

CHAPTER 4.16.

HIGH HEALTH STATUS HORSE SUBPOPULATION

Article 4.16.1.

General provisions

This chapter provides recommendations for the establishment of a *subpopulation* of horses that are moved internationally to compete in equestrian competitions, including thoroughbred races, and that have a high health status certified by the *Veterinary Authority*, in order to facilitate their safe temporary importation, onward movement and return to the country of usual residence.

For the purpose of the Terrestrial Code, in line with the provisions in Chapter 4.4., a high health status horse the subpopulation is one with a distinct status with respect to specified listed diseases, which has been established in accordance with the provisions in Chapter 4.4., by the application of documented health management practices and biosecurity measures to create and maintain a functional separation between horses within the defined subpopulation and all other equids at all times.

For the purpose of the Terrestrial Code, a high health, high performance (HHP) horse means one belonging to a high health status subpopulation and registered by the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) or the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) as eligible to perform take part in international competitions and races accompanied by a certificate for temporary international movement in accordance with the Terrestrial Code.

Horses that are moved internationally for the purpose of breeding or any other purpose not linked to competitions are ~~not included~~ excluded from in this the high health status subpopulation.

Article 4.16.2.

Criteria for the inclusion of horses in the high health status subpopulation1. High health status

Each horse in the *subpopulation* is subjected to specific measures to establish and maintain its health status, and preserve its health status and that of the other horses in the *subpopulation*.

These measures comprise a specific set of *laboratory* tests, treatments isolation periods and *vaccinations* appropriate to the disease status of the country or region of origin usual residence and temporary import of the horse ~~horse's region of origin, regions visited and the regions that it will visit.~~ Records of all treatments and *vaccinations*, and results of tests and clinical inspections examinations are documented in an individual passport that complies with Chapter 5.12.

2. Identification and traceability

Consistent with the provisions of Chapters 4.1. and 4.2., horses in the *subpopulation* are individually identified as follows:

- a) Each horse bears a permanent unique identifier, preferably a microchip.
- b) Each horse is accompanied at all times by its individual passport that contains information on the horse's unique identifier.
- c) Each horse has an attachment to its passport that identifies it as a member of the high health status *subpopulation*.
- d) Horses are registered in an international database that contains relevant information linked to the passport and the identifier. to which Veterinary Authorities should have access to this database.

Annex XX (contd)

3. Management of the subpopulation

- a) In the course of each veterinary examination of a horse, its passport is checked, its identity verified and the details of any tests and treatments, including *vaccinations*, are recorded and signed by the examining *veterinarian*.

For certification purposes, the passport is examined, verified and signed by an *Official Veterinarian*, in accordance with Article 5.2.2. For international movements of not more than 90 days, HHP horses should be accompanied by an international veterinary certificate complying in accordance with the *Terrestrial Code*.

- b) The high health status of each horse in the *subpopulation* is maintained by ensuring compliance at all times with an international biosecurity plan approved by the *Veterinary Authorities* of the *importing* and *exporting countries*, in accordance with the relevant recommendations of the OIE. This compliance is assured and validated through continual veterinary supervision of horses at the *establishment* of usual residence, during transport and at competition venues. This supervision is provided by authorised veterinarians authorised for that purpose by a *Veterinary Authority*. Non-compliance results in suspension of the high health status of the horse.
- c) An appropriate qualification period is required for entry or re-entry of a horse into the *subpopulation*. The procedures for qualification should be described in the international biosecurity plan.
- d) A maximum period is set for each absence of a horse from its country or region of usual residence, as specified in the international biosecurity plan.

Article 4.16.3.

Recommendations for the Veterinary Authorities

Organisations that are responsible for ensuring compliance with this chapter should be approved authorised and supervised by the *Veterinary Authorities*. *Veterinary Authorities* are ~~also~~ encouraged to develop specific protocols for the temporary importation of horses of high health status entering the country ~~solely~~ for the purpose of competition at equestrian events or for their onward movement to other such events and for their return to their country of origin usual residence.

Veterinary Authorities are encouraged to recognise the international biosecurity plan developed by the FEI International Equestrian Federation and IFHA the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities on the basis of the relevant OIE biosecurity guidelines. (Under study)

— Text deleted.

