



IMPORTANT NOTICE RE HORSE MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS

HORSE MOVEMENT RESTRICTION TO COME INTO EFFECT ON 1 FEBRUARY 2016

29 January 2016

A ban on the direct movement of horses into the Western Cape's African Horse Sickness (AHS) Controlled Area zones comes into effect on Monday (1 February 2016).

Alan Winde, Minister of Economic Opportunities, said the movement restrictions meant that all horses entering the province's AHS Controlled Area would spend 14 days at a stop-quarantine facility.

"We need to protect our status as an African Horse Sickness free zone. The high risk AHS season is from 1 February to 30 June. In order to manage the risk, all horses entering the province during these months will be held at an approved facility for a minimum of 14 days.

"After this period, they will be tested to prove they are free of AHS. This test will take place at a lab approved by the National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. The horses will be then able to enter the Western Cape's AHS Controlled Area."

Minister Winde added that according to the AHS Control Policy: Movement Control Protocol, all horses entering the AHS Controlled Area, from an AHS Infected Zone, must have been vaccinated within the past two years and not less than 40 days prior to entry.

The Standard Operating Procedure for AHS Stop-Over Quarantine follow on the next pages.

(A list of Stop Over Quarantine facilities can be obtained from Danielle Pienaar, 082 936 3604, danielle.pienaar1@gmail.com)



To whom it may concern:

Please note that the following changes have been made to the African horse sickness (AHS) Control Policy: Movement Control Protocol in order to bring the policy in line with OIE standards:

- With reference to vaccination of horses prior to movement of horses into the AHS Controlled Area defined in section 3.1 of the protocol, horses moving into the AHS Controlled Area from the AHS infected zone must have been vaccinated within 24 months, but not less than **40 days**, prior to movement. (*The previously stated 60 days has been reduced to 40 days.*)
- With reference to vaccination of horses prior to movement WITHIN the Controlled Area (from protection zone to surveillance zone, or surveillance zone into free zone) all requirements relating to vaccination are suspended during the period June to October of each year. Therefore horses may move without vaccination or within 40 days of vaccination from protection zone to surveillance zone, or surveillance zone to free zone during this period only.

With regards to movement of horses during the AHS season:

- All direct movements from the AHS infected zone into the AHS Controlled Zone will be suspended from 01 February of each year until 30 June. During this period **ALL MOVEMENTS** into the Controlled Area must be done according to the Stop Over Quarantine Protocol at an approved facility. For further information regarding this protocol contact either Dr Gary Buhrmann of State Vet Boland, or Mrs Danielle Pienaar or Dr. Camilla Weyers both of the Equine Health Fund.
- Normal (i.e. direct) movements based on state veterinary permits and AHS outbreaks will apply until 01 February 2016, and will resume after the 30 June 2016, at the discretion of the State Vet Boland.
- During this period **ALL MOVEMENTS** into the Controlled Area can only be done by means of an **APPLICATION FOR MOVEMENT made to the STATE VET BOLAND A MINIMUM OF 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO THE INTENDED MOVEMENT DATE**. However it should be noted that a Stop Over Quarantine may be required for high risk areas, areas with poor reporting and where suspect or confirmed AHS cases have been reported an application 4 weeks prior to movement is suggested. This application **MUST** be done through Ms Danielle Pienaar (censuswc2012@gmail.com), and each application will be reviewed by the **MOVEMENT COMMITTEE** before being approved or denied.
- Exemption from the Stop Over Quarantine may be applied for during the movement application process. A risk analysis will be done by the **MOVEMENT COMMITTEE** and conditions for movement will be given, which may or may not include a SOQ. In the cases where direct movement will be allowed a RT-PCR will be required before the horse moves, and arrangements with the local state veterinarian of origin will be made through the committee in order to obtain a permit. **Exemptions will ONLY be considered if applied for timeously.**
- Included in the application for exemption will be a mandatory certification by either a state veterinarian, private veterinarian or animal health technician that the horse intended for movement has been on the holding of origin a minimum of 2 weeks prior to movement. This is to ensure that

the horse is in fact present in the said area at the time of the application and has not moved from a restricted area.

- Movements from high risk areas will need to occur via a **Stop Over Quarantine**. The Stop Over Quarantine will include a **mandatory** PCR test on whole blood, by a DAFF approved laboratory on **day 14** of quarantine.
- In rare cases the movement of horses from an AHS restricted area i.e. where there has been a confirmed AHS outbreak within 30 km within the last 40 days, or the area is regarded as high risk, may be considered if prior arrangements have been made with SV Boland. This protocol will include a minimum of a **14 DAY QUARANTINE in an approved VECTOR-PROTECTED facility prior to and following the movement to the AHS controlled area as well as PCR testing prior to and after movement**. The Facility must be approved by the SV at origin and SV Boland. For further information on this protocol please contact Dr Camilla Weyer.

CONTACT DETAILS:

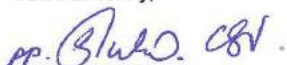
Dr. Camilla Weyer - Email: equineresearchcentre@gmail.com
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Your participation in, compliance with and assistance with the implementation of this horse movement ban and protocol is greatly appreciated, as it is to the benefit of the entire Equine industry.

Yours sincerely,


Dr. G. Buhrmann for **DR. G. MSIZA**

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AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS (AHS) CONTROL POLICY:

AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS STOP-OVER QUARANTINE

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

Specific holdings, approved by State Vet Boland, will be utilized for Stop-Over Quarantine (SOQ) during the high risk AHS season, which is usually from 1 February to 30 June every year.

