



Virtual WHIRDEC Meeting

8th April 2021

Minutes of the meeting

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Traceability of equine animals presented by A.-E Füssel

As of 1 July 2021, Mrs E. Camara will be in charge of the horse file in DG SANTE/G2 of the European Commission.

Slide 2 :

Animal health law is an umbrella under which there are many rules, acts and documents.

- Delegated regulation give the rules and procedures
- Implemented regulation give the layout and format of document

Slide 3 :

To have the entire background, it is necessary to start with the AHL and then read the Delegated regulation and then the implemented regulation. Do not rely only on the Implemented Act (IA).

The delegated regulation on VMP has delayed the whole procedure. ***Dr. Füssel informed us after the meeting that the Delegated Regulation (DR) on VMP (2021/577) was published the 9th of April.***

Slide 4 :

Other legal references are needed for the IA

- 2017/625 : gives the rules for the delegation to the delegated bodies
- In the DA 2019/692 there is no longer temporary admissions. Temporary admission is ruled by customs and not anymore by the veterinarian authorities. Regulation (EU) No 952/2013 makes the link with the customs procedures.

Slide 5:

IA on Identification should be adopted by the Standing Committee on Veterinary medicinal products (VMP), Standing Committee on Zootechnics (ABR) and the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (AHL)

The Official Controls Regulation affects AHL and VMP, but not the ABR. The ABR has its own rules for the controls.

Delegated bodies" designated by competent authorities are not the same as „third parties" to which breed societies have outsourced certain activities

The delegated bodies in the AHL are under the control of veterinarian authorities of the Member State.

The "third parties" to which breed societies have outsourced certain activities in the ABR are under the control of breed societies and those are under the control of the zootechnical authorities of the Member State.

The rules laid down in the IA draft on equine identification come from Article 120 of the AHL and Article 30 of ABR

The terminus registered equine animals

- was re-introduced
 - to apply animal welfare rules designed for this category
 - to regulate imports into the Union
- is limited to purebred equine animals entered or eligible for entry in the main section and this excludes equines in supplementary sections

Slide 7 :

IA on identification deals with:

- The unique code
- The identification code on the means of identification (for example transponder)
- The SLID (Single Lifetime Identification document)
- The computer database = central database

Slide 9 :

The main obligation relies on the operator, the person closest to the animal

Slide 10 :

The unique code should be compatible with the UELN

The unique code is composed of :

- 3 digits for the country code
- 3 digits for the code of the database
- 9 digits for the unique number of the horse

The first 6 digits of the unique code are assigned by the competent authority to the central database or databases under the central database.

The unique code is very important and used for the registration of the horses in their establishment.

Slide 11 :

During public consultation, 60 contributions from stakeholders were submitted to the commission

2 contributions expressed concern over microchipping of too young foals, when they have to move with the dam for a temporary movement. The text was amended to allow other means of identification than a microchip.

The identification and issuing of the SLID have to be done before the 12 months after birth. The period between microchipping and the issuance of the SLID should be reduced to avoid people to have 2 passports for the same horse, including a clear one to enter into the food chain after previous exclusion from slaughter.

If the 12 months are not met, a duplicate or a replacement document must be issued.

The alternative methods were kept for old horses to have them legally identified for example horses branded.

Slide 12 :

The competent authority (CA) has to issue the identification document, but can delegate this mission.

Slide 13 :

The SLID always has to be with the animal, and should be kept in the establishment where the horse is kept.

Derogation possible for young animals directly sent to the slaughterhouse, the identification can be more succinct, already provided for in the current text.

The validation mark and license extend the period of validity of the health certificate in intra-trade movements.

The competent authority shall, on request by the operator, issue a temporary identification document when the identification document is surrendered to that competent authority in order to update identification details in that document.

Slide 14 :

Standard document : section I to III

Extended document : section I to IX

For non-registered equidae, the CA can issue a standard document on request of the operator, or an extended document.

Technical specifications: Standard doc must have a format that incorporates a margin that allows it to be included in an extended document, in case of an upgrade.

In the case of alternative method of identification, you need to complete the description and the outline diagram.

