

HORSE PASSPORTS

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT

MOVEMENT OF SPORTING HORSES WITHIN EUROPE: STANDARDISATION OF HEALTH REQUIREMENTS (HORSE PASSPORTS)

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Summary: Taking into account the current epizootiological situation, movement of sporting horses between most European countries could be facilitated. Prerogatives for such facilitation are the overall adoption of a uniform identification document and the standardisation of animal health requirements.

The present paper gives an account of attempts to unify the veterinary requirements for sporting horses, the animal health situation in the various countries and the current import regulations, and makes a number of proposals on how progress could be made.

1. HISTORY

Correct and complete identification records are required:

- To prevent accidental and fraudulent switching of horses at events and changes of ownership at sales and in transit
- For disease control programmes
- For the identification of stolen horses
- For the identification of horses at border controls.

To achieve this end, and as a result of developing international cooperation, the French Racing Authorities introduced their document of identification in the mid-1960s. This was followed in 1966, in the United Kingdom, with the production of Weatherby's Racing Passport. It was not until the early 1970s that the *Fédération Equestre Internationale* (FEI) followed suit with their first passport, which has subsequently been modified and improved on a number of occasions. The FEI, which is the sole authority for all international events in dressage, jumping, three-day eventing, driving, endurance riding, vaulting and tent-pegging, insists that all horses competing internationally must have an FEI passport or a national passport approved by the FEI.

The FEI encourages its 93 national member federations to introduce their own passport system based on the format of the FEI passport and, in addition to the two FEI official languages (English and French), to use the language of the specific country. Currently, passport/identification documents of the following countries have been approved by the FEI:

1980	Weatherby's Racing Passport French Racing Passport Ireland Switzerland
1982	Spain
1983	Brazil
1984	Poland German Democratic Republic Chile
1985	Hungary Argentina
1986	Portugal Korea
1987	Venezuela
1990	Belgium

The FEI maintains a register of all horses issued with FEI passports/approved national passports which subsequently compete internationally. It also maintains a register of all changes of name, nationality or leasing agreements concerning any of these horses.

In 1982, aware of the many frustrations and often unjustified delays experienced by sporting horses in their travels, the FEI approached the Tripartite countries of France, Great Britain and Ireland with a view to ascertaining how the passport could become more useful to these horses. This was followed, in 1983, with a circular letter to all FEI contact veterinarians in European countries, asking them to draw the attention of their national veterinary authorities to the suggestion that they (the Tripartite countries) be prepared to accept a simplified health certificate for the importation of horses from a number of EC and EFTA countries.

In 1986, the General Session of the OIE agreed to organise permanent cooperation with the three major international equestrian organisations, namely the International Conference of Racing Authorities, the World Trotting Association and the FEI. The first meeting of this group was held in Paris in March 1987. The major purpose of this cooperation was to take steps to avoid the threat of infectious horse diseases, largely amplified by the steadily increasing international movement of horses for competition, breeding and trade.

Also in 1987, Dr L. Blajan, Director General of the OIE, addressed the General Assembly of the FEI on the "Modern Horse Industry and the Problems Caused by Infectious Diseases". In 1988, the President of the FEI, HRH the Princess Royal, addressed the General Session of the OIE. In the course of her address, and in relation to animal health and welfare issues, she called for the provision of express check-ins and clearance facilities at all border crossings and cessation of night-time curfews at international airports. She requested the OIE to involve itself in drawing these matters to the attention of state veterinary authorities on a worldwide basis. She also called for consideration to be given to the standardisation of a truly international horse passport and of standard health requirements, certainly among countries with similar health status.

Subsequently, and also as a result of the research project conducted by Dr D. Leadon into transport stress in horses, the FEI wrote to the Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) in all European countries, drawing attention to the proposals made by Her Royal Highness.

2. ACTIVITIES OF THE PASSPORT WORKING GROUP

As a result of a meeting of the International Equestrian Organisations at the OIE Headquarters in November 1989, the FEI was delegated with the task of

setting up a working group to investigate the role of the horse passport and to make proposals on the standardisation of health requirements and certification. The Working Group, which comprised representatives from the International Conference of Racing Authorities, the EC, the OIE, the FEI and polo met in March 1990 and reviewed the well-known problems, including the undue delays experienced by sporting horses (racing, jumping, breeding, etc.) at border crossing points and airports. Such delays were considered contrary to the health and welfare of the horse. The Working Group considered that the ultimate aim should be free and unhindered movement of these horses, provided this does not constitute an epidemiological threat.

