HEALTHY INTERNATIONAL ATHLETES LIKE THIS CREATE NATIONAL PRIDE, JOBS AND REVENUES.
FAQs on High Health, High Performance Horse (HHP) Concept adopted at the May 2014 OIE General Session

What has been achieved so far in the area of International Horse Movements?

In response to the requests from its member countries, the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) has begun to harmonise the conditions for international movement of high-performance sport horses to facilitate their participation in high-level FEI events and international races. This initiative is targeted to improve the current situation of disharmonised importation regulation for moving horses to sporting events.

Facilitated high level international movement will enhance the development of equine industries and promote the creation of employment and revenues. However, all international movement must always involve only a minimal risk to a country that imports horses to compete in international equestrian sports.

In comparison with the general horse population, high-level performance horses, such as many high level FEI horses and high-level race horses, are under constant veterinary supervision and health management. Such horses can therefore be described as a sub-population within the general horse population. The principles required to define a sub-population exist within the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

The OIE, the FEI and the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) are therefore formally collaborating in a public-private partnership (PPP) to describe how to manage this sub-population of horses, so that governments can provide a standardised approach to their international movement. This concept has been termed the “High Health, High Performance (HHP) horse”

This concept has now been approved and the new code chapter adopted in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code at the OIE General Session on 28 May 2014.

How National Federations and National Racing Authorities are recommended to support the HHP concept?

National Federations and Racing Authorities have already begun to establish good relationships and/or to reinforce the already existing relationships with Government Veterinary Services and the OIE Delegates in their respective countries.

National Federations continue to ensure that there is an understanding of the conditions under which international FEI competition horses are already being maintained.

What are the benefits of the HHP concept for National Federations and National Racing Authorities?

The adoption of the HHP OIE Code chapter means that governments can clearly deal with high performance horses as a low-risk sub-population ensured by the various measures put in place. This will mean that many nations than at present would I be able to attend major international events with assured safety, and to represent their countries. Adoption of a commonly understood approach to biosecurity, would ensure that the high-levels of investment in our sport are best protected.
What is the OIE and what is the OIE General Session?

World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) is an intergovernmental organisation that works with Heads of Veterinary Services, who are the Delegates to the OIE in 178 OIE member countries. Amongst other activities, it is empowered by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to set the health standards and regulations, as laid down in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (the Code) for international trade in live animals and their products, in order to prevent the spread of diseases between countries. The movement of animals, including horses, across borders is considered as a form of trade. It is therefore the key organisation to bring about change in the area of the International movement of equines.

The OIE General Assembly of Delegates takes place during the last week of May each year, and it is the major decision making body for the delegates to agree on proposed changes or the introduction of health standards.

What was the significance of the 2014 OIE General Session for International Horse Movements for the FEI and the IFHA?

A new chapter describing the general principles of the HHP horse sub-population management has been developed for the inclusion into the OIE Code. This chapter was adopted by the OIE Delegates in May 2014 at the OIE General Session.

As this new HHP Code chapter is now adopted, OIE member countries provided the mandate to the OIE to continue to develop the details of this concept with a practical, feasible, and attractive approach for Governments to cooperate with National Federations and Racing Authorities on international movement of high-level sport horses.

What is the definition of a High Health, High Performance (HHP) Horse in the new OIE code chapter adopted?

The HHP horse is not only a horse going to compete at a high-level FEI or horseracing event but it also is of:

1. **Higher Health Status**
   - a. It is subjected to specific biosecurity measures to protect its health and to minimise the probability of disease spread to other horses;
   - b. These measures comprise a specific set of laboratory tests and vaccinations appropriate to the disease status of the horse. Records of all vaccinations, results of tests and clinical inspections are documented in an individual passport for each horse.

2. **Has Identification and Traceability**
   - a. Horses in the HHP subpopulation will be individually identified and carry a microchip;
   - b. Each horse will be accompanied at all times by its individual passport that contains the horse’s unique identifier;
   - c. Each horse would have an individual certificate that identifies it as a member of the high health status sub-population and indicates a reference to its passport and identifier;
d. Horses belonging to the sub-population are registered in an international FEI or IFHA database that contains relevant information linked to the passport and the identifier. Veterinary Authorities would have access to this database.

3. **Is subjected to management specific to the subpopulation**

   a) Its passport is available to be checked, its identity verified and the details of all vaccinations, are recorded and signed by the examining veterinarian;

   b) The high health status of each horse in the subpopulation is maintained by ensuring compliance at all times with an international biosecurity Plan. This compliance is validated through veterinary supervision of horses at the establishment of usual residence, during transport and at competition venues. This supervision is provided by authorised veterinarians. Non-compliance would result in suspension of the high health status of the horse;

   c) An appropriate qualification period would be required for entry or re-entry of a horse into the subpopulation;

   d) A maximum period will be set for each absence of a horse from its country of usual residence.