The description and the outline diagram is not required for non-registered horses according to DA 2019/2035 so it was provided in the implementing regulation, that at the latest where the animal is excluded from slaughter for human consumption, the description and outline diagram have to be completed. It is contrary to what is required for slaughter in some member states but the main risk is for horses that are excluded from the food chain and could possibly and illegally be re introduced into the food chain.

Smart card and smartphone applications can be used for many purposes, but this is only in addition to the paper passport.

Slide 15 :

At the latest 12 months after birth the animal has to be identified, or before leaving the establishment of birth. There could be shorter periods when a breeding program prescribes different procedures. There is a lot of flexibility. 12 months is a long time to identify a horse compared with other species of kept animals.

Issuing and Delivery of the SLID – Art 22

This Article has caused a lot of discussions and is the result of the many request during the public consultation.

According to Article 65 of Delegated Regulation 2019/2035, we have 2 different formats of the SLID:

- (a) for non-registered animals by CA in standard format;
- (b) for registered equine animals the extended format

Since the competent (veterinary) authority, which is obliged to issue the SLID, cannot have information on the zootechnical or competition status of the animal (the two elements of the definition of a registered equine animal) the CA cannot issue an extended SLID without the inputs from breed societies and sport organisations.

The obligation of CA to issue SLIDs was therefore in the case of an extended SLID split into a technical preparation by those who have the information and a delivery by the CA.

Without such a division of the process "issuing", standard SLIDS would need to be upgraded by breed societies or sport organisations and would thereby not be issued by the CA.

- (1) Paragraph 1 of Article 22 obliges competent authorities (CA) to issue and deliver the standard identification documents for non-registered equine animals. This can be delegated to a delegated body in accordance with Article 108(5)(c) of AHL, but it remains the responsibility of the CA.
The requirements for the format of a standard document are adapted to a possible subsequent upgrade into an extended document (gutter/binding margin allowing to incorporate the standard document into an extended document)
- (2) In the case of purebred breeding animals, paragraph 2 of that Article provides that the operator shall apply to the breed society (BS) for the issuing of an extended SLID

because only the BS can decide whether the animal is entered or eligible for entry in the main section of its studbook, and therefore is a purebred breeding animal. In this case the BS would prepare the passport in all details (description, zootechnical certificate, etc.). The BS should first identify the foal (Point 1(c) of Chapter I of Part 1 of Annex II to Regulation 2016/1012), then enter the animal in the studbook and issue the zootechnical certificate (Section V of the Model SLID). In this way they can combine all these operations and prepare an extended SLID, which is issued by them, but delivered through the CA or the delegated body to the operator.

This approach has the following advantage:

- the Unique Code is the one of the studbook, i.e. UELN compatible
- the format of the passport (colour of envelop, logo etc) is the one of the studbook
- the SLID can be issued by breed societies recognised in another Member State but having extended their area of activity into the Member State of birth of the foal (Article 12 of ABR)
- The extended SLID remains under the control of the CA until it is delivered by that CA to the breeder/ operator, all information can be verified by the CA and entered in the computer database
- The procedures do not contradict a practice, where breed societies have outsourced the issuing of SLIDs to a third party.

The duplicate document is based on the possibility to recover the identity of this animal because there are other records that support this identity, while the replacement document is in fact the document for unknown horses with no means of identification, but where you know by the age of this animal it should have been identified before.

In the case of duplicates, as it is today, there is a little chance under very strict conditions that this horse is not for life excluded from slaughter for human consumption.

We have to regulate the handling of the document after slaughter, killing or loss. The document belongs to the organization that has issued the SLID. The SLID is not the property of the owner. If the horse is dead, the document goes back to the place where it was issued, or it could be a notification from official services to say that the SLID was officially destroyed

The validation mark is the AHL concept for privileged movement conditions as they are in place for registered equidae today. In the past, the privilege was based on the assumption that they are under veterinary control due to their value, but this is not the case during their whole life. Delegated regulation 2020/688 adds a veterinary component and it is either an establishment with a higher health status due to frequent veterinarian visits; in this case there is a validation mark, or the license which is individual. Competition or race horse need such license to participate in competitions or races. Article 92 of Delegated Regulation 2020/688 combines this temporary license with at least 2 veterinarian visits of this horse per year including the visit for the flu vaccination.

By providing for a limited validity of the validation mark and the license it should be ensured that the "privilege" to move the horse 30 days in the Union instead of 10 days is used as long as the veterinary prerequisites are fulfilled.