It recognised that all horses competing internationally under FEI rules must have an FEI passport or a national passport approved by the FEI providing the following information:

- Details of ownership
- Confirmation of identity at each event and, hence, a record of all events and countries visited
- Details of any medication tests undergone
- Name, description and outline diagram fully authorised by the issuing National Federation
- A record of vaccinations
- A record of all official laboratory health tests
- Official endorsements at customs.

The passport is therefore a valuable document of identification, health, ownership and travel. One of the aims of the introduction of the passport system was to try to assist the freer movement of sporting horses.

Sporting horses present minimal risks of disease spread because they:

- undergo regular diagnostic testing for international movement;
- travel on passports which include a history of disease testing;

- are handled, groomed and exercised daily and are unlikely to be infested by external parasites;
- undergo regular veterinary examinations in which disease detection is maximised;
- have an up-to-date vaccination history.

The Working Group considered the horse passport to be the most satisfactory means of international horse identification. It recommended that it be extended to include the pedigree and the biological markings (i.e., blood groups) of the horse. It further considered that the presently valid International Glossary be extended/supplemented to include a list of infectious diseases in a number of the more important languages. The Working Group also considered that the health requirements and certification should, wherever possible, be standardised and that the certificate:

- must minimise the risk of transmission of infectious diseases;
- must be produced in a standard format and written in the languages of the country of origin and the country of destination;
- should contain either a silhouette or, in the case of competition horses, reference to a passport number;
- should include the phrase: "The horse is fit to travel".

Each horse should travel on an individual health certificate.

Finally, the Working Group made several recommendations taken up under Section 9 below.

3. RESPONSE FROM CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICERS

Four CVOs sent their comments on the present agenda item to the OIE, namely the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom (both of which also referred to the situation in the EC as a whole), Portugal and Yugoslavia.

These comments are reflected in sections 4 to 8 below, together with information on the situation in the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries which was compiled by the Rapporteur in 1989 and was supplemented by some new information received from EFTA CVOs.

4. GENERAL REMARKS

4.1. Federal Republic of Germany

In 1988, there were approximately 3,046,000 solipeds in the whole of Europe, of which 2,650,000 were horses; 1,690,000 horses were kept in EC member states. Regarding OIE List B diseases (see subsection 5.1. below), the epizootic situation should be comparable in nearly all breeding areas of the Community, except in the case of rabies. For all occurring OIE List B diseases, either effective vaccines or suitable treatments are available. An exception is equine infectious anaemia, caused by a retrovirus, against which no protective vaccine has been found. For this reason, it seems advisable that EC member states confine their control of OIE List B epizootics to this disease.

When designing an internationally-accepted passport, it would be important to include data on medical treatments, vaccinations and laboratory tests in the passport. The important aspect, however, is that each animal could be clearly identified and each change of the premises of origin documented. Identification of the horse could take place by tattooing, implantation of a computer chip or by a portrait of its silhouette.

4.2. United Kingdom

Whilst the aim is to enhance the international movement of sporting horses wherever possible, it is necessary on occasion to curtail movements due to the presence of infectious and contagious disease. In view of a gradual reduction in transit time and a marked shift during the past decade from sea to air movement of horses, it has become increasingly difficult to introduce adequate safeguards against the introduction of major horse diseases into any particular country. The implications of movement on the welfare of horses also deserve consideration.

In order to achieve the rapid movement of sporting horses within Europe, not only is there a need to increase the number of horses with official passports, and this especially applies to polo ponies, but there is also a need for each European country to reach a high health status in respect of equidae.

4.3. Yugoslavia

For several reasons, Yugoslavia welcomes a standardisation of the veterinary requirements for the international movement of horses within Europe. A uniform passport should serve as a fully acceptable document of identification. The international acceptance of such a passport should be carefully prepared, taking into account the occurrence of epizootic diseases during the last five years and the type of certified examination for epizootic diseases prior to transport. Considering that all competitions reassembling horses from various countries represent a major risk for the introduction or transmission of epizootic diseases, all international competitions should take place under official veterinary control and respect strict health conditions.