**Does the HHP Concept apply to horses being moved internationally for breeding purposes?**

The HHP concept will only apply to horses being moved temporarily in order to compete in specific events and then to return home. **It will NOT be applicable to horses being moved with the intention of breeding.**

**How does the FEI through the FEI Veterinary Regulations already ensure that the necessary requirements for the HHP concept are met?**

- By enforcing efficient and extensive Biosecurity practices, which are applied at all times for all FEI registered horses at FEI competition venues and during transport, with similar standards to be applied at the home premises;

- By ensuring very importantly that FEI horses are identifiable and traceable - they must hold microchips and comprehensive equine passports, which not only attest to their identification but also to their health status. They must also be registered - entered in the FEI database;

- By imposing regular veterinary controls to FEI registered horses – they are subject to an examination on arrival, veterinary inspection(s) and constant supervision during events;

- By ensuring that FEI Official and Treating Veterinarians are all registered and contactable by the FEI and they have thorough understanding of the FEI General, Veterinary Regulations and Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations. FEI Official Veterinarians ensure the implementation of all Veterinary aspects during events;

- By requiring that all FEI horses be strictly vaccinated against Equine Influenza and any additional vaccinations required based on the geographical region and the
equine infectious diseases risk are prescribed, which are always recorded in the horse’s passport;

- By insisting that FEI National Federations and their National Head Veterinarians ensure awareness of equine infectious diseases affecting international movement and liaise with the National veterinary services concerning regulations governing the temporary importation and re-entry of Horses;

- By requiring that FEI event organising committees support ensuring that FEI regulated biosecurity requirements are met at all times.

**What is the process of becoming an HHP horse?**

1. **Horse enters the HHP group of horses after a qualification period during which it has appropriate vaccinations and tests.**
2. **HHP horse has a special identification and traceability on a database which is accessible to the authorities.**
3. **A HHP horse is under management and supervision specific to the sub-population at intended event, transport and at home premises.**
4. **Its passport and records of tests are subject to inspection at any time.**
5. **It can leave the sub-population at anytime and then re-enter the sub-population when desired after a repeated period of preparation.**
Who are the key stakeholders?

This is a PUBLIC – PRIVATE- partnership

- Private partner: FEI and its National Federations
- Private partner: IFHA (International Federation of Horseracing Authorities) and its National Horseracing Authorities
- Public partner: OIE and its Delegates (heads of government veterinary services)

What is the framework for the proposed HHP concept?

The HHP concept is based on existing OIE general principles, which are published in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code. These principles cover equine identification, defining sub-populations of animals, and the use of vaccinations and the importance of traceability, requirements for health certification and import regulations.

What are the benefits of the HHP concept for National Veterinary services?

- Harmonisation of health certification for this specific sub-population of horses (e.g. one standardised health certificate; access to data base of previous health certificates)

- Assurance of importing a very “low - risk” group of horses with traceability and testing history

- It will consequently support the National Economy by facilitating the organisation of specific events and the international travel of these HHP horses to compete at these International Events
Economic and social benefits of the Equine industry

- **Significant contributor to the economy**
- **Significant employer**
- **Support in preservation of the countryside**
- **Powerful tool for social insertion and social cohesion**

- **Only** for temporary importation
- **Only** for competition purposes
- **Not** for breeding

It will allow Veterinary authorities to temporarily import sport competition horses differently from other non-sport competition horses.
Highlights to demonstrate the size and impacts of the Equine industry in various countries (7)

1. The economic impact of the EU Equine Industry was over 100 billion Euros per year; horse riders growing by 5% per annum. (1) And contributed with more than 1.6 billion Euros to government taxes in 2010. (6)

2. One single event, the World Equestrian Games, in Kentucky USA generated a direct impact of 233 million US $ to the local economy, 400 million US $ indirectly and 23 million US $ as tax revenues in 2010. (8)

3. The economic impact Equine Industry in the United Kingdom alone amounted to 7 billion £, over half of which was derived from racing (4): British Racing generated an estimated 3.45 billion £ in direct, indirect and induced expenditure in 2009. (5)
   - 275 million £ in tax generated by racing to the government.

4. South African Horse Racing Industry made a significant contribution to the national economy. (11)
   - In 2009 it contributed $210 million to their GDP.
   - Between 2002 and 2009 it has made a cumulative contribution of 1.54 billion $ (R16.8bn) to their GDP.
   - Between 2002 and 2009 the Horse Racing sector contributed a total of 39 million $ (4.3bn R) in taxes.

5. The Equine Industry contributed with 6.3 billion AUD $ to the Australian economy; almost comparable in size with the livestock industry with approximately 7 billion AUD $ contributed to the Gross Domestic Product in 2007. (3)

6. The direct economic impact of the Equine Industry in the USA was calculated as being 39.3 billion US $ with 102 billion US $ of indirect impact in 2004. (2)

Impact of the Equine Industry in terms of employment (7):

1. The EU Equine Industry provided 400,000 full time jobs in 2010. (1)

2. In the United Kingdom the direct and indirect employment amounted to 220,000 and 270,000 people; this rate of employment equalled or may even have exceeded the number of people employed in farming in 2009. (4)

3. In the USA, the Equine Industry provided 460,000 full time and another 1.4 million jobs were associated with the industry in 2004. (2)

4. In Australia the set of activities associated with Australian thoroughbred racing, directly accounted for an estimated 48,680 full-time jobs in 2005/06. (10)

5. The figures illustrating the benefits associated with employment by British horseracing are estimated at:
   - 17'400 for core industry employment, with a total of 85'200 jobs created by direct, indirect and associated employment. (5)
Direct revenue generated by World Equestrian Games 2010

Direct economic benefit $233m
- Spectator spending $97m
- Event management $26m
- Investment in host venue $80m
- Media $3m
- Trade stall $4m
- Sponsors $12m
- Competing Federations $11m
- Event management $26m

Indirect benefits generated by the World Equestrian Games 2010

Indirect economic benefits ~$400m + non-economic benefits
- Hotels and catering
- Transportation
- Wholesales and retailing
- Visitors likely to return and recommend destination
- Positive image for locals and visitors
References

(1) The European Horse Network. The horse industry’s economic impact 2010.


(4) Size and scope of the equine sector. The British Horse Industry Confederation.


(9) Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet. 2011. Economic impact of the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games Kentucky 2010