Slide 16 :

Nothing new for equine animals kept under semi -wild conditions, except that the word "wild" of Regulation 2015/262 disappeared since the concept of wild is regulated differently in the AHL.

The concept of owner does not exist in the AHL. But in the horse industry the owner is still very important, so everything has to be done in agreement with the owner and on behalf of the owner.

In some cases, the owner has to be recorded into the passport in the Section IV of the SLID. In another cases there is a national legislation, which requires to mention the owner and to update the owner when there is a change of ownership. The EU regulation does not make the registration of the owner and the disclose of the owners details mandatory, that's important for the data protection rules.

Vaccination and testing is important for the license and before the validation mark to prove that the animal is under vet control but it's mainly an industry requirement for competition and races.

Identification of the animals entering the Union

The application for identification to the CA or BS must be done until 30 days after the release by customs offices for free circulation in the Union.

There is no longer temporary admission. Custom procedures allows temporary admission up to one year.

When the animal will be identified in accordance with Union legislation, the CA will also check under which conditions the animal was imported and if it was imported from a country that has no residue control plan, the animal must be excluded from slaughter for human consumption.

Slide 17 :

The DA on the content and format of the medication record will any day be published (was published the 9th of April, the day just after the meeting).

We took the same medication record as we had in the regulation 2015/262 with the exception that we have taken out the administrative exclusion from the slaughter and we have given an extra format for the special treatment under the directive 96/22.

The rest is the same as it was before.

Slide 18 :

The animal has to be excluded from slaughter for human consumption before a treatment is applied with a medicament which has no marketing authorization.

We have introduced an article on the ad-hoc identification in order to allow certain treatment on foals which cannot be identified in accordance with the EU legislation and cannot be excluded on the existing passport. The identification and the exclusion should be reported on the identification form and then the foal can be treated by the vet.

Slide 20 :

ABR - The DA was already very detailed.

Section V is kept, not to change all the printing templates for all the organization that have adapted their printing to 2015/262 regulation.

We allowed a non statutory section for equine animals in supplementary sections of studbooks. A SLID remains valid if there is a non statutory section for equine animals which are recorded in supplementary sections of studbooks to make a difference to the zootechnical certificate but on the other side also to give them a certain status as there is an upgrade procedure into breeding regulation.

Slide 21 :

The records in the establishment.

Record keeping is an obligation for operators for the registered establishment.

All the establishments that keep or can keep equine animals are registered, that is a new element compared to the current situation -> good legal basis to register all the establishments that keep or can keep horses.

In the article 24 of the DA, it's the unique code which has to be recorded when the animal arrives in the (paper or electronic) registry of the establishment. For the microchip, the operator needs a reader, whereas the unique code is in the passport.

It's the unique code, which has to be recorded in this journal or booklet kept at the establishment and all the horses which are not habitually resident on this establishment when they enter and leave, they have to sign in and sign out to know who was there.

The habitual residency is a concept not even defined at EU level for people. We will not give a definition. If the animal stays in the establishment for 30 days it has to be registered in the central database, which records all the animals kept on this establishment.

Slide 22 :

MS must have a central database.

Central database = computer database from the AHL, but also database under the computer database.

List of the information that should be stored there.

We propose that the CA gives largely access to people to consult the database for their own horses, the operator has a read/ write access to the horses that are kept on his establishment.

There is a possibility for the CA of other MS to have access to minimum data: chip code, unique code and slaughter status of the animal.

Time delay: when equine animal has entered the establishment for 30 days, the equine animal is habitually kept on this establishment, then the operator has 7 days time to report this into the computer database.

Slide 23 :

We wanted to maintain a unique multipurpose document, which would gain the recognition also from the racing authorities, FEI.

Slide 24 :

This implementing regulation won't be adopted before the 21st of April.

The translation cannot be finalized until we have the publication number of the DA on VMP.

The document was discussed with the MS in the committee for zootechnics, and the PAF committee for veterinary issues. The veterinarian medicine committee will only deliver his opinion in May.

Soon after this meeting, we will launch the written consultation with the MS, and they will have to give their opinion.

It will be voted shortly after the 5th of May.

Estimated date of application 1 July 2021.

