



HORSE MOVEMENT POST-BREXIT – where are we now?

Twelve months have passed since Britain departed from the European Union and during that time there have certainly been increased challenges and paperwork associated with moving breeding and young stock across the borders. Whilst initially these obstacles, along with the unknown territory, made the processes demanding and time-consuming; with the professional support of the shipping agencies and veterinary transport departments, the industry has become accustomed to the current sub-optimal situation.

Professional Shipping Agencies

The TBA still recommends that breeders should consult the advice of a specialist equine shipping agent, even if using your own horsebox and staff to transport the horses. Their expertise will ensure that all legislative requirements are met and that the horses have the best chance of a journey that it is free from delays due to missing or incomplete paperwork, or omitted procedures.

UPDATES

Animal Health Regulation Export Health Certificates (EHCs)

The new EHCs will be required from 15 January 2022 for exporting horses from Britain to the European Union or Northern Ireland. These certificates have been available to use since August 2021 and allow horses to travel without being tested for Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA). A blood test for Equine Infectious Anaemia (EIA) and processed by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) laboratory will still be required within 90 days of departure. Mares and foal are considered a separate epidemiological unit and as such will require their own EHC and a microchip implant to be able to travel.

County Parish Holding (CPH) Numbers

All premises where horses will be exported from will require a CPH number to be entered on the new EHC. The stud may hold one anyway due to grazing livestock such as cattle and sheep, but if not, a number will need to be requested from the APHA for Britain:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/export-or-move-equines-apply-for-a-county-parish-holding-cph-number>

Or Rural Payments Wales (RPW) for Wales: <https://gov.wales/rural-payments-wales-rpw-online>

Residency and Isolation Requirements

Horses must have been resident in Britain for 40 days prior to departure to the European Union or Northern Ireland; with the final 30 consecutive days based on the establishment they will eventually be exported from and under the supervision of a Veterinary Surgeon; and with no contact with horses of a lower health status in the final 15 days.

Border Control Posts (BCPs) in Britain

DEFRA has advised that import checks on live animals at British BCPs are likely to be delayed beyond 1 July 2022.

FAQs

How do I fast-track a foal registration to receive the passport in the shortest timeframe possible?

The markings, blood DNA sample and microchip must be completed by the vet at the earliest opportunity and the envelope labelled FAST TRACK. The online foal registration must then be processed and the appropriate payment made. Contact the Stud Book Department at Weatherbys (01933 440077 or studbook@weatherbys.co.uk) and advise that the passport is awaited urgently and if possible state the desired date of travel.

Do I need to advise Weatherbys of the temporary movement of my broodmares to the EU for covering?

Yes, a Breeding Clearance Notification (BCN) should be obtained to notify the Stud Book that the mare will be temporarily exported for covering purposes, for a period of less than nine months. Here is the link: [https://www.weatherbys.co.uk/Weatherbys/media/PDFs/Export-Application-\(including-VAT\).pdf](https://www.weatherbys.co.uk/Weatherbys/media/PDFs/Export-Application-(including-VAT).pdf)

This form is also suitable for advising of the temporary movement of youngstock and also horses destined for the sales, by requesting a General Notification of Movement (GNM).

I have horses arriving from an EU member state into Britain, what action do I need to take?

The GB importer will need to be registered with IPAFFS and submit advance notification of the intended arrival of horses into Britain. You can register by following this link: [Import of products, animals, food and feed system \(IPAFFS\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/import-of-products-animals-food-and-feed-system-ipaffs)

I have horses departing to an EU member state from Britain, what action do I need to take?

The GB exporter will need to give prior notification to the Border Control Post that horses will be travelling, by submitting Part 1 of a Common Health Entry Document (CHED-A) https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/cfcas3/tracesnt-webhelp/Content/M_CHED-A/Intro.htm via the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES NT). <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/tracesnt/login>

Where can I learn more about Customs requirements?

Guidance on the Customs Declaration Service, which is being introduced gradually and currently operating alongside the Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight (CHIEF) system, can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/customs-declaration-service>

Will I have to raise the funds or organise a bond on the VAT of my mare's valuation to transport her to an EU member state? Is it still possible to use an ATA Carnet?

Yes, funds will need to be raised to cover the VAT on the current valuation of the horse, which are then released once the equine returns to its Country of origin. Alternatively, you may be able to organise a bond from your bank or another financial institution. The security will need to be lodged each time the mare enters the Country, walking in for cross covers etc, even if funds have not yet been returned since the mare's first visit. A third option would be to purchase an ATA Carnet (valid for a year and covering multiple trips for the same horse). Whilst most EU countries will require security, it is possible that some may waive that requirement on the basis that the horses are travelling for e.g. 'grazing or work', so we suggest you check the current position with your Customs/Shipping Agent. It is also a possibility that individual stallion stud farms may offer to secure a bond on behalf of visiting mares for some clients, but breeders are encouraged to check the current position with the stallion studs they are using, prior to organising transport.

Will I have to pay VAT on the nomination fees and keep charges for my mares covered in Ireland and France?

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There has been no change in the VAT treatment of these supplies, so UK VAT registered businesses should not incur any Irish/French VAT but an entry will still need to be made on your VAT return.

Where a mare comes from Ireland or France to my stud to be covered can I use my VAT number to import the horse into the UK.

In theory you can but you will be unable to recover the import VAT from MRC. They have stated that only the owner of imported goods can recover import VAT so you would be very unwise to do this as by so doing neither you nor the owner will be able to recover the VAT.

Whilst we use reasonable efforts to answer questions using accurate and up to date information, the current post-Brexit situation is fluid and as a result we can assume no responsibility nor liability for any error or omission in the responses we give.