

General conditions for derogation from the requirement for health certification for registered horses to enter Ireland in accordance with Article 69 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688

1. Objective

In accordance with Article 69 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688, this document lays down conditions for a derogation from the requirement for health certification for registered horses sent from an EU Member State (MS) to Ireland.

In accordance with Article 69 (d) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688, there shall be communication between Ireland and the MS of origin on a practical implementation and traceability procedure in order to officialise and ensure smooth operating of the derogating conditions. Ireland and MS of origin shall consent to the operation of the derogation in advance and in writing. The MS of origin shall satisfy Ireland as to its guarantees of the conditions outlined in this document.

Movements of horses which do not meet the conditions of this document are subject to the standard animal health certificate and movement requirements of horses in Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688 when moving to Ireland.

2. Definitions

- 2.1. "Listed disease" means one of the diseases listed in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882.
- 2.2. "Authorised Delegated Body" refers to an equine body or organisation which is authorised by the competent authority (CA) of the MS of origin, in line with allowed delegation practices as detailed in the Official Controls Regulation (OCR) (Regulation (EU) 2017/625) (Articles 30 to 33), to provide the required assurances of high health status and traceability of horses, covered under this document and as required for derogated registered horse movement to Ireland.
- 2.3. "Authorised Derogation Establishment" refers to an establishment authorised by the CA of the MS of origin or an Authorised Delegated Body as having adequate high health status of registered horses as required by section 3, to avail of the derogation.
- 2.4. "Designated Transporters for Derogated Movement" refer to transporters designated by the CA of the MS of origin or an Authorised Delegated Body as being authorised to carry out movements under the terms of the derogation.
- 2.5. "DOCOM" means a commercial document generated on TRACES NT according to the format available therein.

3. Animal health requirements to avail of derogated registered horse movement to Ireland

- 3.1. The registered horses in question shall adhere to the minimum standards for equine movement laid down in Article 22 of Regulation (EU) 2020/688, in addition to the following points 3.2 to 3.5.
- 3.2. The registered horses shall be consigned to and from an Authorised Derogation Establishment.

3.3. The registered horses shall conform to one of the following definitions to be considered of adequate high health status for the purpose of derogated movement:

3.3.1. they are in possession of a single lifetime identification document ('equine passport') as provided for in Article 114(1)(c) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, which includes:

- a) a validation mark as described in Article 92(2)(a) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688, and
 - i. The registered horses that are intended to avail of derogated movement to Ireland shall have received a valid equine influenza virus vaccination, either in accordance with vaccine manufacturers' protocols or as required by the codes of practice of the international organisations managing horses for competition or races or reproduction and those attached to this document, for non-thoroughbred competition horses, for thoroughbreds in racing/training (relevant organisation is the Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board (IHRB)), and for breeding horses (relevant organisation is the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders Association (ITBA)), whichever is more stringent. For horses younger than 6 months old, the mother shall have received a valid vaccination. This vaccination must be recorded in the equine passport.
 - ii. The registered horses that are intended to avail of derogated movement to Ireland shall have received a valid herpes virus vaccination, either in accordance with vaccine manufacturers' protocols or as required by the codes of practice of the international organisations managing horses for competition or races or reproduction and those attached to this document, for non-thoroughbred competition horses, for thoroughbreds in racing/training (relevant organisation is the Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board (IHRB)), and for breeding horses (relevant organisation is the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders Association (ITBA)), whichever is more stringent. For horses younger than 6 months old, the mother shall have received a valid vaccination. This vaccination is recorded in the equine passport.
 - iii. The establishment of habitual residency which received the validation mark shall have routine health testing and vaccinations, verifiably at least as stringent as those required by the codes of practice of the international organisations managing horses for competition or races or reproduction and those attached to this document, for non-thoroughbred competition horses, for thoroughbreds in racing/training (relevant organisation is the Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board (IHRB)), and for breeding horses (relevant organisation is the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders Association (ITBA)), whichever is more stringent.
 - iv. Breeding horses shall, as a minimum, have been tested for Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM), Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA) and Equine Infectious Anaemia (EIA) in accordance with the Codes of Practice of the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders Association (ITBA), Annex 3.

