



AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS (AHS) CONTROL POLICY:

MOVEMENT CONTROL PROTOCOL:

Standard Operating Procedure for the Movement of Equines into, and within the African Horse Sickness Controlled Area

The purpose of this policy is to provide a clear and concise summary of the requirements which must be complied with, before an equine can be moved into or within the African Horse Sickness Controlled Area. This document is based on the guidelines given in the OIE International Animal Health Code, as well as South African and European legislation. All words printed in italics must be interpreted according to the definitions given in the foot notes below. All quotes in the footnotes of this text are from the 23rd Edition, of 2014, of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*¹; the Ninth Edition, of 2000, of the Community Legislation on Equidae; or the relevant Government Gazettes.

This policy has subsequently been updated which was necessitated in part by the changes in the boundaries of the AHS Protection Zone (EU Decision 2001/622/EC of 27th July 2001 and Animal Diseases Regulations No. R885 of 21st September 2001) and changes in testing protocols.

1. **BOUNDARIES OF THE AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS (AHS) CONTROLLED AREA**

The AHS Controlled Area consists of the following 3 control zones:

(1) African horse sickness free zone:

Northern boundary: Blaauwberg Road (M14),

Eastern boundary: Koeberg Road (M14), Platteklouf Road (M14), N7 Highway, N1 Highway and M5 Highway.

Southern boundary: Ottery Road, Prince George's Drive, Wetton Road, Riverstone Road, Tennant Road, Newlands Drive, Paradise Road, Union Drive, Rhodes Drive up to the Newlands Forestry station and across Echo Gorge of Table Mountain to Camps Bay.

Western boundary: Coastline from Camps Bay to Blaauwberg Road.

(2) African horse sickness surveillance zone:

The Magisterial Districts of Cape Town, Vredenburg, Hopefield, Moeresburg, Malmesbury, Wellington, Paarl, Stellenbosch, Kuilsrivier, Goodwood, Wynberg, Simonstown, Somerset West, Mitchells Plain and Strand.

(3) African horse sickness protection zone:

¹ Code

means the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code



The Magisterial Districts of Clanwilliam, Piketberg, Ceres, Tulbagh, Worcester, Caledon, Hermanus, Bredasdorp, Robertson, Montagu, and Swellendam.

The **entry/exit points** on the main routes between the controlled and infected areas are:

N7 Between Clanwilliam and Klawer at Trawal

N1 Between Touwsriver and Matjiesfontein

N2 Between Swellendam and Heidelberg

(NB: see map **Annex 2** page 7)

2. MOVEMENT CONTROLS

No *equine*² may be moved into or between zones of the African Horse Sickness Controlled Area, without a permit or permission in the latter case from an *official veterinarian*³ or his or her designated signatory. These permits stipulate certain conditions, which must be complied with in order for the movement to be legal.

(NB: see **ANNEX 1** on page 6 for a **Summary of Movement Criteria**) for Registered Equidae

Registered equine means any equine registered and identified by means of an identification document, issued by an approved breeding authority or any competent authority of the country where the animal originated, which manages the studbook or register for that breed of animal or any international association or organization which manages horses for competition or racing. The South African identification documents (passports) currently recognized are:

The National Horse Racing Authority passport (issued by NHRA)

The FEI group IX passport (issued by SAEF)

The FEI international passport (issue by FEI) and

The South African Horse Import/Export Council passport (SAHIEC)

These passports are accepted as proof of registration, provided they have been completed by the relevant organization.



² *Equine*

Defined in terms of the Animal Diseases act: means horses, mules and donkeys

³ *Official Veterinarian*

means a veterinarian authorized by the *Veterinary Administration* of the country to perform animal health and/or public health inspections of *commodities* and, when appropriate, perform certification in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 1.2.2 of this *Code*.

Registered equidae may move with movement permits and passports from the infected zone into the African Horse Sickness Controlled Area and within the Controlled Area provided:

- The AHS vaccination has been done by a private or official veterinarian or designated official (see 3.1) not less than 60 days and not more than 24 months prior to movement, and signed in the passport by the issuing veterinarian or official.
- The issuing private veterinarian informs the *official veterinarian* at destination of the intended movement by means of a faxed or emailed pre-notification form (See Annex 3).