Questions :

- 1) **Bérengère Lacroix Selle Français SB** : As Stud Book established in France, if I register a horse born in Spain (for example) ; according to article 22 ; will I be still authorised to issue the SLID (identification + zootechnical part) as I used to do it at the moment ?

A.-E. Füssel : Art 22. 2) refers to the Breed societies (BS) , recognized under Art 4 of ABR and they could carry out a breeding program approved in accordance with Article 8 in the MS where they are recognized or Art 12 in a MS into which they have extended their area of activity.

If Selle Français has extended its area of activity into Spain in accordance with Art 12 of ABR, then they are "physically" present in Spain. The breeder of the selle français in Spain would go to the office of Selle français in Spain (if there is one) or send the document by post to the selle français office in France. The Selle français will issue a selle français French identification document with a French unique code but with a chip from Spain. Spain is in charge of ensuring the uniqueness of the chip number. This passport is transferred to the CA in Spain, for delivery to the operator unless the CA in Spain has delegated the whole process to the breed societies recognized and operating in Spain as well as those recognized in another MS and operating in Spain. Informal cross border activity is over.

- 2) **Münstermann, Susanne** : You mentioned that under Art 22 the operator can apply to the breeding society for identification of the horse, but that the SLID has to be delivered by the CA. Can the CA delegate also to the breeding societies, so that the SLID could be directly delivered to the operator

A.-E. Füssel : Yes it is possible according to art 22 4).

Article 22 4) says that where the delivery has not been delegated to the BS or Sport organization then the CA or the delegated body shall deliver to the operator the document. In this case, the BS would become a delegated body. We don't know what MS will do.

For example, in France, SIRE is a delegated body which issues the identification document for all horses in France but it also issues passports for studbook horses, in so far, it is an outsourced third party. It has a double nature.

- 3) **Ludwig Christmann** : Will the Selle Français foal registered in Spain will be considered a Spanish horse or a French horse?

A.-E. Füssel : It's a selle français recorded into the selle français database and recorded into the central database of the Spanish veterinarian services.

- 4) **Morgane LIBOTTE** : We, at SBS breed foals in the US, in the UK, France, Bulgaria... But we do not have office there at all, except for the US. Can we still issue passports as well for them ? Is it considered "as if we had offices there"?

A.-E. Füssel : For the 3rd countries, the ABR has only the Article 34 for the entry into the Union of purebred breeding animals where the breeding body has to be on a list and the animal has to arrive with a zootechnical certificate.

Art 35 speaks about equivalence but there is no equivalence at the moment. The 3rd countries cannot extend their activity into the Union. In the context of Brexit, the Irish studbook registers thoroughbreds from NI traditionally. This is allowed under British rules and this can continue. But the Welsh ponies in Germany which so far have been registered in the Welsh pony book in the UK, can't do it anymore. The UK studbooks cannot extend into the EU anymore.

The BS should not have real offices in the MS they have extended their area of activity. The whole process can be done by post. The breeder will apply to the BS which has his headquarters in a different MS, would ask which form do I have to fill. The BS will send them the form to fill and will give the instruction about the vet for the identification. The vet comes, implants the transponder and fills the description and outline diagram. Then it is send to the studbook. The studbook prepares the passport and send it back to the CA for delivery.

Art 12 means you are active as a breed society in this extended area (shows, judging, performance testing ...). There must not always be an office but it could be that the BS organises a meeting with all the breeders in that member state with the experts of the BS.

- 5) **Bérengère Lacroix Selle Français SB** : Is it possible for a CA to refuse the extension of a Breeding Society on its territory ?

A.-E. Füssel : Yes it is possible (art 14 of ABR). There are reasons to refuse. All rules of the breeding law apply to the extension.

- 6) **Chris Eden – Equiventus** : In terms of the breeding law and Zootechnics, there is a provision for approval and the equivalence of Third Countries competent authorities, under Article 35. Would you recommend that the UK Authority apply to the EU for such equivalence post Brexit?

A.-E. Füssel : This would be that the whole policy (not only horses) for all the species regulated is equivalent. Not all the BS in the UK were exact in line with the EU legislation, at the time when the UK was a MS. But now we have listed all proposed breeding bodies that the UK after 2 rounds of scrutiny have submitted to the Commission. They are available on the website of the Commission.

