The FEI Perspective on the International Movement of Horses

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Equine International Movements and Governments

• Currently many different country perspectives
• EU has a lower risk “Register” horse approach
• But a major lack of a harmonised approach to requirements by many countries
• Sometimes country requirements
  - are not risk based and are confusing
  - ignore high performance horse care standards and needs of an athlete
  - late official decisions - so planning is hard
• Different applications of testing, zoning etc
The Need for Shipping Hubs

• International Equestrian Events bring together groups of unique high performance horses on a temporary basis
  - individual shipments but
  - more commonly group shipments in PEQ or PAQ simple hubs
i.e. Germany, Holland, UK, Australia, Malaysia, Middle East

• Often temporary and used when needed to meet the demand
Cincinnati Airport 2010
Asian Games 2010 Equine Disease Free Zone (EDFZ)

Disease-free Zone:
Conghua City, where the Equestrian Competition Venue is located.

Buffer Zone:
The 8 administrative areas adjacent to Conghua City.

Biosecure safety Passage for Equine Transportation: Road from Competition Venue to Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport and road from competition venue to Shenzhen Huanggang port.

AN OIE RECOGNISED EQUINE DISEASE FREE ZONE (EDFZ)
KEY PROBLEMS CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT AND FOR EQUESTRIAN EVENTS
Key problems Concerning International Movement For Equestrian Events

• A past lack of understanding and communication of the high FEI veterinary standards of the high performance horse - no being addressed

• Poor application of OIE concepts and principles within the OIE Code – has been a need for clarification and guidance on the high health high performance horse – now being addressed

• Very different national requirements not reflecting lower risk of the horse and levels of supervision - communication
Poor Application Of OIE Concepts And Principles Within The OIE Code By Governments

• Has often been a clear lack of the use of such OIE principles such as a failure to apply country equivalency, Country disease freedom, risk assessments, testing, failure to adopt the EDFZ principle that is available – profile now being raised

• Often approaches that can be described as restrictive trade practices

• The biosecurity approach to the “sub population” needs to be more vocal
Different Approaches And Regulations Used

• Highlighted that no “legal” distinction of temporary imports of the highly supervised sport horses from permanent imports of ordinary horses - essential

• Highlighted that a lack of exercise ability if quarantine - a welfare issue and competition issue – HHP permits that

• Highlighted problems at borders due to officials with poor understanding of the effect of delays
Lessons Learnt and Governments

• Governments often do change to the required measures for the major Int events

• Just because high performace horses travel, it does not mean that they are a risk – sport horses rely on being kept healthy

• Better understanding of the FEI and IFHA system helps with decision making and delivering the precautions, supervision, the home systems
The Facts

• High Performance horses do tend to move “compartment to compartment“ and do not want to risk disease – and have a clear foundation to be a “sub population“

• FEI level events have a very high degree of veterinary supervision and standards - but systems and capabilities higher now than ever

• Performance horses represent years of preparation and must maintain exercise regimes
• The principles of the OIE Code is highly suitable for the movement of HHP horses, but governments tell us it simply needs to be “explained where this type of animal fits in the code” – 2014 Chapter proposal

• The EU already has a longstanding approach to defining the high performance horses separately

• The current growth unleashes the potential for the greater use of the concepts such as sub population or Equine Disease Free Zone (EDFZ) concepts, zoning
FACILITATION OF INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION HORSE MOVEMENT

HONG KONG, 18 - 20 FEBRUARY 2014
The Equine Sub Population

FEI HIGH HEALTH HIGH PERFORMANCE HORSE

SPORT HORSES

OTHER HORSES
The HHP Equine Sub Population is Possible

- Easily Identifiable – passports and micro-chipping
- Vaccination records
- Testing records within sport passport
- Lives under high supervision at the time of travel open to audit
- High levels of Regulations and Enforcement
- Moving from a supervised place to another place
- A binding clear universally understood Biosecurity concept and approach

THEN A CONFIDENT, SAFE, PRACTICAL BUT EFFICIENT RISK BASED APPROACH FOLLOWS
THANK YOU
Thank you for your attention
SUMMARY

• Increasing levels of international equestrian sport and capabilities of the FEI are not well understood - there has been a demand for a “sub population approach”

• The standards and principles in the OIE Code allow for the FEI high performance horse but it needs to “find its place” within a chapter in the Code – many countries have asked for that

• The High Performance Equine Industry will state its standards and promote them through the entire industry

• There is an urgent need for a practical, harmonised and consistent risk approach to the movements of high health high performance horses for the sport economy, to allow development, planning and for fair sport between nations.
THANK YOU