5. DISEASE SITUATION

5.1. EC Countries

All EC countries are free from vesicular stomatitis (A 020-22), while African horse sickness (A 110) occurred in the south of Spain and in Portugal in 1989.

The following OIE List B diseases have never occurred or were not reported in 1988 and 1989: dourine (B 202), epizootic lymphangitis (B 203), equine encephalomyelitis (B 204), glanders (B 209), horse pox (B 210), Japanese encephalitis (B 212), surra (B 215), Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis (B 216).

Six EC countries (DK, UK, IRL, SP, P, GR¹) are free from rabies, whereas this disease occurs in Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, Luxembourg, France and Germany.

¹

B	Belgium	GR	Greece	P	Portugal
D	Fed. Rep. of Germany	I	Italy	SP	Spain
DK	Denmark	IRL	Ireland	UK	United Kingdom
F	France	NL	Netherlands		

The remaining List B diseases occur as follows (1989):

Contagious equine metritis (B 201)	DK(+) ² , NL +, B +, F +, D(+)
Equine infectious anaemia (B 205)	F +, I (+), GR (+)
Equine influenza Type A (B 206)	DK(+), NL +, B +, F +, UK +, SP +, D(+), IRL(+)
Equine piroplasmosis (B 207)	F +, SP +, GR (+)
Equine rhinopneumonitis (B 208)	DK ++, NL ++, B +, F +, UK +, IRL +, SP +, I(+), D (+)
Infectious arteritis (B 211)	DK ++, NL +, F +?
Mange (B 213)	F +, SP +, GR +
Salmonellosis (<i>Salmonella abortus equi</i>) (B 214)	F +

5.2. EFTA Countries

All EFTA countries are free from OIE List A diseases transmissible to horses.

The following OIE List B diseases have never occurred or have not been reported for more than 20 years: dourine (B 202), epizootic lymphangitis (B 203), equine encephalomyelitis (B 204), glanders (B 209), horse pox (B 210), Japanese encephalitis (B 212), salmonellosis (*Salmonella abortus equi*) (B 214), surra (B 215), Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis (B 216).

Equine piroplasmosis (B 207) was reported for the last time in 1985 by Finland.

2 (+) Exceptional occurrence + Low sporadic occurrence
 ++ Enzootic +? Serological evidence and/or isolation of causative agent,
 no clinical disease

In 1989, the following List B diseases were reported to occur as follows:

Albania	:	Equine influenza Type A +? ⁵
Bulgaria	:	Equine rhinopneumonitis +
Cyprus	:	None
Czech & Slovak Federal Republic	:	Rabies, equine rhinopneumonitis (+)
German Democratic Republic	:	Equine influenza Type A +, equine rhinopneumonitis +
Hungary	:	Rabies +, equine rhinopneumonitis +, mange (+)
Malta	:	None
Poland	:	Rabies +, infectious arteritis +?, mange (+)
Romania	:	Rabies +, equine infectious anaemia +()
Turkey	:	Rabies +, glanders ?
USSR	:	Rabies +(), dourine +(), equine infectious anaemia +(), piroplasmosis +(), equine rhinopneumonitis +?
Yugoslavia	:	Contagious equine metritis (+), equine infectious anaemia +, equine rhinopneumonitis +, infectious arteritis +?

5 +? Serological evidence and/or isolation of causative agent, no clinical disease (+) Exceptional occurrence
+ Low sporadic occurrence 0 Confined to certain regions

6. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES IN EC AND IN EFTA COUNTRIES