- 7) **Ludwig Christmann** : Can you explain the unique code? Is it identical with UELN or is it an additional number?

A.-E. Füssel : The unique code is not an additional number. The unique code should be compatible with the UELN. It's not exactly the same because UELN can be used also for animals outside the scope of this regulation. It is constructed in a way it will follow the same format and it would not compromise the system of the UELN. This is a code which is a life-long code whatever changes, the unique code is the reference point for the first identification and the first record in a database of an identified equine animal.

- 8) **Marc SOMERHAUSEN**: If the Studbook makes the whole passport, what is the use of sending it to an authority that will send it a second time? Can't there only be a listing sent?

A.-E. Füssel : The AHL makes the CA responsible of the issuing of the identification document. They are in charge and they can delegate. This doesn't automatically include the BS. The document is prepared by the BS and then routed through the CA, so they can check that everything is correct in the database. At the end, it's the CA that takes responsibility for the document. It's first of all a health document.

- 9) **Aranca Rodriguez** : A PRE is born and inscribed in Spain. Moves to Germany. The passport is then lost. Who will issue duplicate ?

A.E. Füssel : If the identity of the horse can be verified a duplicate will be issued. The first point of contact is the competent authority in Germany, because it's a health issue. The breed society in Spain could issue a duplicate, and send it to the CA in Germany who will deliver the identification document to the operator.

E-Passport The power of the platform – by S. Cooper

Project started 4 years ago

The goal is to answer the question : Where is my horse now?

We have been using paper to register and track our horses for about 250 years (since 1793) – compulsory human birth registration started 44 years later

How can we digitized the whole life cycle of the horse?

In the racing industry there are a number of different owners and a number of different locations. This could run into many different countries -> it is becoming problematic to track our horses using paper.

We spoke about that move into the legislation to allow smartcards and smartphone applications to track our horses.

Some data well registered in the central database, breed society database.

Some data are only registered on paper -> no central record of this information

Put the entire process of a horse life on a digital platform.

The movement app came out in 2019 -> used for breeding movements

The vaccination app came out last year, this is followed this year by the identification part of the e-passport. We issue premises numbers this year to all breeding establishments, racing and training establishments already had these numbers.

The next feature that will be added is the change of ownership (with a double declaration seller / buyer).

There will be a transition period but at the end the system will be very much more secure.

That improves the horse traceability.

They start to issue this year all the foals in GB and Ireland with smartcards.

Will be issued with the paper passport.

The smartcard can be read by the smartphone, and you will get into that horse's file: ownership, ID, all its movements

The vaccination app : 35 000 horse vaccination records in the system: we can send a reminder to the breeder when the next vaccination is due. You can stop horses entering a competition through that vaccination app.

A.-E. Füssel:

We have taken into account this new technology as much as we could. The law was written before the application was developed. But the concept of smartphone apps and smartcards is now included in the IA. If this technology is further developed, is more available to the other section of the horse industry, this Implementing regulation can be adapted, as long as it is possible to ensure that the identification document is always with the horse.

Legislation can be developed in the future.

Concept presentation HorseLink – M. Becherer

Question time :

- Would there be any possibility of a concession in price for smaller studbooks?

M. Becherer :

At this moment we think that it will be one price for the whole studbooks, because the information smaller studbooks can get are the same than the information bigger studbooks have.

This will be depending the amount of organization that will join the project.

Additional information sent by M. Becherer after the meeting:

The price (approximately € 2.750 p/a) is a fixed price for all kinds of users. This because as we expect, there will be no difference between the use and the benefits for each user.

Although in the situation HorseLink subscriptions will increase, the average price will reduce as follows:

0 - 9 subscriptions the price is € 2.750 p/a

10 -15 subscriptions the price is € 2.500 p/a

16 - 20 subscriptions the price is € 2.000 p/a

> 20 subscriptions the price is € 1.250 p/a

In addition, as said in earlier WBFSH and WHIRDEC meetings, HorseLink is part of a special offer for WBFSH members in case they decide to buy a subscription for Equis. In that case HorseLink is included in the version Equis Advance and can be acquired for € 1.000 p/a in the version Equis Essential.

For more details, please contact Max Becherer (max@deltahorses.nl or mobile [+31 653 643 681](tel:+31653643681)).

