

## Importing horses from the EU

The emergence of a truly global market for commercial goods has not escaped the equine world, with a host of horses/ponies on display at the click of a button via an internet browser.

As consumers seek to take advantage of horses available at competitive prices or foreign breeds it is important to highlight the legal considerations relevant to their importation.

1. All horses must be accompanied by a passport - passports must include the new section IX declaration on human consumption.
2. Horses must come from holdings free of disease – European legislation has laid down detailed legislation in this respect.
3. Noting restrictions on importing horses from countries which are not free of African horse sickness.
4. Before travel the horse must be inspected by an official veterinarian within 48 hours of export and an official health certificate must be completed and must accompany the consignment.
5. The Republic of Ireland and France are excluded from this requirement.
6. Post-import veterinary and documentary checks are likely to be requested and official veterinarians have the right to restrict movement of an animal that may pose a disease risk to Great Britain.

### Contact

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