DISEASE	Ref. OIE	EC		EFTA ⁶				
		all	A	CH	IS	N	S	SF
Vesicular stomatitis	A020	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes
African horse sickness	A110	yes	no	no	no	no	yes	yes
Anthrax	B051	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Rabies	B058	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Contagious equine metritis	B201	no	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes
Dourine	B202	yes	yes	no	no	yes	yes	yes
Epizootic lymphangitis	B203	no	no	no	no	yes	no	yes
Equine encephalomyelitis	B204	yes	no	no	no	yes	no	yes
Equine infectious anaemia	B205	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes
Equine influenza Type A	B206	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes
Equine piroplasmiasis	B207	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes
Equine rhinopneumonitis	B208	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes
Glanders	B209	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes
Horse pox	B210	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes
Infectious arteritis	B211	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes
Japanese encephalitis	B212	yes	no	no	no	yes	no	yes
Mange	B213	no	yes	no	no	yes	yes	yes
Salmonellosis (<i>S. abortus equi</i>)	B214	no	no	no	no	no	yes	yes
Surra	B215	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes
Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis	B216	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes

7. CURRENT IMPORT REGULATIONS

7.1. EC Countries

7.1.1. The Tripartite Group: France, Ireland and the United Kingdom

Since 1974, when the Tripartite Agreement pertaining to horses was formulated, sporting horses may be moved between France, Ireland and the United Kingdom without any import license and with a minimum of health certification. The certificate may be issued as a separate export document or incorporated within the

⁶ A Austria IS Iceland S Sweden
 CH Switzerland N Norway SF Finland

official passport. However, in the case of the United Kingdom and Ireland there is an agreement which predates 1974 and allows the movement of sporting horses between the United Kingdom and Ireland without the need of any form of health certification.

Bilateral agreements exist between the Tripartite Group countries and Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland whereby sporting horses may be moved under a conditional general license which lays down the animal health requirements. The horses travel with a valid export health certificate (see page 19). Each animal has to be tested for equine infectious anaemia within twelve months of movement.

In the case of other European countries, sporting horses are moved into the Tripartite Group under specific license conditions. Reciprocal arrangements may or may not exist.

For the time being, the import of horses from Spain and Portugal is prohibited.

In all instances, the export health certificate is valid for ten days and the sporting horse is allowed entry into the Tripartite Group for a maximum of 30 days. The silhouette contained within the official passport is the official identification document. In the absence of an official passport, a silhouette is incorporated within the export health certificate.

7.1.2. The Directive 90/426

On 26 June 1990, the Council adopted the directive on the movement of horses and on their importation from third countries. Until 1992 the Community will still be implementing a dual concept for monitoring the movement of horses:

- Horses may either be moved from one member state into another if they are accompanied by a veterinary health certificate, which is required only in the individual case of dispatch and issued after clinical examination of the respective horses prior to loading by the official veterinarian responsible for the herd of origin,

or if

- Member states introduce the horse passport as a monitoring instrument that may also be used for any movement of horses within their national territories. Under this system, horses thus monitored and identified may be moved freely between member states. This means that, prior to loading, neither a veterinary examination nor the issuance of a veterinary health certificate would be required.

If, following the outbreak of a notifiable disease (see Section 6), control and protection measures have to be taken, these measures could be enforced and monitored by the authority responsible for impounding the horse passport for the period of prohibition. This, of course, would require that every horse moved within the national or intra-Community territory would have to be accompanied by a valid horse passport. To date, the lay-out of such a horse passport has not yet been definitely decided.

Imports of sporting horses from third countries within Europe will be permitted only from those countries approved by the Community; such horses need to be accompanied by an official health certificate, the conditions of which will be set by the EC Standing Veterinary Committee. Bilateral derogation may or may not be allowed.

7.1.3. The Directive 90/427

This Directive, also adopted on 26 June 1990, lays down the zootechnical and genealogical conditions governing intra-Community trade in equidae. Registered equidae must be accompanied by a certificate of identification. The FEI passport essentially meets the requirements to which the certificate of identification must correspond.

7.2. EFTA Countries

7.2.1. Austria

Austrian horses which have participated in a competition in a European country (excluding Turkey and the USSR) and have been abroad for no longer than ten days must be accompanied by a certificate of identity and by an official health certificate, or an endorsement on the Austrian export certificate provided by the official veterinarian of the place in which the competition took

place. No import license is required. The horses are subject to border veterinary control.

Austrian horses which have stayed in a neighbouring country for no longer than four days, and horses from the limitrophe areas of neighbouring countries temporarily imported into Austria for no longer than four days, are exempted from border veterinary control if they are accompanied by a certificate of identity.