2.1 Other Equidae

Any unregistered equines (i.e. unvaccinated donkeys and mules and zebra) can only be moved into the AHS Controlled Area during the months of **July and August** provided:

- permission is first obtained from the official veterinarian in the controlled area to move the animals into the area
- they have been kept in an approved **quarantine** facility for at least **40 days** prior to departure situated in an area where environmental conditions are such that vector activity is minimal.
- veterinary examination within 48 hours of departure does not detect clinical symptoms of AHS or other infectious diseases and or infestation with external parasites.
- a permit is issued by the official veterinarian at origin
- they have been subjected to a real-time PCR on a whole blood sample collected not more than 3 days prior to the end of the quarantine period, which reported a negative result.
- (**NB:** zebra are not allowed to be vaccinated)
- they were transported during daylight hours.
- they are suitably **identified by means of a microchip or other form of permanent identification (e.g. tattoo or branding)**

Imported, unvaccinated equines may only move directly from the Kempton Park Quarantine station, or any other state approved quarantine station within the infected zone, during the months of **July, August and September** under the following conditions:

Written permission must be obtained from the Director of Veterinary Services.

Horses must test negative on real time PCR testing of a whole blood sample 48 hrs. prior to movement

A state vet permit and health certificate completed by the SV and the private vet at origin as with all other movements



2.2 Slaughter Equidae

These equidae may not enter the free zone and can only enter the surveillance and protection zones with permits, under official veterinary supervision, for immediate slaughter at a designated abattoir.

2.4 Temporary movement from the surveillance zone to free zone movements

The horse must originate from a designated holding in the surveillance zone to be granted a **multiple movement permit**, which is attached to the passport, provided:

- The AHS vaccination records have been certified by a veterinarian in the passport and the passport accompanies the animal.
- The horse does not return from an area/holding under veterinary restrictions.
- The surveillance zone holding is a registered holding.
- The horse is only admitted from two hours after sunrise until 2 hours before sunset on the same day.
- The horse is kept separate from equidae not of equal health status.

2.5 Re-entry into the free zone after temporary movement to the surveillance zone.

The horse can move back into the free zone from a designated holding in the surveillance zone under a **multiple movement permit** attached to the passport provided:

- The AHS vaccination records have been certified in the passport accompanying the horse, by an *official veterinarian*.
- The horse does not return from an area/holding under veterinary restrictions.
- The surveillance zone holding is included in the monitoring program.
- The horse is only admitted from 2 hours after sunrise to 2 hours before sunset on the same day.
- The horse is kept separate from equidae not of equal health status.

Movements out of the AHS controlled area

Equidae moving out of the controlled area can do so without a movement permit or health certificate.



3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OWNER

3.1 Ensuring Vaccination Status

It is compulsory for all equines in the Republic of South Africa, except for equines in the African horse sickness free zone and surveillance zone to be immunized between the ages of 6 and 9 months, then again between the ages of 12 and 15 months and thereafter once every year with an effective *remedy*⁴ by the *responsible person*⁵. *

Equines in the African Horse sickness free zone and surveillance zone shall only be immunized with the written permission of the director.

NB: When equines move to the Controlled Area from the infected zone the most recent AHS vaccine must have been done by a veterinarian or official* at least 60 days before the intended movement, but not longer than 24 months prior to movement.

* The Animal Diseases Regulations: Amendment (No.R885) provided for the following amendment of Table 2, column 4 w.r.t. African horse sickness:

"1. All equines in the Republicbe immunised with an effective remedy by the responsible person: **provided that the director in a particular case may determine that such immunisation must be carried out by an officer or a veterinarian.**"

The following directive regarding **vaccination** against AHS applies:

1. All registered equines in the Republic must be vaccinated by a **veterinarian**
2. or a specifically authorised **Animal Health Technician (AHT)** in the employ of the Veterinary Authority, under direct supervision of the State Veterinarian concerned. AHT's must only be authorised in districts where no private veterinarians are readily available and only following a course of instruction on the Identification of Horses. Both the completed ID document/Application for Passport and the Vaccination Certificate must be signed by the State Veterinarian in charge of the district involved.