Or

- b) a licence, as described in Article 92(2)(b) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688, and
 - i. The registered horses that are intended to avail of derogated movement to Ireland shall have received a valid equine influenza virus vaccination, either in

accordance with vaccine manufacturers' protocols or as required by the codes of practice of the international organisations managing horses for competition or races and those attached to this document, for non-thoroughbred competition horses, or for thoroughbreds in racing/training (relevant organisation is the Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board (IHRB)), whichever is more stringent. For horses younger than 6 months old, the mother shall have received a valid vaccination. This vaccination must be recorded in the equine passport.

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Or

3.3.2. they are habitually resident on an establishment of low health risk which adheres to the following conditions:

- a) The establishment is operated in line with the applicable rules on identification, registration, and traceability of horses, and applies biosecurity measures to minimise the risk of introduction of diseases listed for horses in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882.
- b) The establishment is subject to frequent and properly documented animal health visits referred to in Article 25 of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, at least two visits per year.
- c) The registered horses habitually kept on the establishment that are intended to avail of derogated movement to Ireland are subject to frequent and documented additional identity checks, health testing and vaccination against listed and non-listed diseases carried out in the context of animal health visits referred to in the point above, and in accordance with the requirements set out in Codes of Practice set by the competent authority of the MS of origin (or the Authorised Delegated Body if so delegated) to become an Authorised Derogation Establishment, noting that these health requirements shall as a minimum match those as required by the codes of practice of the international organisations managing horses for competition or races or reproduction and those attached to this document, for non-thoroughbred competition horses, for thoroughbreds in racing/training (relevant organisation is the Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board (IHRB)), and for breeding horses (relevant organisation is the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders Association (ITBA)).
- d) Breeding horses shall, as a minimum, have been tested for Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM), Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA) and Equine Infectious Anaemia (EIA) in accordance with the Codes of Practice of the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders Association (ITBA), Annex 3.

- e) The registered horses habitually resident on the establishment that are intended to avail of derogated movement to Ireland shall have received a valid equine influenza virus vaccination, either in accordance with vaccine manufacturers' protocols or as required by the codes of practice of the international organisations managing horses for competition or races or reproduction and those attached to this document, for non-thoroughbred competition horses, for thoroughbreds in racing/training (relevant organisation is the Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board (IHRB)), and for breeding horses (relevant organisation is the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders Association (ITBA)), whichever is more stringent. For horses younger than 6 months old, the mother shall have received a valid vaccination. This vaccination must be recorded in the equine passport.
- f) The registered horses that are intended to avail of derogated movement to Ireland shall have received a valid herpes virus vaccination, either in accordance with vaccine manufacturers' protocols or as required by the codes of practice of the international organisations managing horses for competition or races or reproduction and those attached to this document, for non-thoroughbred competition horses, for thoroughbreds in racing/training (relevant organisation is the Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board (IHRB)), and for breeding horses (relevant organisation is the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders Association (ITBA)), whichever is more stringent. For horses younger than 6 months old, the mother shall have received a valid vaccination. This vaccination must be recorded in the equine passport.
- g) Natural breeding on the establishment is only carried out in sufficient separation from other horses habitually or temporarily kept on that establishment.

Or

3.3.3. they adhere to the following conditions:

- a) The registered horse is registered with the national federation of the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) for competition, or with the respective Irish or international organisation or authority for the participation in international races.
- b) The registered horse is identified by an extended single lifetime identification document, in which it is documented that:
 - i. The registered horse shall have received a valid equine influenza virus vaccination, either in accordance with vaccine manufacturers' protocols or as required by the codes of practice of the international organisations managing horses for competition or races and those attached to this document, for non-thoroughbred competition horses, or for thoroughbreds in racing/training (relevant organisation is the Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board (IHRB)), whichever is more stringent. For horses younger than 6 months old, the mother shall have received a valid vaccination. This vaccination must be recorded in the equine passport.
 - ii. The registered horse shall have received a valid herpes virus vaccination, either in accordance with vaccine manufacturers' protocols or as required by the codes of practice of the international organisations managing horses for competition or races and those attached to this document, for non-thoroughbred competition horses, or for thoroughbreds in

racing/training (relevant organisation is the Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board (IHRB), whichever is more stringent. For horses younger than 6 months old, the mother shall have received a valid vaccination. This vaccination must be recorded in the equine passport.