MODEL VETERINARY CERTIFICATE
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT OF NOT MORE THAN 90 DAYS
OF A HIGH HEALTH-HIGH PERFORMANCE HORSE FOR COMPETITION OR RACES

Certificate number:

Import permit number (if applicable): issued by
 (insert name of government authority) of
 (insert name of country of destination)

This certificate is issued for a High Health-High Performance (HHP) horse

- ☐ dispatched from the country of usual residence to a country of temporary residence¹
- ☐ dispatched from a country of temporary residence to another country of temporary residence¹
- ☐ returning from a country of temporary residence to the country of usual residence¹

Numbers of attached reference certificates (if applicable):

Movement from: Movement to: Ref cert no:

Movement from: Movement to: Ref cert no:

Movement from: Movement to: Ref cert no:

Movement from: Movement to: Ref cert no:

I. IDENTIFICATION OF THE HORSE

I.1. Name:

I.2. Colour:

I.3. Sex:

I.4. Microchip number: Reading system other than ISO:

I.5. Universal Equine Life Number (UELN):

I.6. HHP² identification number:

I.7. Number of accompanying passport:.....
 issued by
 (insert authority that issued the passport)

¹ Select as appropriate.

² The number attributed to the High Health-High Performance horse by the Fédération Equestre Internationale or the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities.

Appendix XXIX (contd)**II. ORIGIN OF THE HORSE**

II.1. Country of dispatch:

II.2. Name and address of consignor:
.....³II.3. Address and registration number of the premises of dispatch in the country of usual residence:
.....
.....³II.3. Address and registration number of the premises of dispatch in the country of temporary residence:
.....
.....**III. DESTINATION OF THE HORSE**

III.1. Country of destination:

III.2. Name and address of consignee:
.....³III.3. Address and registration number of the premises of destination in the country of temporary residence:
.....
.....³III.3. Address and registration number of the premises of destination in the country of usual residence:
.....
.....**IV. TRANSPORT INFORMATION****Identification of transport: AEROPLANE (type of aircraft and flight number)⁴ / VEHICLE (registration number)⁴ / SHIP (name or registration number)⁴**
.....

³ Select one of the options and delete the option(s) not applicable.⁴ Select the appropriate options and delete those not applicable.

V. DECLARATION BY THE CERTIFYING OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

I, the undersigned official veterinarian, hereby certify that the horse described above:

- V.1. has been examined today, this being within 48 hours prior to dispatch, and found free from clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease, free from obvious signs of ectoparasitic infestation and fit to travel the intended journey;
- V.2. is a registered HHP horse accompanied by its passport in which all vaccinations related to this certificate are documented;
- V.3. has during the 90 days prior to qualification as an HHP horse and during the period of registration as a HHP horse not been used for natural or artificial reproduction and has not been kept on premises where natural or artificial reproduction activities are carried out;
- V.4. since HHP registration has not come into contact with any horse that was not a horse belonging to a high health status subpopulation and has originated from registered premises⁴ and has been resident on HHP registered premises throughout its travel period
- V.5. has not visited premises in the country of dispatch under official restriction for health reasons;
- V.6. to the best of my knowledge for at least 15 days prior to certification has not come into contact with animals showing signs of infectious or contagious disease;
- V.7. comes from the country of dispatch in which the following diseases are compulsorily notifiable: African horse sickness, Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis, eastern equine encephalomyelitis, western equine encephalomyelitis, Japanese encephalitis, equine infectious anaemia, glanders (*Burkholderia mallei*) and rabies;
- V.8. comes from the country of dispatch, which:
 - ³*either* [V.8.1. is officially free from African horse sickness in accordance with the requirements of the OIE;]
 - ³*or* [V.8.1. is not officially free from African horse sickness in accordance with the requirements of the OIE, and the horse was not vaccinated within 40 days prior to the introduction into an approved vector protected quarantine station where it was isolated for at least 14 days and has been subjected to a validated PCR test carried out with negative results on samples taken on two occasions on⁵ and on⁵, the first sample been taken immediately prior to or on entry into the quarantine station and the second sample been taken within 48 hrs prior to direct vector protected transport from the quarantine station to the place of dispatch;]
 - ³*either* [V.8.2. has been free of Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis for at least the last two years;]
 - ³*or* [V.8.2. has not been free of Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis for at least the last two years, and the horse was:
 - ³*either* [V.8.2.1. vaccinated with a registered inactivated vaccine against Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions at least 60 days prior to dispatch;]]
 - ³*or* [V.8.2.1. during the three weeks prior to dispatch kept under vector protection at all times and was subjected to a haemagglutination inhibition test for Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis carried out on⁵ on paired samples taken on⁵ and on⁵, at least 14 days apart, with either negative results or a stable or declining titre, the second sample been taken within 7 days of direct vector protected transport to the place of dispatch;]]

