



Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Veterinary Services

Strategy and Policy

4700 River Rd

Riverdale, MD 20737

April 6, 2023
Revised April 18, 2023

Derogation for select U.S. origin horses competing for the United States Olympic Equestrian Teams, to temporarily export to CEM-affected countries to compete for no more than 90 days

This derogation applies to select intact U.S. origin horses over 731 days of age, as listed by the United States Equestrian Federation and associated with the United States Olympic Equestrian Teams, which are being temporarily exported to CEM-affected countries for no more than 90 days to participate in key high-profile dressage, eventing and jumping competitions from May through October 2023.

In order for horses to be eligible for return in accordance with the Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) exemption from quarantine and testing in accordance with [9 CFR 93.301\(g\)](#), the following must occur and be attested to on all documentation for the duration of temporary residency in each CEM-affected country visited:

- 1) Horse must be held separate and apart from all other horses except for the time it was actually participating in an event or was being exercised by its trainer;
- 2) Has not been on any premises where horses were held or used for breeding purposes;
- 3) Has not been bred nor had any sexual contact or genital examination while residing in the above country;
- 4) Has been transported only in cleaned and disinfected vehicles and was not accompanied by any other horse of a different health status.

Documentation requirements that each horse must fulfill in order to be eligible are as follows:

- 1) Copy, original, or certified true copy of the U.S. export health certificate
 - a. Proof of date of arrival in the CEM-affected country shown by stamp or additional documentation (tracer papers, airway bill, foreign country import permit).
- 2) Original U.S. import permit
 - a. The permit application must be submitted prior to departure from the United States and must include the itinerary. Permits must be submitted to LAIPermits@usda.gov.
 - b. Any deviations to the provided route of travel and itinerary must be amended prior to return to the United States. Amendments must be submitted to LAIPermits@usda.gov.
 - c. Relevant information about import permits can be found in this notice: [Notice Regarding APHIS Live Animal Import and Third-Country Import Transit Permits](#)

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- 3) Letter of derogation
 - a. This APHIS issued letter of derogation must accompany the horses upon arrival.
- 4) An original health certificate from each country visited during the term of temporary exportation.
 - a. All dates from when the horses are exported from the United States, until their return, must be represented by the original documentation presented at the port of entry.
 - b. See Addendums 1-3 for guidance based on the USEF identified travel plans to the EU, UK, and Mexico. Additional information can be found in the following notice: [Equine Import Requirements for U.S. Returning Mares and Stallions \(usda.gov\)](#).
 - c. If a horse is traveling to a country outside of those identified, please reach out to Steven Morrissey (smorrissey@usef.org) for further guidance to ensure compliance.

If requirements are not followed, and/or original documentation is not present at the time of return, then horses will not qualify for entry with exemption of import requirements for CEM and any other foreign animal disease of concern, as relevant and applicable. Also, U.S. horses that export for more than 90 days to CEM-affected countries prior to their return will be required to complete CEM testing and quarantine upon arrival at a State approved facility.

For more information or questions, please contact Live Animal Imports at (301) 851-3300, option 2, or email LAIE@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Dr. Iwona Tumelty
Staff Veterinary Medical Officer
Live Animal Imports-Equine
USDA APHIS VS Strategy and Policy



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ADDENDUM 1:

The below guidance is based on the USEF identified travel plans, and only one scenario (a or b) should be applicable to each horse. Additional information can be found in the following notice: [Equine Import Requirements for U.S. Returning Mares and Stallions \(usda.gov\)](#).