Certificates of identity must include:

- 1) Name and address of the owner
- 2) Name, sex, breed, colour, age, any particular signs, brands or other marks of the horse
- 3) The address of the premises on which the horse is usually kept.

In the case of Austrian horses, the certificate must be issued by the administration of the district of origin; in the case of foreign horses, by an authorised veterinary officer.

The import of horses from Turkey and the USSR is subject to licensing and quarantine.

7.2.2. Finland

Sporting horses from Denmark, Norway and Sweden are accepted without any health requirements provided that the horse returns within one month.

From other European countries, except Italy, Portugal and Spain, sporting horses may be imported under the following conditions:

- 1) Presentation of a health certificate issued by an authorised veterinary officer
- 2) Origin from premises where no contagious diseases have occurred during the 40 days preceding exportation
- 3) A negative result to the Coggin's test for equine infectious anaemia for the 12 months preceding exportation
- 4) No other horses are to be kept in the same stable in Finland at the same time

- 5) Proper destruction of all feed, litter and manure after transport
- 6) Disinfection of vehicle after transport.

For horses from Italy, a blood serological examination for dourine is also required.

The importation of horses from Spain and Portugal is currently prohibited.

7.2.3. Iceland

No imports are allowed.

7.2.4. Norway

Plans are underway to revise import conditions and to implement identical conditions for Finland, Norway and Sweden, as well as Denmark.

7.2.5. Sweden

Horses from Scandinavian and other European countries (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, the United Kingdom) have to be accompanied by an official certificate of origin and health, together with a silhouette and description of distinctive marks. In place of a description of the horse in the certificate, a passport or certificate of identification issued by a responsible organisation of the exporting country is accepted.

A Coggin's test for equine infectious anaemia with a negative result within the 12 months preceding export is required for all horses except those of Danish, Finnish and Norwegian origin and for Swedish horses returning home from other countries.

The horses are subject to border veterinary control.

Plans are under way to revise import conditions and to implement identical conditions for Finland, Norway and Sweden, as well as Denmark.

7.2.6. Switzerland and Liechtenstein

The temporary importation of foreign horses and the reimportation of horses of Swiss/Liechtenstein origin which have stayed, during the 40 days prior to the border crossing, in a European country (excluding Portugal, Spain, Turkey and the USSR) and which are accompanied by a valid customs passport/carnet ATA (temporary admission⁷), is subject to neither licensing nor to border veterinary control, and no animal health certificate is required. The FEI passport or national passports approved by the FEI are accepted as identification documents.

The Principality of Liechtenstein forms a customs union with Switzerland; thus, no formalities whatsoever are required for the movement of horses between the two countries.

For the time being, the import of horses from Turkey, the USSR, Spain and Portugal is prohibited.

8. REGULATION OF INTERNAL MOVEMENTS

8.1. Portugal

While not providing information on the international movement of horses, The CVO of Portugal has described how, for animal health purposes, continental Portugal is divided into seven regions to which the two autonomous regions of the Azores and Madeira must be added.

For the internal transport of horses, two different documents are used: Form 213 DSSA for movement within one region, and Form 215 DSSA for the movement from one region to another. In the case of horses registered in the computerised files of the National Stud, both documents may be replaced by a Certificate of Origin issued by the CVO; this is not only a document of identification, but is considered to be a health certificate valid for a period of one year when accompanied by the necessary ancillary documents.

The transport of competition horses between continental Portugal and the two autonomous regions of Madeira and the Azores is to be undertaken with the prior knowledge of the health authorities involved. At the moment, such movements are subject to the requirements of the OIE *International Animal Health Code* regarding African horse sickness.

⁷ Customs agreement on the ATA carnet for the temporary admission of merchandise (6 December 1963, Brussels).



Schweiz / Suisse / Svizzera / Switzerland

Certificate of origin and health for the exportation of horses to the United Kingdom and to the Irish Republic

Exporting country: Switzerland	Approved Form No. E-882 ¹	Certificate No.:
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Issuing Authority¹:**I. Identification of the horse**

Name:	Colour:
Breed:	Sex:
Age:	(For full description see the silhouette over-leaf or passport/livret signaletique No.