Appendix XXIX (contd)

And appropriate vector protection is applied during transportation

³*either* [V.8.3. is the country of usual residence and is free from glanders for at least 3 years, and the horse was subjected to a complement fixation test for glanders carried out with negative result at a serum dilution of 1 in 5 on a sample taken on⁵ during the 30 days prior to dispatch;]

³*or* [V.8.3. is the country of usual residence and is not known to be free from glanders for at least 3 years, and the horse has been permanently resident for at least 3 weeks prior to dispatch on a single establishment free of glanders for at least the past 6 months and has been subjected to a complement fixation test for glanders carried out with negative results at a serum dilution of 1 in 5 on samples taken on two occasions on⁵ and on⁵, at least 21 days apart, the second sample been taken within 10 days of dispatch;]

³*or* [V.8.3. is the country of temporary residence, and the horse was kept on premises which have been free from glanders for at least 6 months;]

³*either* [V.9. has been subjected to the indirect fluorescent antibody test (IFAT) or the competitive enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (c-ELISA) for equine piroplasmosis (*Babesia caballi* and *Theileria equi*) carried out with negative results on a sample taken on⁵ within 14 days of dispatch;]

³*or* [V.9. has previously been subjected to the indirect fluorescent antibody test (IFAT) or the competitive enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (c-ELISA) for equine piroplasmosis (*Babesia caballi* and *Theileria equi*) carried out with positive result and does not show clinical signs of piroplasmosis on the day of examination and has been examined and treated against ticks during the 7 days prior to dispatch;]

V.10. has been subjected to an agar gel immunodiffusion test for equine infectious anaemia carried out with negative result on a sample taken on⁵ within 120 days of dispatch;

V.11. has been vaccinated against equine influenza within 21 to 90 days of dispatch with either two consecutive inoculations with the same vaccine given 21 to 42 days apart on⁵ and on⁵ or with a booster given on⁵ at least on an annual basis after a primary course;

V.12. was found free from external parasites following a systematic and thorough examination in particular of ears, false nostrils, intermandibular space, mane, lower body areas, including axillae, groin, and the perineum and tail, and was treated within 48 hours of dispatch with a broad spectrum parasiticide licensed or registered for use on horses according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

VI. TRANSPORT CONDITIONS

After due enquiry and to the best of my knowledge the transport of the horse has been arranged to ensure that:

VI.1. the horse is consigned directly from the premises of dispatch to the premises of destination;

VI.2. during transport to destination the horse will not come into contact with horses that have no current HHP registration;

VI.3. the vehicle in which horse is being transported has been cleansed and disinfected prior to embarkation with a disinfectant approved in the country of dispatch. The vehicle has been designed to prevent the escape of droppings, litter or fodder during transportation;

VI.4. during transport to destination the health and welfare of the horse will be protected effectively.

VII. AUTHENTICATION OF CERTIFICATE

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

The declaration signed by the owner or person responsible for the horse is part of this certificate.

Name in capitals of official veterinarian:

Position:

Office address:

.....

Telephone: Fax:

Email address:

Signature:

Date:

Place:

Official stamp:

Appendix XXIX (contd)**VIII. DECLARATION TO BE SIGNED BY THE OWNER OR DESIGNATED PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HORSE**

I, the undersigned, (insert name in capitals) declare:

1. The horse described in this veterinary certificate, will be outside its country of usual residence for not more than 90 days.
2. Since the current registration as HHP horse, the horse has not been in direct contact with horses that did not have a current HHP registration.

