON the same grounds
 - MUST Be Complete Separation of Horses, stabling and competition



Federation Equestre Internationale Regulations

- Veterinary Regulations (Does not apply to US National Horses) FEI level
 - Only for the FEI level competitions (National Horses must be completely separate)
 - Secure enclosed population meeting health requirements for entry
 - Specific Health Standards at home premises (mandatory veterinary oversight)
- Main Requirements for Horses Entering “FEI Event and FEI Compound”
 - Identification- Microchip verification and Visual Number
 - Traceability- Logging in and out of stabling – Credentialed Humans and Horses
 - Health Monitoring – Temperature monitoring prior, during and post event



Highlight of Some FEI Biosecurity Requirements

- Microchip and Visual ID
- 24/7 Security, Monitoring and Credentialling
- No sharing of equipment
- No breeding or reproductive examination
- Mandatory daily temperature recording in Horse App
 - Any with a fever is moved to isolation and mandatory EHV-1 testig
- Influenza Vaccination Within 6months of
- Requirements for Stabling- grouping of horses, stall size, C&D requirements

USDA Rules Barriers to International Competition

- Rules don't address temporary movements
- CEM Import Testing Or Waiver Quarantine
 - Burdensome, costly and policies not science based
 - Thoroughbred exemption for UK, Ireland and France
- 7 day quarantine for VEE and Screwworm
 - Horses can only be handwalked for limited time period
 - Horses are treated with ivermectin and examined
- 60 day residency paperwork- Signed by government Official
- Published research demonstrates low risk of subpopulation