- iii. The registered horse is vaccinated against any other diseases as required by the codes of practice of the international organisations managing horses for competition or races and those attached to this document, for non-thoroughbred competition horses, or for thoroughbreds in racing/training (relevant organisation is the Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board (IHRB)) including those not listed in the Annex to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882.
- iv. The registered horse has been visited by a veterinarian at least twice a year, including the veterinary examinations for vaccination or for movement to other Member States or to third countries.
- v. Animal health tests have been carried out on the registered horse in accordance with requirements set out in Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) set by the competent authority of the MS of origin (or Authorised Delegated Body if so delegated) to become an Authorised Derogation Establishment, noting that these health requirements shall at least match the requirements of the codes of practice of the international organisations managing horses for competition or races and those attached to this document, for non-thoroughbred competition horses, or for thoroughbreds in racing/training (relevant organisation is the Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board (IHRB)).

3.4. This high health status of the registered horses intended to avail of derogated movement to Ireland is ensured by the CA of the MS of origin (or the Authorised Delegated Bodies if so delegated), which shall also ensure and verify that the establishments authorised to send registered horses to Ireland using this derogation are subject to at least the requirements mentioned in point 3.3 above to maintain this status, as applicable. These measures shall be fully documented in SOPs.

3.5. The CA of the MS of origin or the Authorised Delegated Bodies agree to exchange information on equine disease through use of a surveillance system which shall be the RESPE system (Respe - Réseau d'Epidémio-Surveillance en Pathologie Équine). This is in addition to disease surveillance, notification and reporting requirements as required by the Animal Health Law (Regulation (EU) 2016/429).

4. Traceability requirements

4.1. Documentation

All registered horses moved under this derogation shall be accompanied by a single lifetime identification document ('equine passport') issued in accordance with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/963, in which all required vaccines are clearly and correctly documented.

High health status registered horses, subject to the control of the CA of the MS of origin or Authorised Delegated Body, moved under this derogation, shall be accompanied by a DOCOM issued through the TRACES NT system by a CA of the MS of origin, Authorised Delegated Body or a Designated Transporter

for Derogated Movement. The Authorised Delegated Body may delegate the issuing of DOCOMs to an appropriate third party, such as the private veterinarian of an Authorised Derogation Establishment.

4.2. Completion of the DOCOM

Registered horses availing of the derogating conditions shall be consigned to and from an Authorised Derogation Establishment. A closed list of Authorised Derogation Establishments shall be maintained on TRACES NT and are the only establishments that can be inserted into the 'Premises of Destination' or 'Premises of Origin' fields on an equine DOCOM to Ireland, as a form of verification on TRACES NT.

Registered horses availing of derogated movements to Ireland shall travel with a Designated Transporter for Derogated Movement, and this closed list of Designated Transporters for Derogated Movements should also be maintained on TRACES NT and be the only transporters than can be entered on equine DOCOMs travelling to Ireland on TRACES NT.

5. Implementation of conditions to access derogated registered horse movement

5.1. Implementation

If an EU Member State wishes to avail of the opportunity to send registered horses to Ireland under these derogation conditions, in advance of the first derogated movement, they shall inform the Irish CA of their intention and provide evidence of their compliance with the requirements of this document.

Ireland and the MS of origin shall establish a practical implementation and traceability procedure to set out working arrangements for the operation of the conditions of the derogation, and only after this procedure has been established can derogated registered horse movements commence.

5.2. CA responsibilities

5.2.1. CA of Member State of origin is responsible for:

- a) monitoring and ensuring that derogated movements are carried out correctly according to the terms of this document and the practical implementation and traceability procedure,
- b) notification procedures for listed equine diseases, facilitating regular meetings between CAs of Member States of origin and Ireland and with industry as required,
- c) producing reports on operation and findings related to the DOCOM process and presenting them to Ireland at these meetings,
- d) ensuring that operators at each level of the derogated registered horse movements adhere to the conditions of this document and the practical implementation and traceability procedure, including ensuring compliance with SOPs as required to maintain high health status of horses. The CA of the MS of origin shall immediately report to Ireland any failures in the DOCOM issuing system as soon as they become apparent.
- e) maintenance of lists of Authorised Delegated Bodies (where applicable), Authorised Derogation Establishments and Designated Transporters for Derogated Movements, which are the only establishments and transporters which may issue such DOCOMs or be entered onto such a DOCOM, which must be uploaded and maintained on TRACES NT.