3. The horse has

☐ resided in (country of usual residence) since.....⁵

☐ entered (country of temporary residence) ON⁵

4. During its temporary stay in the country of dispatch the horse has been kept only in the following premises that contain only HHP horses and are under supervision of the veterinary authority of that country:

Address of premises	Date of entry	Date of exit

5. The horse will be sent directly from the premises of dispatch to the premises of destination under conditions that ensure it will not come into contact with horses other than those that have current HHP registration, accompanied by the required veterinary health certificate, in a vehicle that was cleansed and disinfected in advance with a disinfectant approved in the country of dispatch.

Date: Place:

Signature:

⁵ Insert date



Organisation
Mondiale
de la Santé
Animale

World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal

Annex XXXIII

Original: English

**Explanatory document to the
MODEL VETERINARY CERTIFICATE
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT FOR NOT MORE THAN 90 DAYS OF A HIGH HEALTH,
HIGH PERFORMANCE HORSE FOR COMPETITION OR RACES**

List of contents

Introduction

- 1. Step-wise procedure to establish a compartment and to certify the HHP horse**
 - 1.1. Qualify premises as a compartment free from specific diseases
 - 1.2. Procedure to qualify and register an HHP horse
 - 1.3. Intention to travel and application for HHP Veterinary Certificate
 - 1.4. Qualification of premises as a Compartment used for temporary residence during travel
 - 2. Veterinary supervision**
 - 2.1. The role of the private Veterinarian
 - 2.2. The role of the official Veterinarian
 - 3. The international biosecurity plan**
 - 4. Procedures that apply when an HHP horse is not at its place of usual residence**
 - 4.1. Biosecurity measures and management during transport
 - 4.2. Biosecurity measures and management at equestrian venues
 - 5. Return to the country of usual residence**
- Annex 1: Graphical description of the HHP concept**
- Annex 2: Diseases considered of importance for the HHP concept**
-

Introduction

To facilitate the safe international movement of competition horses, the OIE in collaboration with the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) and the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) has developed the concept of high health status sub-population of horses, based on the principles of compartmentalisation and described in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* Chapter 4.16.

From a compartment free of specific OIE listed diseases (see Annex 2), which comprises this subpopulation, individual high health-high performance (HHP) horses can be selected and sent for participation to international competitions, accompanied with a specific Veterinary Certificate for temporary international movements of such HHP horses.

HHP horses are subjected to thorough veterinary and management controls that do not apply to the equine population at large. Horses that are being used for reproduction are not eligible as HHP horses. The registration of the compartment and HHP horses with the industry bodies (on a dedicated database¹) provides full traceability of the process to the Veterinary Authorities, who will have access to the database.

This paper describes in details some provisions outlined in Chapter 4.16 and links them with the International Veterinary Certificate. It explains the process of establishing the compartment, the selection and certification of the HHP horses and the rules for their sub-sequent travels, in view of facilitating comments by OIE Delegates on the draft Model Veterinary Certificate being circulated for Member Country comments as an annex to the Code Commission report of its February 2015 meeting. A graphic description of the entire process and its different options is provided in Annex 1.

¹ Under development

Annex XXXIII (contd)

1. Step-wise procedure to establish the compartment and to certify the HHP horse**1.1. 1st Step: qualify premises as a Compartment free from specific diseases (premises of usual residence)****a) Health status of country or zone where premises are located**

The equine health status of the country or zone is relevant to the qualification of premises as a Compartment. Countries and zones should meet the following criteria:

- The country has a good record of compliance with its OIE disease reporting obligations (in particular AHS, VEE, EIA, glanders, WEE, EEE, JE, rabies and EI), based on the information on diseases affecting equids provided to the OIE during at least the three years preceding the initial application of premises for qualification. The record with respect to diseases of other species is not taken into account, as this criterion relates to the health status of the equid population.
- African horse sickness (AHS), Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis (VEE), Equine infectious anaemia (EIA), glanders, Western equine encephalomyelitis (WEE), Eastern equine encephalomyelitis (EEE), Japanese encephalomyelitis (JE)² and rabies are notifiable in the country.

For the purpose of describing the procedure in countries of different health status, countries are grouped in four categories.

