



POLICY FOR THE MOVEMENT OF EQUINES INTO, AND WITHIN THE AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS CONTROLLED AREA

The purpose of this policy is to provide a clear and concise summary of the requirements which must be complied with, before an equine can be moved into or within the African Horse Sickness Controlled Area. This document is based on the guidelines given in the OIE International Animal Health Code, as well as South African and European legislation. All words printed in italics must be interpreted according to the definitions given in the foot notes below. All quotes in the footnotes of this text are from the Ninth Edition, of 2000, of the *Code*¹; the Ninth Edition, of 2000, of the Community Legislation on Equidae; or the relevant Government Gazettes.

This policy has subsequently been updated which was necessitated in part by the changes in the boundaries of the AHS Protection Zone (EU Decision 2001/622/EC of 27th July 2001 and Animal Diseases Regulations No. R885 of 21st September 2001).

1. BOUNDARIES OF THE AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS (AHS) CONTROLLED AREA

The AHS Controlled Area consists of the following 3 control zones:

(1) African Horse sickness free zone:

Northern boundary: Blaauwberg Road (M14),

Eastern boundary: Koeberg Road (M14), Platteklouf Road (M14), N7 Highway, N1 Highway and M5 Highway.

Southern boundary: Ottery Road, Prince George's Drive, Wetton Road, Riverstone Road, Tennant Road, Newlands Drive, Paradise Road, Union Drive, Rhodes Drive up to the Newlands Forestry station and across Echo Gorge of Table Mountain to Camps Bay.

Western boundary: Coastline from Camps Bay to Blaauwberg Road.

(2) African Horse sickness surveillance zone:

The Magisterial Districts of Cape Town, Vredenburg, Hopefield, Mooresburg, Malmesbury, Wellington, Paarl, Stellenbosch, Kuilsrivier, Goodwood, Wynberg, Simonstown, Somerset West, Mitchells Plain and Strand.

(3) African Horse sickness protection zone:

The Magisterial Districts of Clanwilliam, Piketberg, Ceres, Tulbagh, Worcester, Caledon, Hermanus, Bredasdorp, Robertson, Montagu, and Swellendam.

The **entry/exit points** on the main routes between the controlled and infected areas are :

¹ *Code*

means the OIE International Animal Health Code

- N7** Between Clanwilliam and Klawer at Trawal
- N1** Between Touwsriver and Matjiesfontein
- N2** Between Swellendam and Heidelberg

(NB: see map **Annex 2** page 7)

2. MOVEMENT CONTROLS

No equid may be moved into or within the African Horse Sickness Controlled Area, without a permit or permission in the latter case from an *official veterinarian*² or his or her designated signatory. These permits stipulate certain conditions, which must be complied with in order for the movement to be legal.

(NB: see **ANNEX 1** on page 6 for a **Summary of Movement Criteria**)

2.1 Other Equidae

Any equid other than horses (ie. donkeys, mules and **zebra**) can only be moved into the AHS Controlled Area during the months of **July and August** provided :

- veterinary examination within 48 hours of departure does not detect clinical symptoms of AHS or other infectious diseases and or infestation with external parasites.
- permission must first be obtained from the official veterinarian in the controlled area to move the animals into the area
- a permit must be issued by the official veterinarian at origin
- if they are not vaccinated against AHS they have undergone **two negative Complement Fixation Tests (CFT)** 21 – 30 days apart, and the 2nd test was within 10 days of departure.
- if they are vaccinated (donkeys and mules only) they have undergone two CFT's 21-30 days apart and no significant rise in the titre has been recorded.
- they have not been vaccinated against AHS within 60 days of departure (donkeys and mules only)
- (**NB:** zebra are not allowed to be vaccinated)
- they have been kept in vector protected **quarantine** for at least **40 days** prior to departure.
- they were transported under **vector protected** conditions.
- they are suitably **identified**.

² *Official Veterinarian*

means a veterinarian authorized by the *Veterinary Administration* of the country to perform animal health and/or public health inspections of *commodities* and, when appropriate, perform certification in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 1.2.2 of this Code.

2.2 Slaughter Equidae

These animals may not enter the free zone and can only enter the surveillance and protection zones with permits, under official veterinary supervision, for immediate slaughter at a designated abattoir.

2.3 Registered Equidae

Registered equidae means any equidae registered and identified by means of an identification document, issued by the breeding authority or any competent authority of the country where the animal originated, which manages the studbook or register for that breed of animal or any international association or organization which manages horses for competition or racing. These identification documents are horse passports and currently the passports issued by:

- The National Horse Racing Authority (NHA)
- The South African National Equestrian Federation (SANEF)
- The International Equestrian Federation (IEF) and
- The South African Horse Import/Export Council (SAHIEC)

These passports are accepted as proof of registration, provided they have been completed by the relevant organization.