- a. For horses that export directly to and continuously reside within multiple European Union Member States (EU) and the United Kingdom (UK):
 1. A supplemental health certificate may be issued and endorsed by an examining veterinarian (i.e. licensed or FEI official) for each country visited, except for the final country of residency prior to return to the United States.
 - a. For ease of use, a model supplemental certificate is found in Addendum 2 that may be used to satisfy the requirement. Note the document contains health attestations applicable to the current animal health status of countries in the planned route of travel identified by USEF at the time of issuance of this derogation request.
 2. An official health certificate (not a supplemental) must be issued and endorsed by the official veterinarian of the Competent Animal Health Authority in the final country of residency prior to return to the United States. If the official veterinarian is also the examining veterinarian, then only one signature is required.
 3. Health documentation issued from the UK must clearly identify the entity of residence-Great Britain (England, Scotland, Wales) or Northern Ireland.
- b. For horses that export to and reside within countries other than the EU or UK, in addition to the EU and/or UK:
 1. For continuous residency in EU and UK, see section a. above.
 2. The supplemental health document issued in the EU and/or UK that the horse visits before export to a country other than the EU and/or UK needs to be endorsed by the official veterinarian of the Competent Animal Health Authority.
 3. For residency in countries other than EU Member States and/or the UK, a supplemental from each country must be issued and endorsed by the official veterinarian of the Competent Animal Health

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Authority. If the official veterinarian is also the examining veterinarian, then only one signature is required.

- a. For ease of use, a model supplemental certificate is found in Addendum 2 that may be used to satisfy the requirement. Note the document contains health attestations applicable to the current animal health status of countries in the planned route of travel identified by USEF at the time of issuance of this derogation request.
5. An official health certificate (not a supplemental) must be issued and endorsed by the Competent Animal Health Authority, in the final country of residency prior to return to the United States. If the official veterinarian is also the examining veterinarian, then only one signature is required.
- a. For horses that temporarily reside in Mexico, and then travel to countries APHIS recognizes as free of Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis (VEE) preceding return to the United States
 - i. An examination no less than 7 days following arrival must be conducted by the official veterinarian of the Competent Animal Health Authority in the VEE-free country, to certify that the horse is free of clinical signs of VEE. Certification of the exam must accompany the official health certificate in order for the horse to be exempt from VEE requirements upon return to the United States, which includes a 7-day federal import quarantine.
 - i. See Addendum 3 for a model VEE certification that may be used to satisfy this requirement.

The animal health status of countries can be found at the following link: [USDA APHIS | Animal Health Status of Regions](#). For more information or questions, please contact Live Animal Imports at (301) 851-3300, option 2, or email LAIE@usda.gov.

Supplemental Health Certificate for the Temporary Export of select U.S. Origin Horses to CEM-affected regions and Mexico, qualifying for the 2023 USEF Derogation, issued by APHIS April 2023

I. Identification of Animal

| Name | Breed | Sex | Age | Color | Microchip |
|------|-------|-----|-----|-------|-----------|
| | | | | | |

II. Country Visited: _____

III. Address of Premises of Temporary Residence:

IV. Dates of Residence (mm/dd/yyyy): _____ **to** _____

V. Animal Health Attestations:

I, the undersigned, certify that the horse described above meets the following requirements:

- a. The horse has been residing in the country specified above for _____ (number) days.
- b. The horse described was inspected on the premises listed above on

_____ (mm /dd/yyyy) and found to be free of contagious diseases and, insofar as can be determined, not exposed to communicable or contagious diseases immediately preceding exportation, during the indicated period of residency.

- c. The horse has not been vaccinated with a live, attenuated or inactivated vaccine during the period of residency if within 14 days preceding exportation to the United States.
- d. That, insofar as I can determine, African horse sickness, dourine, glanders, surra, epizootic lymphangitis, ulcerative lymphangitis, equine piroplasmiasis, equine infectious anemia (EIA), contagious equine metritis (CEM), vesicular stomatitis, or Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis has not occurred on the residing premises during the period of residency, nor have these diseases occurred on any adjoining premises during the same period of time.
- e. The horse was examined and found to be free of ectoparasites.
- f. APHIS considers the country of residency free of African Horse Sickness, Screwworm, and Foot and Mouth Disease.²

VI. CEM Attestations:

- a. For U.S. origin horses temporarily residing in _____, an APHIS recognized CEM-free country: During the indicated period of residency listed, the horse did not have any contact, breeding or otherwise, with horses from a premises affected with CEM or horses found to be affected with CEM.^{1,2}