3.2 Possession of a valid movement permit



⁴ "remedy" means any stock remedy which has been registered under the Fertilizers, Farm Feed, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act No.36 of 1947), including any medicine or veterinary medicine as defined in section 1 of the Medicines and Related Substances Control Act, 1965 (Act No. 101 of 1965)

⁵ responsible person means a manager or owner of land or an owner of animals

Movement permits issued by the state veterinarian at origin may not be issued more than 2 weeks before the movement and can be cancelled in the event of an AHS outbreak.



3.3 Compliance with the permit conditions

A health certificate must be issued within 48 hours of departure.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN ISSUING THE PERMIT

- 1) To only issue permits on written/faxed request of the responsible person, courier services or veterinarian with the **passport** number/s of horse/s to be moved specified. .
- 2) Not to issue permits for animals originating from holdings where AHS has occurred during the last 40 days within 30 km of such a holding.
- 3) To ensure permits are only issued where the conditions stipulated on the permit are met and provided the permit can be issued in accordance with section 2 above.
- 4) To liaise with the *official veterinarian* at destination before issuing the permit should there be any unforeseen factor/s which increase the risk of allowing such a movement
- 5) To keep a register of permits issued and display a continuing ethical responsibility should AHS outbreaks occur subsequent to permit issuance.
- 6) To acquaint his/herself with the current requirements for a valid passport.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PRIVATE VETERINARIAN

- 1) To issue the animal with the attached health certificate or complete the one in the passport, ethically signed, within 48 hours of departure.
- 2) To acquaint his/herself with the current requirements for a valid passport.
- 3) To ensure as far as reasonably possible, that no cases of AHS have occurred within 30km of the holding of origin, in the last 40 days, prior to issuing a health certificate.
- 4) To inform the state vet at Destination of the intended movement by means of completing and sending the Prenotification Form (See Annex ...)

6. RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AT DESTINATION

- 1) File pre-notification documents for records.
- 2) To inspect equine holdings routinely and whenever otherwise necessary.

7. **UNDERTAKING BY THE VETERINARY ADMINISTRATION**

- 1) To provide an auditing service of this system.

8. **CONTACT DETAILS**

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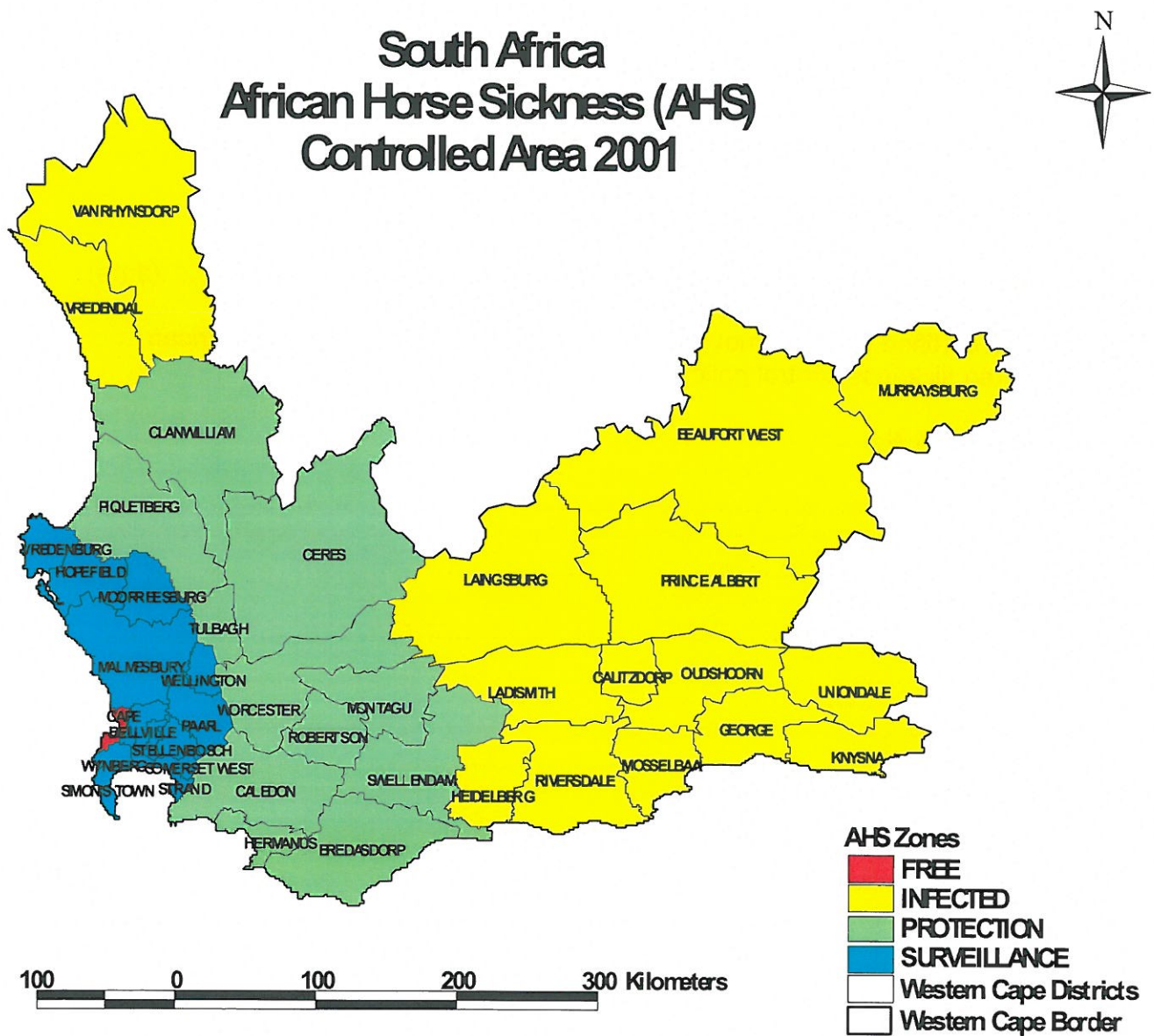
ANNEX 1