- (i) The first group of countries are those with a well-defined health status and no occurrence of glanders, VEE and AHS.
- (ii) The second group are those countries which cannot substantiate a claim of freedom from glanders.
- (iii) The third group are those countries which cannot substantiate a claim of freedom from VEE.
- (iv) The fourth group is comprised of countries not officially free from AHS.

N.B.: These conditions are included in the HHP Veterinary Certificate as options to choose from, so it is left to the countries to place themselves in the correct category.

b) Biosecurity measures in the premises (detailed in the OIE Biosecurity Guidelines under development)

The fact that diseases other than the ones listed under a) do not occur in the premises is assured by certain management conditions and continuous veterinary supervision of the compartment during the qualification period:

- A daily health and at least a daily temperature check of each horse is carried out by responsible persons dedicated to the stable and these checks are documented;
- At least a weekly visit by the authorised supervising veterinarian is carried out (see also 2.1);
- Procedures for cleaning, disinfection, feeding and horse-management are documented;
- There is access control for people and other animals to the premises during the qualification period.

c) Health status of resident horses in the premises under qualification as a compartment

All horses residing in the premises need to be examined during the 90 days before the qualification as a compartment as follows:

i) *Countries of known health status*

- Test for EIA
- or*

² If Japanese encephalitis is not notifiable in a country, the VA must provide evidence that animals are vaccinated; the same applies to rabies

Free from EIA

- Vaccinate against EI
and
no clinical signs of EI during the entire approval period
or
- Country free from EI

ii) Countries that cannot substantiate to be free from glanders³

- Same as under i) plus:
- no case of glanders will have occurred within the 6 months of the start of the qualification process and 2 serological tests are to be carried out; the first sample is taken not earlier than 21 days after the start of the approval process and at an interval of at least 21 days to the second sample that is taken within 10 days of approval of the premises

iii) Countries that cannot substantiate to be free from VEE⁴

- Same as under i) plus:
- No case of VEE will have occurred within the 6 months of the start of the qualification process
and
- All horses are tested for VEE by serology while they are stabled under vector protection during the qualification period; and at least 3 weeks before approval of the premises all horses are kept under vector protection at all times; and within 7 days of approval of the premises the horses are then retested for VEE with either a negative result or a stable or declining titre. (Note: it is advisable to register the selected HHP horses with the industry database as soon as possible after the premises is approved in order to avoid excessive length of stabling in vector protection at all times)
or

Vaccination with an inactivated licensed vaccine against VEE of all horses in the premises with primary course at least 60 days prior to the approval of premises and a record of regular revaccination according to manufacturers instructions

iv) Countries not officially free from AHS⁵

- Same as under i) plus:
- All horses are not vaccinated 40 days before the introduction into a vector protected stable at the beginning of the qualification period.
- No clinical signs of AHS upon inspection before introduction into a vector protected stable.
- During the 90 days approval period of the premises one agent identification validated test is done under vector protected stabling, while the last 14 days are managed under the conditions of a quarantine station. A 2nd PCR test is done at the time of entering the quarantine station (note: the vector protected premises can be any stable that provides vector protection, and horses are allowed to train during low vector activity periods of the day, under chemical vector protection; the vector protected quarantine station is understood to be of the type “Kenilworth” in South Africa).

In addition to these specific tests the following general requirements need to be fulfilled by the premises in order to qualify as a Compartment free of specific diseases, regardless to the category described above:

³ By self-declaration to the OIE or by clear evidence of negative reporting to WAHIS indicative of an existing surveillance programme

⁴ By self-declaration to the OIE or by clear evidence of negative reporting to WAHIS indicative of an existing surveillance programme

⁵ Through the acceptance by the OIE of their country freedom dossier

Annex XXXIII (contd)

- All horses must have a passport by which they can be clearly identified
- There are no breeding activities in the stable and horses must not be used for breeding
- All horses show no signs of a contagious or infectious disease
- There is a biosecurity plan and a contingency plan in place
- There are isolation stables available

A supervisor dedicated to the premises applying for qualification as a Compartment is designated as responsible for ensuring that all horses fulfil these health criteria.