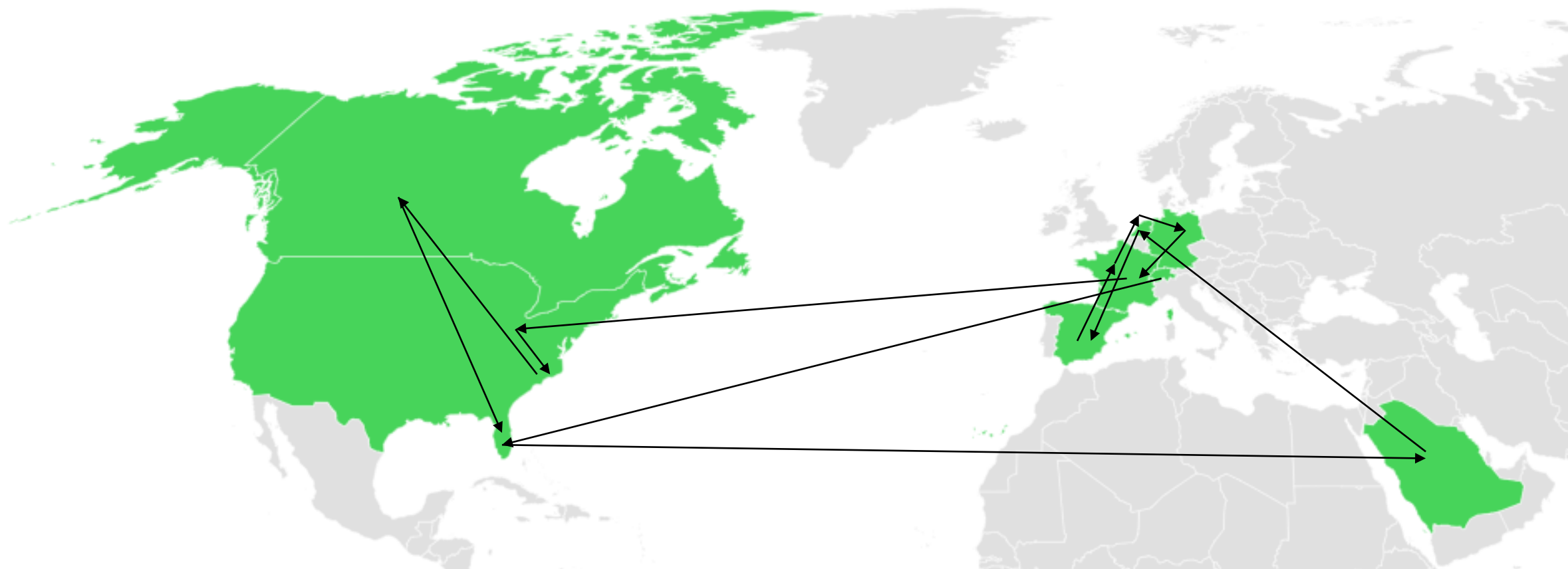


Why it Matters to US Equine Industry? US Riders/Horses Compete Internationally

- 424 Riders
- 1001 Horses
- 28 countries

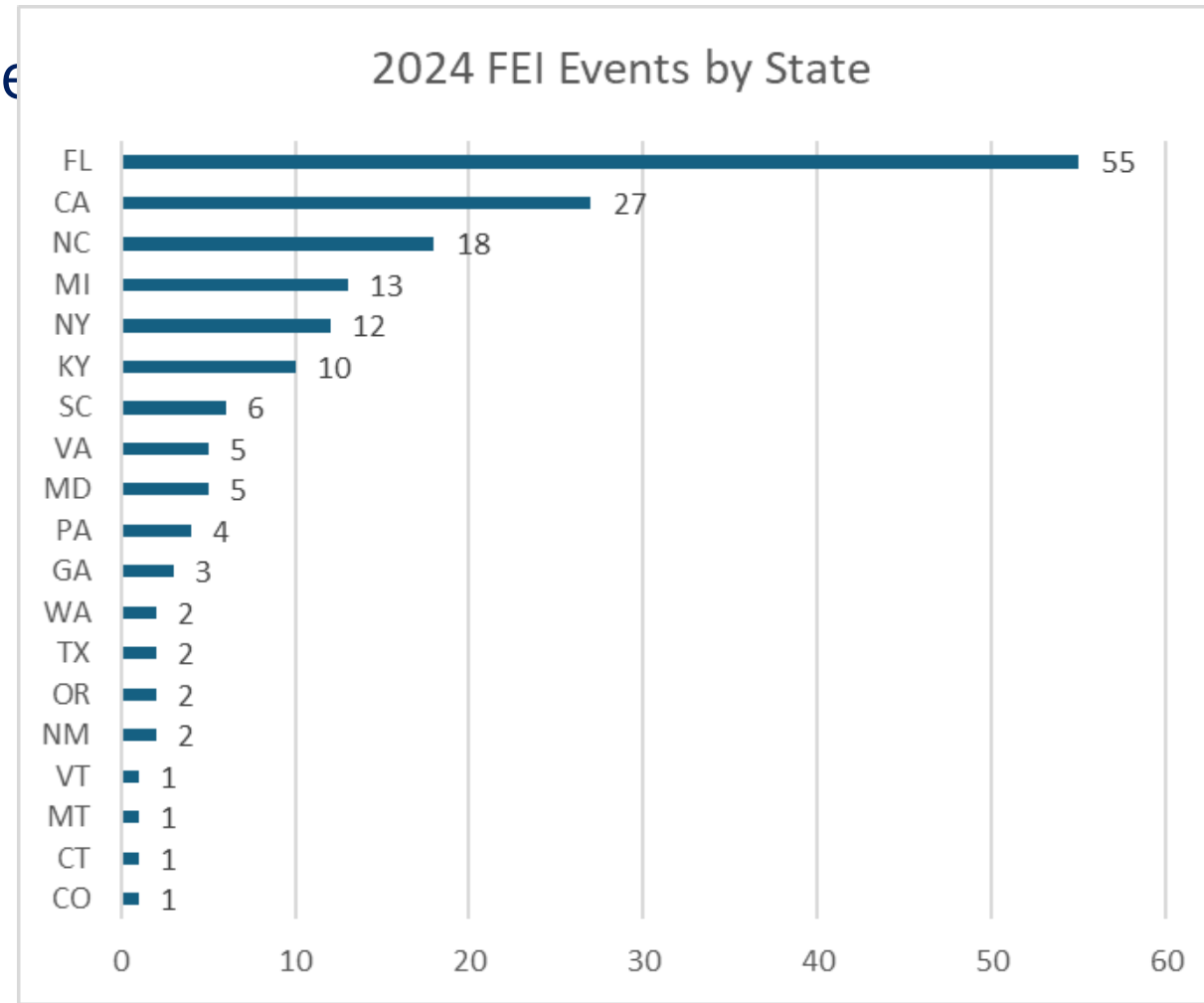


Greya's Adventures in 2024



United States Hosts International Equine Athletes

- ~500 FEI International Events in United States (~10% of all FEI events)
- ~180 Events for the 3 Olympic Disciplines
 - 1* to 5* events (5* highest Level)
 - 5* Events- 18 events; 4* Events – 44 Total
- 2026 – 2028
 - Increase in FEI events in USA
 - World Cup 2026, Dallas Texas
 - Olympic Test Event 2027
 - Olympics- Los Angeles 2028



Equine Industry Ask- Support the Resolution

1. Recognition of the Subpopulation
2. Formation COE Working Group





Why Now?

- Los Angeles Olympics and Paralympics
 - Equestrian Games at Santa Anita Racetrack
- Increase in International Events the next three years
 - World Cup 2026- Texas
 - Olympic Test Event 2027

Questions?

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