SLIDE 36-37 - ENTRY INTO THE UNION OF EQUIDAE

A.E. Füssel : That was not the intention to increase the number of health certificates models. We do no longer have the temporary admission certificate, we have only the entry certificate (for both horses not intended to be slaughtered and the animals intended for slaughter), then we have the transit certificate (for both categories of animals) and 3 certificates for the re-entry into the Union after temporary export.

It was easier to make 2 different models depending if the horse is intended for slaughter or not. For the slaughter you have a group of animals while all the other animals are individually certified.

The equine viral arteritis and CEM (Contagious Equine Metritis) remain important diseases for the germinal products while none of them is a listed disease for the movement of life horses.

Instead the new listed disease are Surra and Venezuelan equine encephalitis.

SLIDE 38 - ENTRY INTO THE UNION OF GERMINAL PRODUCTS

E. Camara :

The number of model of health certificate, it was not the intention to make them more. It was a necessity as now we have another group of germinal products, which are those collected after the 21st of April 2021.

We have this new germinal product establishment which is the germinal product processing establishment, that's why there is more model of certificates.

We have new requirements for Surra. For the antibiotics, I would see any change comparing to the current situation. This is not an obligation to add antibiotics, and the mixtures are the same, which we have now in 92/ 65.

We have also the same program for the stallions in the semen collection centre : those which are permanently resident, those which are resident for a period of time and walking stallions. For the stallions which are permanently resident there is a possibility to move them from one semen collection centre into another semen collection centre without the quarantine and testing requirements.

The processing establishment is the one where you can process and store a germinal product and mainly this is about the semen which is sent there for the sexing, sex sorting. This was requested by the industry to create such an establishment.

It could be in 2 ways:

You can send semen for sex sorting there and then store the semen and send it somewhere else. (Certificate is needed)

However there is an option to send semen for sex sorting and then return the semen to the collection centre (self declaration document issued by the operator)

A.-E. Füssel :

The pre export quarantine is related primarily to the sanitary group.

The resident period in general is reduced to the 40 days as it used to be before for the temporary admissions. That is the general rule except for the slaughtered horses. Slaughtered horses must have a residence period for 3 months.

The pre import isolation is also 30 days or since entry from the Union.

It is very important for our trade with GB.

SLIDE 39 to 40 - BREXIT

A.-E. Füssel :

The UK has withdrawn from the European Union. But in the context of this withdrawal agreement, there is also a protocol on Northern Ireland. NI remains in SPS terms part of the single market.

We do import from GB. GB and crown dependencies will be listed as 3rd countries while NI is part of the single market. The SPS and border is in the Irish Sea. Horses move from NI under EU trade conditions to Ireland as well as to France. When horses cross the land bridge (so far a 3rd country), they would be subject to border control upon arrival in France.

There is an EU trade certificate between NI and France but there is a check at the border prior to entry into France.

If they go from NI to GB for covering, then they would have to be imported into the EU after the covering. Because this is covering and not a sport event, the re entry conditions do not apply to these animals and under the current rules, there is this pre export isolation of 30 days. This case is currently a problem.

On the opposite, UK authorities have established rules for the entry of horses from the EU member states into the GB and crown dependencies which are largely based on the legislation that was in place before the EU regulation 2018/ 659 and consolidate all the import requirements for horses, i.e. the old temporary admission decision 92/260, old import for permanent import 93/197...

There are welfare issues. So the means of transport and the transporter have to be registered... which makes things a little complicated.

SLIDE 41- 7 TRACEABILITY OF GERMINAL PRODUCTS

Paul Hubert :

The stallion owners have since now done all their lobbying to reduce the breeding formalities. Now they face some issues regarding the traceability of germinal products. It is for us, studbooks, a historical opportunity to develop a European harmonized covering certificate.

A.-E. Füssel :

It was a request of the Member States to allow the entry into the studbook, later than as foal at foot, based on DNA analysis. This was not regulated like this in the old legislation.

The covering certificate is mentioned as an example; it is much weaker than it used to be in the old legislation. To fix in a stronger way the use of the covering certificate, is much more difficult now under this legislation than it used to be before. If the horse is entered in the studbook from a DNA parentage, then you don't know where the semen comes from, how the offspring was produced.