The step-wise procedure to qualify premises as a Compartment can be summarised as follows:

1. On request of a premises / stable operator, who wishes to qualify his premises as a Compartment free of specific diseases, holding a high health status horse subpopulation, the Veterinary Authority and the Industry is informed and they record this intention (Day 0 of the qualification/preparation period – **Point A** in the graph in Annex 1).
2. An inspection of the Veterinary Services of the premises is undertaken, the biosecurity measures are examined and the premise is approved as compliant.
3. Start of regular veterinary supervision by a dedicated private veterinarian and testing programme for all resident horses (see 2.1).
4. All new entrants have to come from premises that are under veterinary supervision, did not have an EIA outbreak in the previous 3 months, no glanders outbreak for 6 months and must undergo the same testing as resident horses⁶ before entering the stables undergoing the approval process. Within the stables they must be isolated from the other horses for at least 2 weeks.
5. At the end of the 90-day qualification period the Veterinary Authority approves the subpopulation and premises as a Compartment free of specific diseases. (**Point B** in the graph in Annex 1)

1.2 2nd Step: Procedure to qualify and register a horse as HHP horse

All horses need to reside in an approved premises (the Compartment), that have undergone the 90-day approval process. They are selected on the basis of having qualified for competitions and they are registered with the Industry once the measures indicated below have been applied (**Point C** in the graph in Annex 1).

For additional measures to be applied to the individual horse to qualify as HHP horse, the same different categories of country/zone health status apply:

- i) Horses in compartments in countries of known health status
 - a) All horses in these premises can qualify as HHP horse in principle; they should have the required performance level;
 - b) Selected HHP horses shall be tested for piroplasmosis to establish the serological status;
 - c) Selected HHP horses shall be tested for glanders (single test within 30 days prior to travel).
- ii) Horses in compartments in countries that cannot substantiate to be free from glanders
 - a) Provisions as described in 1.1. c) ii) apply and selected horses need to remain residents in the compartment for the period after the second sample to the time of issuing the Veterinary Certificate;
 - b) Selected horse shall be tested for piroplasmosis to establish the serological status.
- iii) Horses in compartments in countries that cannot substantiate to be free from VEE

⁶ If entry after the herd testing – test outside. If entry before herd testing – test together with herd

- a) Provisions of 1.1.c)iii) apply and horses have to remain in vector protection throughout until registration as HHP horse and subsequent travel;
 - b) Selected horses shall be tested for piroplasmosis to establish the serological status;
 - c) Selected horses shall be tested for glanders (single test within 30 days prior to travel).
- iv) Horses in compartments in countries not officially free from AHS
- a) Provisions of 1.1, c iv) apply and horses remain in this quarantine station until dispatch (batches of horses need to be fully separated and managed as an “all in – all out” system);
 - b) Selected horses shall be tested for piroplasmosis to establish the serological status;
 - c) Selected horses shall be tested for glanders (single test within 30 days prior to travel).

1.3 3rd Step: Intention to travel and application for HHP Veterinary Certificate

After the registration of the horse as an HHP horse with the industry (on the database), the official veterinarian can issue the HHP Veterinary Certificate (**Point D** in the graph in Annex I). The official veterinarian should be notified of this intention at least 7 days prior to intended day of inspection.

It is strongly recommended to plan the qualification process for the compartment in such a way that certification of HHP horses for travel coincides with the approval of the compartment.

In case a horse has been registered in the international database as HHP horse and does not travel within 10 days after registration, the entry into the database shall be cancelled.

1.4 Qualification of premises as a Compartment used for temporary residence during travel

A horse, once qualified as HHP horse and travelling using the HHP Veterinary Certificate, can only reside on premises shared with other HHP horses, hence there is a need to establish also dedicated HHP stables (**Point E** in the graph in Annex 1).

These can be sub-units of premises already qualified as compartments or be set up particularly for this purpose. The only difference to qualified compartments is that they house only HHP horses and that they are isolated from other stables, should there be non-HHP horses on the same premises.

2. Veterinary supervision

Compliance with the policies and procedures of the HHP concept is assured and validated through continual veterinary supervision of horses at the home stables, during transport and at all temporary venues. This supervision is provided by authorised veterinarians.

2.1. The role of the private veterinarian

The responsibility for veterinary inspection of horses that are intended for qualification as HHP horses (see 1.1 and 1.2) lies with the veterinarian, who is engaged by the owner / Responsible Person to provide veterinary inspection to all horses on the premises. This veterinarian should be certified with the FEI or IFHA (if appropriate) and should be authorised for this purpose by the Veterinary Authority.