OR

- b. For U.S. origin horses temporarily residing in _____, an APHIS recognized CEM affected country for no more than 90 days until return to the U.S. seeking permanent import into the U.S. under a CEM exemption and:^{1,2}
 - Insofar as I can determine, since residing in the country of residency, the horse:
 - 1) Has been held separate and apart from all other horses except for the time it was actually participating in an event or was being exercised by its trainer; 2) has not been on any premises where horses were held or used for breeding purposes; 3) has not been bred nor had other sexual contact or genital examination while residing in the above country; 4) has been transported only

in cleaned and disinfected vehicles and was not accompanied by any other horse of a different health status.

VII. Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis (VEE) Attestations:

- a. APHIS recognizes the country of residency as free of VEE. ^{1,2}

OR

- b. APHIS recognizes the country of residency to be affected with VEE and the horse will reside in APHIS recognized VEE-free countries for a minimum of 7 days before exporting to the United States. I have received confirmation that an examination for VEE by an official veterinarian of the competent authority of animal health of a VEE-free country will be performed after a minimum of 7 days residency prior to export to the United States. ^{1,2,3}

| Examining Veterinarian | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|------|
| Clinic/FEI stamp ⁴ | Printed Name | Signature ⁴ | Date |

| Competent Authority of Animal Health | | | |
|---|--------------|------------------------|------|
| Official Stamp ⁴ | Printed Name | Signature ⁴ | Date |

¹ Strike-outs are permissible if the attestation does not apply. Strike out must be endorsed upon and dated in the margin.

² The APHIS recognized animal health status of a region/country can be found at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/animal-health-status-of-regions>.

³ Horses that do not reside in an APHIS recognized VEE-free region for a minimum of 7 days will be required to complete VEE import requirements upon arrival to the United States. Import requirements can be found at: [USDA APHIS | Equine Imports & Exports](#)

⁴ Original wet-ink signatures are required. Supplemental health certificates may be used if the country of temporary residency is not the final exporting country to the United States. If the horse continuously resides in multiple European Union (EU) Member States or the United Kingdom (UK)-Great Britain (England, Scotland, Wales), Northern Ireland-then a supplemental health certificate may be endorsed by the examining veterinarian only. Horses temporarily residing in countries outside of the EU or UK, and/or exporting out of the EU or UK to other countries, must have the supplemental health certificate endorsed by the competent authority of animal health.



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VENEZUELAN EQUINE ENCEPHALITIS DECLARATION: VETERINARY HEALTH CERTIFICATE ADDENDUM

FOR U.S. ORIGIN HORSES THAT HAVE BEEN IN A VEE-AFFECTED COUNTRY/IES DURING THEIR TEMPORARY EXPORTATION AND BEFORE RETURN TO UNITED STATES (FOR HORSES QUALIFYING FOR THE 2023 USEF DEROGATION)

Veterinary Authority: _____
Date of Issue: _____
Health Certificate Number: _____
Country of Temporary Residence: _____ (Enter Country)

HORSE DESCRIPTION

Horse Name: _____
FEI Passport and Microchip Number: _____
Breed and Gender: _____
Age and Color: _____

This is to certify that on _____ (enter date) I examined the horse identified above and:

1) APHIS recognizes the country of export, and all countries resided in for a minimum of seven (7) days immediately prior to export to the United States, as free of Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis AND after a minimum of seven (7) days, the horse has been thoroughly examined by an official veterinarian and was found to be free of clinical signs.¹

Address of Inspection: _____

Examining Veterinarian

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------------------|------|
| Stamp/Clinic Information | Printed Name | Signature ² | Date |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------------------|------|

Competent Authority of Animal Health

| | | | |
|-------|--------------|------------------------|------|
| Stamp | Printed Name | Signature ² | Date |
|-------|--------------|------------------------|------|

¹ The APHIS recognized animal health status of a region/country can be found at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/animal-health-status-of-regions>.

² Original wet-ink signatures are required.