The requirements for moving registered equines are summarized as follows:

1. Health Certification by a veterinarian and pre-notification of the movement to SV Boland within 48 hours prior to movement (responsibility of the private veterinarian)
2. In addition to the above, the owner/conveyor must obtain an **official Movement Permit** from the local State Veterinarian (SV) at origin. (responsibility of the person moving the horse)
3. The SV will only issue such a permit if the **risk** is deemed by him/her to be **acceptable**, taking into consideration the prevalence and incidence of AHS in the area, the locality, density and composition of the equine and zebra populations, the time of year, reigning weather conditions, midge numbers, etc. (responsibility of the official veterinarian – state vet)
4. This **permit** is **valid** for **14 days**, and can be recalled at any stage should there be a change in the AHS disease situation.
5. The **Movement Permit** will **only** be **valid** if **accompanied by** a valid AHS **Health Certificate** issued by a veterinarian within 48 hours preceding a movement to the AHS Control Area.
6. This Movement Permit can be issued by an Animal Health Technician, following consultation with the SV or other senior Veterinary Service official, but always signed on behalf of the SV concerned.
7. Faxed copies of the Movement Permit, showing the SV office's fax number, would be acceptable.
8. Record must be kept of all Movement Permits issued, for policing and audit purposes.



ANNEX 2



ANNEX 3

LETTERHEAD OF PRACTICE

PRE-NOTIFICATION OF HORSE MOVEMENT

I examined the following horse(s) stabled at
in the magisterial district of
at(time) on(date)

and certified them for movement in accordance with the existing African
horse sickness control policy and regulations.

Passport No.

Name

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

The horse(s) will be moving to(holding)
in themagisterial district.

Name of Veterinarian:.....

Signature:.....

Note: This form must be faxed to State Veterinarian Boland at **021- 808 5125**
prior to the movement

BRIEFHOOF VAN PRAKTYK

VOORAF-KENNISGEWING VAN BEWEGING

Ek het die volgende perd(e) gestal te in die
Landdrosdistrik van ondersoek om
.....h.....(tyd) op(datum)

en hom/ haar/ hulle sertifiseer vir beweging volgens die bestaande Afrikaanse perdesiekte
beheermaatreëls en regulasies.

Paspoort Nr.

Naam

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Die perd(e) sal beweeg na(plek/stal)

in die landdrosdistrik van

Naam van veearts.....

Handtekening

Nota: Hierdie vorm moet per faks na Staatsveearts Boland by **021- 808 5125**

