



## MEMORANDUM

To: AHC Member Organizations

From: American Horse Council

Re: Rule Changes on Exporting Horses to Australia

Date: October 10, 2007

In the past several weeks, Australia's equine industry has been dealing with a major outbreak of Equine Influenza that to date has involved thousands of infected premises. In response to this outbreak, and in an effort to control the current situation and prevent any further spread of the disease, Australia has implemented interim measures for exporting horses to that country. The changes affect pre-export quarantine (PEQ), diagnostic testing, and post-arrival quarantine (PAQ) requirements for horses. The changes are effective immediately and will affect all horses being exported to Australia.

The interim measures for exporting horses from the U.S. to Australia consist of three major changes.

- 1.1 The period of pre-export quarantine, completed in the U.S., is extended from 14 days to 21 days for horses being exported to Australia permanently where the horses have undergone pre-export quarantine in different premises, but become intermingled as one consignment on aircraft or in post-arrival quarantine premises. For horses originating from a single pre-export quarantine premises, the quarantine period is 14 days.
- 1.2 In addition to current equine influenza vaccination requirements, a booster vaccination is required between 14 and 21 days of entering pre-export quarantine.

- 1.3 PCR testing for influenza A or equine influenza virus must be conducted on each of two nasopharyngeal swabs taken 7 to 10 days apart in pre-export quarantine, with the last test within 4 days of departure. A PCR test is also required on day 5 in post-arrival quarantine.

Further details on these interim measures can be found at the following Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website:

<http://www.daff.gov.au/ba/reviews/current-animal/horses>