In order to manage the risk of introducing AHS via an infected horse, a direct movement ban is instituted each year during this time for horses moving from the AHS Infected zone (IZ) into the AHS Controlled Area in the Western Cape. The approved holdings are situated in a low risk area where there is adequate state veterinary supervision. Horses are held at the approved holding for a minimum of 14 days and tested to prove they are free of AHSV before they are allowed to move to the AHS Controlled Area.

The following Standard Operating Procedure applies to all stop over movements:

1. **All Stop Over Movements** must be coordinated through Mrs Danielle Pienaar: Tel: 0829363604; Email: censuswc2012@gmail.com
Danielle will supply details of approved stop over quarantine (SOQ) facilities and she must be copied with all the information detailed below.
2. **Permission** must be obtained from the authorized Stop-Over Quarantine holding manager that there is space for the horse to stand over. The **State Vet (SV)** in whose area the SOQ falls must be informed that a horse/s will be coming into his area from a high AHS risk area.
3. The State Vet in whose area the SOQ falls will require a negative RT-PCR test, done at a DAFF approved laboratory, at origin before he/she will accept horses from a high risk area into his/her SV area. Blood collected for this purpose may not be collected more than 3 days prior to movement. Therefore it is suggested that the person collecting the sample contact the laboratory to ensure that the results will be available to the State Vet and Danielle prior to planned movement of the horse. Horses will not be accepted into SOQ without a negative result.
4. Once the horse/s arrive at the SOQ the **local SV** must be contacted by the authorized manager/owner to confirm the horses' presence there, and record **day 1** of residence. **Quarantine will only start once the SV or his appointed representative has checked the horses at the SOQ and has confirmed their identity is correct according to their passport.**
5. A **Register** must be kept on the SOQ holding and by the SV of all horse/s undergoing SOQs for traceability purposes.
6. The horse/s must remain at the SOQ for a minimum of 14 days.
7. An **"all in all out"** system is preferable, but when it is not feasible it remains up to the discretion of the **local SV** as to when and whether or not horse/s can be added or released.

8. On **day 14 (not before this)** after quarantine has been initiated by the state veterinarian a **blood sample** (EDTA purple tube) must be drawn by the AHT/SV/PV and submitted to a **DAFF approved AHS laboratory** for PCR testing for AHSV.
9. If the test is **negative** the horse/s may only be released once the results are made available **in writing** to the local SV.
10. The SV or his veterinary representative will then **sign the passport**, complete the health certificate, recording the test result and also send a **Pre-notification** to SV Boland Office (svboland@elsenburg.com or censuswc@gmail.com). (The normal AHS vaccination rules for movement apply.)

Responsibilities of the SOQ Manager/Owner:

1. The Manager/ Owner of the SOQ must be authorized by the local State Veterinarian. This entails signing a document to confirm that the functions below will be undertaken and will be performed under the responsibility of this individual. (see attached)
2. The Manager/Owner must immediately inform the SV of the **arrival** of a new horse from the IFZ so that **day 1** of quarantine can be recorded.
3. Horse's details must be recorded in a **register** containing the horse's name, passport number, date of arrival, place of origin, testing date, result, Lab reference number, departure date and destination.
4. The horses must be stabled at night from at least **2 hours before sunset until at least 2 hours after sunrise. The time in and time out each night must be recorded by the stable manager/ owner on the provided timesheet, and copies must be available for audit purposes.**
5. Before exiting the stable in the morning and again on stabling at night **insect repellent that is effective against culicoides** must be applied to the horses.
6. Horses shall have their **temperature** taken twice a day to monitor for any increase. All temperatures must be recorded in a register provided and must be retained for audit purposes.
7. Any rise in temperature or abnormal clinical symptoms must immediately be **reported** to the local SV.
8. A prior appointment must be made with the SV/PV to come and sample the horse on **day 14** of the stopover. The SV/PV will also sign the temperature register on Day 14.
9. The horse may not be released until a **negative result** is obtained by the SV in writing/fax from the laboratory and this is relayed personally to the SOQ manager.
10. It remains the prerogative of the **certifying SV** when and whether or not to release the horse.

Please contact your local SV or **SV Boland (021 808 5253)** should you have any questions or require assistance.

MOVEMENT (PERMIT) APPLICATION				
Please complete all sections in full and return to : censuswc2012@gmail.com Cc : equineresearchcentre@gmail.com				
1	Name of Horse			
2	Passport No of Horse			
3	AHS 1	DATE	Batch	
	AHS 2	DATE	Batch	
	Administered by – Name and contact number of Vet			
4	Permanent Holding of Origin - Name			
	Physical Address of Permanent Holding			
	Duration of resident stabling at above address			
	GPS coordinates			
	Reason for Movement Application			
5	Destination Holding - Name			
6	Destination Physical Address			
	GPS Coordinates			
	Contact name and no at Destination			
7	Date of Arrival at Destination			
8	Period of residence at Destination Address			
9	Stop Over Quarantine Holding Name (if relevant)***			
	Arrival date at Stop Over***			
	Intended Departure date from Stop Over***			
10	The name of the Private Veterinarian responsible for the Health Certificate in the passport at origin			
	Contact details for the above Veterinarian			
	Date of examination of the horse for the Health Certificate			
11	Submitted by -Name			
	Contact details			
13	Horse transported by: Name of company/private transport			
14	Signed by and dated			
	Name of State Veterinarian			
	Contact details			

Nora-Jean (NJ) Freeman on behalf of Equine Health Fund – nfreeman@witshealth.co.za