Registered equidae may move with movement permits and passports from the infected zone into the African Horse Sickness Controlled Area and within the Controlled Area provided:

- The AHS vaccination has been done by a private or official veterinarian or designated official (see 3.1) not less than 60 days and not more than a year prior to movement, and signed in the passport by the issuing veterinarian or official *
- The issuing *private veterinarian* informs the *official veterinarian* at destination of the intended movement by means of a faxed pre-notification form .

2.4 Temporary movement from the surveillance zone to free zone movements

The animal must originate from a designated holding in the Surveillance zone to be granted a **multiple movement permit**, which is attached to the passport, provided:

- The AHS vaccination records have been certified by a veterinarian in the passport and the passport accompanies the animal.
- The animal does not return from an area/holding under veterinary restrictions.
- The surveillance zone holding is included in the monitoring program.
- The horse is only admitted from two hours after sunrise until 2 hours before sunset on the same day.

- The animal is kept separate from equidae not of equal health status.

2.5 **Re-entry into the free zone after temporary movement to the surveillance zone.**

The animal can move back into the free zone from a designated holding in the surveillance zone under a **multiple movement permit** attached to the passport provided:

- The AHS vaccination records have been certified in the passport accompanying the animal, by a veterinarian.
- The animal does not return from an area/holding under veterinary restrictions.
- The surveillance zone holding is included in the monitoring program.
- The horse is only admitted from 2 hours after sunrise to 2 hours before sunset on the same day.
- The animal is kept separate from equidae not of equal health status.

Movements out of the AHS controlled area

Equidae moving out of the controlled area can do so without a movement permit or health certificate.

3. **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OWNER**

3.1 **Ensuring Vaccination Status**

It is compulsory for all equines in the Republic of South Africa, except for equines in the African Horse sickness free zone and surveillance zone to be immunized between the ages of 6 and 9 months, then again between the ages of 12 and 15 months and thereafter once every year with an effective remedy by the *responsible person*³.*

Equines in the African Horse sickness free zone and surveillance zone, shall only be immunized with the written permission of the director.

NB: When equines move to the Controlled Area from the infected zone the most recent AHS vaccine must have been done by a veterinarian or official* at least 60 days before the intended movement, but not longer than a year prior to movement.

* The Animal Diseases Regulations: Amendment (No.R885) provided for the following amendment of Table 2, column 4 w.r.t. African horse sickness:

“1. All equines in the Republicbe immunised with an effective remedy by the responsible person: **provided that the director in a**

³ responsible person means a manager or owner of land or an owner of animals

particular case may determine that such immunisation must be carried out by an officer or a veterinarian.”

The following directive regarding **vaccination** against AHS is suggested:

1. All registered equines in the Republic must be vaccinated by a **veterinarian**
2. or a specifically authorised **Animal Health Technician (AHT)** in the employ of the Veterinary Authority, under direct supervision of the State Veterinarian concerned. AHT's must only be authorised in districts where no private veterinarians are readily available and only following a course of instruction on the Identification of Horses. Both the completed ID document/Application for Passport and the Vaccination Certificate, must be signed by the State Veterinarian in charge of the district involved.

3.2 Possession of a valid movement permit

Movement permits may not be issued more than 2 weeks before the movement and can be cancelled in the event of a AHS outbreak.

3.3 Compliance with the permit conditions

A health certificate must be issued within 48 hours of departure.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN ISSUING THE PERMIT

- 1) To only issue permits on written/faxed request of either the responsible person, courier services or veterinarian with the passport number/s of horse/s to be moved specified. .
- 2) Not to issue permits for animals originating from holdings where AHS has occurred during the last 40 days, or within 30 km of such a holding.
- 3) To ensure permits are only issued where the conditions stipulated on the permit are met and provided the permit can be issued in accordance with section 2 above.
- 4) To liaise with the *official veterinarian* at destination before issuing the permit should there be any unforeseen factor/s which increase the risk of allowing such a movement
- 5) To keep a register of permits issued and display a continuing ethical responsibility should AHS outbreaks occur subsequent to permit issuance.
- 6) To acquaint his/herself with the current requirements for a valid passport.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PRIVATE VETERINARIAN

- 1) To issue the animal with the attached health certificate or complete the one in the passport, ethically signed, within 48 hours of departure.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICIAL VETERINARY AT DESTINATION

- 1) File pre-notification documents for records.
- 2) To inspect equine holdings routinely and whenever otherwise necessary.