II. Origin of the horse

Address of the premises of origin:	Name and address of the consignor:
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III. Destination of the horse

Country of destination:	Name and address of the consignee:
Address of premises of destination:	

IV. Health attestation

- a) I have today examined the horse identified in this certificate and found it free from clinical signs or symptoms of infectious or contagious disease² and fit for transport.
- b) On (date) being within 30 days of shipment blood samples were taken from this horse and sent to an approved laboratory where they were subjected to the following tests³ with a negative result in each case:
- the immunodiffusion (Coggins) test for equine infectious anaemia;
 - the serum neutralisation test for equine viral arteritis (dilution 1/4)⁴;
- c) During the last six months, no outbreak of dourine has occurred in Switzerland.
- d) During the last six months, no outbreak of glanders has occurred in Switzerland.
- e) This horse has not been vaccinated against Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis during the last 30 days.
- f) During the last 30 days, this horse has been continuously resident on the premises identified under heading II. above, where to my knowledge, there has been no case of any of the following diseases during the last three months: anthrax, contagious equine metritis, epizootic lymphangitis, equine encephalomyelitis, equine infectious anaemia, equine viral arteritis, equine viral rhinopneumonitis, rabies, scabies.
- g) So far as I can determine, this horse has not, during the last six months, been in any country in which
- African horse sickness has occurred in the last two years or in which vaccination against African horse sickness has been practised in the last two years;
 - Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis has occurred during the last two years.
- h) I have obtained from the owner of this horse or his agent a declaration stating that the horse will be conveyed direct from the premises of origin to the country of destination without coming into contact with horses not similarly certified, in a vehicle previously cleaned with a disinfectant officially approved in Switzerland.

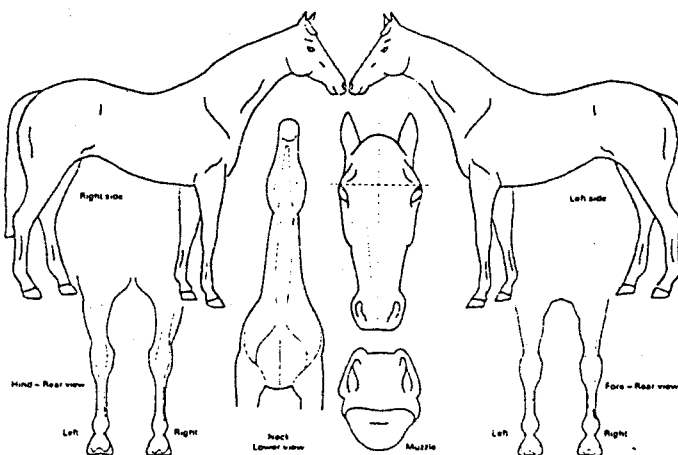
V. Validity

This certificate is valid for 10 days from the date of signature.

Place and date	Stamp ⁵ and signature of the issuing Authority	Endorsement by the Swiss Border Veterinary Officer ⁶
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Annotations:

- 1) Indicate office or function and address. This certificate is valid only if issued by
 - a) the Federal Veterinary Office,
 - b) a Cantonal Veterinary Office or the State Veterinary Office of Liechtenstein,
 - c) an official veterinarian authorised by the cantonal authorities to certify horses for export (OITE article 5, alinea 2)
- 2) The examination at paragraph IV a) must be carried out within 48 hours of the horse leaving the country.
- 3) All seriological tests must be carried out in accordance with the OIE Zoonosanitary Code if OIE norms exist.
- 4) The test must be carried out by the Vet. med. Fakultät der Universität Bern
 Institut für Veterinär-Virologie
 Langgassstrasse 122, 3012 Bern
- 5) This certificate is valid only if stamped with an export stamp provided by the Federal Veterinary Office in accordance with OITE article 5, alinea 2.
- 6) Endorsement not required in the case of temporary exports under carnet.

Diagram**Narrative:**

- Instructions:** Mark the diagram with the exact position of any distinguishing marks, scars or brands.
 Brands to be drawn in position. Scars to be marked and indicated with an arrow.
 White markings to be shown in red.
 Stars or blazes on the face and any other marking to be drawn in on the diagrams showing position and shape as accurately as possible.
 Whorls must be shown and be marked with a cross (x).
 If no markings – this fact should be stated.
 Ensure that diagram and written description agree.