5.2.2. If required, the CA of the MS of origin may delegate certain functions to an Authorised Delegated Body. If the CA chooses to delegate to Authorised Delegated Bodies, in line with allowed delegation practices as detailed in the Official Controls Regulation (OCR) (Regulation

(EU) 2017/625), the CA is responsible for authorising, supervising, and removing Authorised Delegated Bodies. Details of the implementation of derogation conditions will be finalised in the practical implementation and traceability procedure.

The authorisation process for an Authorised Derogation Establishment and a Designated Transporter for Derogated Movements shall include:

- a) the notification of an establishment or transporter to their CA that they wish to become an Authorised Derogation Establishment or a Designated Transporter for Derogated Movements for the purpose of derogated movement of registered horses to Ireland,
- b) an SOP that Authorised Derogation Establishments shall adhere to in order to maintain authorised status, and a separate SOP that transporters shall adhere to in order to maintain authorised status,
- c) an agreement that any information contained on validated DOCOMs may be shared between Relevant Authorised Delegated Bodies and between CAs of Member States of origin and Ireland, and that a list of Authorised Derogation Establishments and Designated Transporters for Derogated Movements will be published and available publicly on TRACES NT (each MS involved will have to provide and maintain a list of Authorised Delegated Bodies if applicable, Authorised Derogation Establishments, and Designated Transporters for Derogated Movements to TRACES NT),
- d) Authorised Derogation Establishments and Designated Transporters for Derogated Movements shall agree to fully participate in and facilitate any inspections as required by the CAs or relevant Authorised Delegated Bodies.

5.3. Demonstration of the effectiveness of the system in place

In order to demonstrate to Ireland that the MS of origin fulfils the requirements of Article 69 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688, the CA of the MS of origin should provide a full description of how it verifies the effectiveness of the implementation and traceability procedures required for operating the derogation.

6. Monitoring the implementation of the derogating conditions

- 6.1 Ireland and each MS of origin wishing to avail of the derogated movement shall agree to meet six months after the start of operation of the derogated registered horse movements to review progress.
- 6.2 Annual meetings and technical working groups as necessary, should be held by Ireland or by MS of origin (hosted on a rotating basis) to discuss and review issues relating to the derogated registered horse movements.
- 6.3 Both Ireland and each MS of origin will nominate a contact, or contacts, who shall be contactable for any issues in connection with the derogated registered horse movements, and for TRACES NT administrative responsibilities as per Section 5, 5.2.2(c). Ireland and each MS of origin will inform each other of the details of their nominated contacts and any changes to those contacts.
- 6.4 Ireland and each MS of origin will share relevant information in a timely manner to improve enforcement of derogated registered horse movement requirements.
- 6.5 The MS of origin shall inform Ireland in a timely manner of any significant changes in policy regarding control of any listed equine diseases. The MS of origin availing of this derogated

movement shall deliver a report at the annual meeting on all changes in policy made after the date of the previous annual meeting, and on any future changes envisaged.

6.6 These terms of the general conditions for derogated registered horse movements to Ireland can be amended and updated as required by Ireland with 60 days notice. The European Commission and availing MS will be notified of any such changes.

6.7 As a result, amendments shall then be made to the practical implementation procedure as required, with the consent of Ireland and the MS of origin. If no consent can be reached, the MS of origin can no longer avail of derogated registered horse movements, effective immediately.

7. Suspension of the access to derogating conditions

7.1. Without prejudice to any safeguard measures introduced under EU rules, the operation of the practical implementation and traceability procedure for derogated registered horse movements to Ireland may be temporarily suspended without prior notice by Ireland in the case of serious risk to animal or public health, or in the case of concern over the operation of the derogated registered horse movements process.

7.2. The suspension shall be reviewed after a period of no more than 30 days from the date of suspension. The European Commission shall be notified thereof.

8. Withdrawal from the derogating conditions document or termination of the derogating conditions document

8.1. Ireland will give 6 months' notice in writing to Member States availing of derogated registered horse movement and to the European Commission if Ireland intends to stop allowing derogated registered horse movements under Article 69 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688.