7. UNDERTAKING BY THE VETERINARY ADMINISTRATION

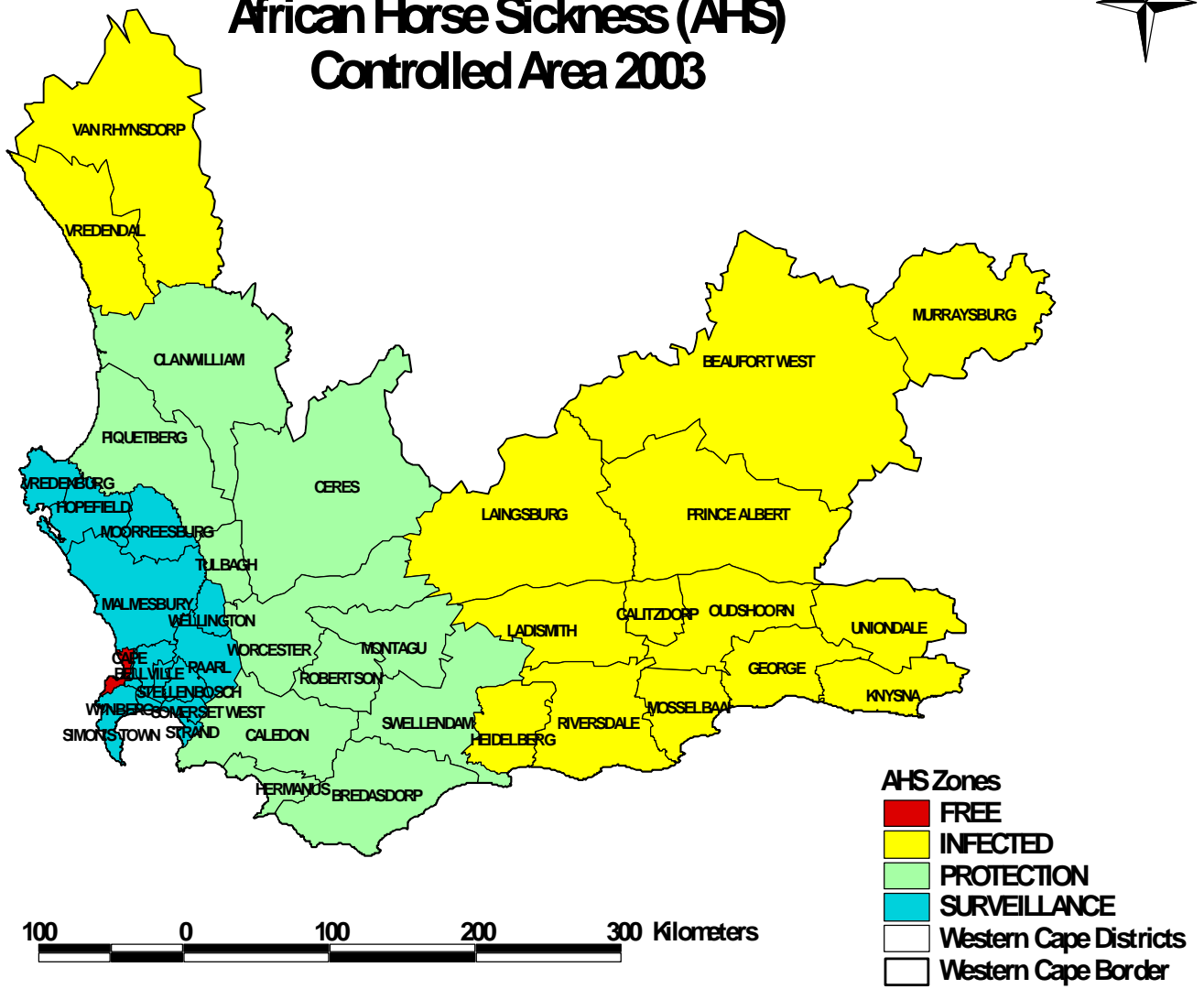
- 7.1 To provide an auditing service of this system.

ANNEX 1

The requirements for moving equines are summarized as follows :

1. Health Certification by a veterinarian and pre-notification of the movement to SV Boland within 48 hours prior to movement remains as is.
2. In addition to the above, the owner/conveyor must obtain an **official Movement Permit** from the local State Veterinarian (SV).
3. The SV will only issue such a permit if the **risk** is deemed by him/her to be **acceptable**, taking into consideration the prevalence and incidence of AHS in the area, the locality and density and composition of the equine and zebra populations, the time of year, reigning weather conditions, midge numbers etc.
4. This **permit** is **valid** for **14 days**, and can be recalled at any stage should there be a change in the AHS disease situation.
5. The **Movement Permit** will **only** be **valid** if **accompanied by** a valid AHS **Health Certificate** issued by a veterinarian within 48 hours preceding a movement to the AHS Control Area.
6. This Movement Permit can be issued by an Animal Health Technician, following consultation with the SV or other senior Veterinary Service official, but always signed on behalf of the SV concerned.
7. Faxed copies of the Movement Permit, showing the SV office's fax number, would be acceptable.
8. Record must be kept of all Movement Permits issued, and a copy transmitted to the SV Boland office for policing and audit purposes.

South Africa African Horse Sickness (AHS) Controlled Area 2003



ANNEX 2