The entire period towards qualification of premises as compartments free of specific diseases is under continuous veterinary supervision, defined as being at least one visit per week by the authorised veterinarian. In addition, a veterinary check is carried out on the last day of the qualification period and a final inspection is done 48 hours before export of the HHP horse.

Records of veterinary supervision should be kept throughout the 90-day period. In the case that more than one veterinarian is responsible for supervising this period, the supervising veterinarian should make a ‘hand over report’ to the veterinarian responsible for the subsequent period.

In the course of each veterinary examination of a horse, its passport is checked, its identity verified and the details of any official tests and treatments, including vaccinations, are recorded and signed by the examining veterinarian.

Annex XXXIII (contd)

2.2. The role of the official veterinarian

The Official Veterinarian⁷ should be informed prior to the intended start and at the end of the 90-day qualification period and also alerted on the date on which a visit for the purpose of health certification will be required.

The Veterinary Authority should be fully informed about the process of preparation of horses for export under the conditions that apply to HHP horses. In accordance with *Terrestrial Code* Article 5.2.2, for the purposes of official certification, the passport is examined, verified and signed by an official veterinarian.

The Veterinary Authority may conduct audits, including unannounced visits, of all parts of the HHP system (home stables and other premises, event venues, stop-over points).

3. The international biosecurity plan

The health status of HHP horses is maintained by ensuring compliance at all times with an international biosecurity plan recognised by the Veterinary Authorities of the importing and exporting countries, in accordance with the Biosecurity Guidelines of the OIE (under finalisation). Non-compliance can result in suspension of the horse's membership of the HHP sub-population.

4. Procedures that apply when a HHP horse is not at its place of usual residence

When a HHP horse is not at its place of usual residence (home stable) it may be in the course of transport or at an equestrian event venue. The Biosecurity Guidelines describe the procedures that apply. Key points are summarised below.

4.1. Biosecurity measures and management during transport

Transportation entails the implementation of biosecurity and management in relation to:

- (i) the means of transport, e.g. airplanes, vehicles, trains, boats and
- (ii) temporary holding premises or lay-over points where HHP horses are held during journey breaks. These may be stables, show grounds, veterinary clinics, animal hotels, government quarantine stations or official control points. Conditions as described in 1.1 b apply.

HHP horses may only be transported with equids of equivalent or higher health status. Transporters should follow a documented SOP for the transport of HHP horses. Lay-over points should be approved and registered by relevant industry bodies before use by HHP horses. These temporary premises should comply with biosecurity criteria (see 3 above) to avoid the exposure of HHP horses to equids that are not of equivalent health status.

The final decision on the conditions that apply during transport, including the combining of horses in consignments, routes and lay-overs, rests with the Veterinary Authority hosting the equestrian event i.e. of the country into which the horse will be temporarily imported.

4.2. Biosecurity measures and management at HHP equestrian venues (see 1.4.)

The stables for HHP horses at equestrian events must meet similar criteria to those for home premises approved as compartments, particularly when horses visit countries of different health status as per description in 1.1. They should have dedicated personnel, biosecure arrangements for the provision of feed, and access to isolation facilities.

⁷ In the *Terrestrial Code*, Official Veterinarian means a veterinarian authorised by the Veterinary Authority of the country to perform certain designated official tasks associated with animal health and/or public health and inspections of commodities and, when appropriate, to certify in conformity with the provisions of Chapters 5.1. and 5.2.

5. Return to the country of usual residence

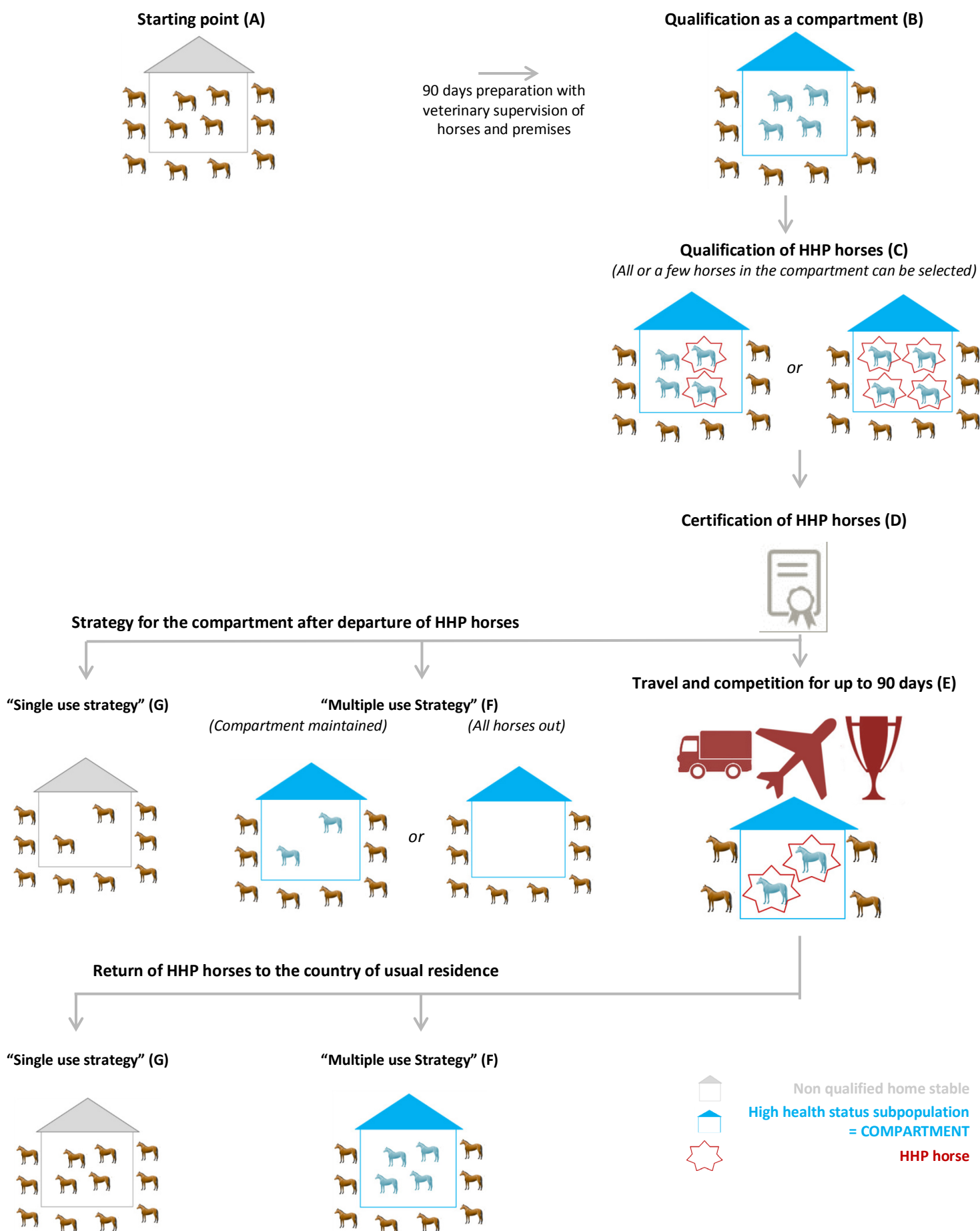
When a HHP horse returns from international competition to the country of usual residence, its status as a member of the HHP may follow one of two options:

- 1) the HHP status is maintained, based on compliance with all criteria (**Point F** in the graph in Annex 1),

or

- 2) the HHP status is suspended (**Point G** in the graph in Annex 1). In this case, when the horse is required to regain its active HHP membership, it must follow the procedures outlined above under step 1 and 2 for initial qualification.

Annex 1. Graphical description of the HHP concept



OIE LISTED DISEASES

African horse sickness (AHS), anthrax, contagious equine metritis (CEM), dourine, equine infectious anemia (EIA), equine influenza (EI), equine viral arteritis (EVA), glanders, Japanese encephalitis, infection with equid herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1), Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis (VEE), piroplasmiasis, rabies, Screwworm, Surra, , Eastern equine encephalomyelitis (EEE), Western equine encephalomyelitis (WEE), West Nile fever (WNF)

