**Ref: CTO 2019 023 [1]**
Shuttle stallions: Equine Viral Arteritis

**CTO direction as to equivalent measures in relation to equids**

Pursuant to section 27(1)(d)(iii) of the Biosecurity Act 1993 I, Lucy Johnston , Manager Animal Imports, Ministry for Primary Industries (under delegated authority), give the following directions for EVA management of shuttle stallions in relation to the *Import Health Standard: Horses (HORANIIC.GEN)*.

Under the IHS Horses, uncastrated male horses must meet the recommendations as described in the OIE Code. Stallions using the vaccination against EVA option are required to be vaccinated and regularly vaccinated in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer, meeting one of the following options:

1. were subjected between six and nine months of age to a test for EVA:

EITHER:

   a. with a negative result,

   OR

   b. with a positive result, followed at least 14 days later by a second test showing a stable or decreasing titre;

and were immediately vaccinated against EVA and regularly revaccinated in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer; or

2. met the following requirements:
   a. were isolated; and
   b. not earlier than seven days of commencing isolation were subjected to a test for EVA on a blood sample with a negative result; and
   c. were then immediately vaccinated; and
   d. were kept separated from other equids for 21 days following vaccination; and
   e. were regularly revaccinated in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer; or
3. have been subjected to a test for EVA carried out on a blood sample with a positive result and then: either
   a. were subsequently test mated to two mares within six months prior to shipment which were subjected to two tests for EVA with negative results on blood samples collected at the time of test mating and again 28 days after the mating; or
   b. were subjected to a test for EVA with a negative result, carried out on semen collected during the six months prior to shipment; or
   c. were subjected to a test for EVA with a negative result, carried out on semen collected within six months after the blood sample was tested, then immediately vaccinated, and regularly revaccinated in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer.

**Regulation and Assurance**
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Shuttle stallions: Equine Viral Arteritis

Due to a shortage of the Artervac vaccine, the shuttle stallion 'VADAMOS' was unable to meet the vaccination requirements and was therefore required to have an agent identification test on semen carried out. Unfortunately the stallion was unable to be collected and semen testing could not be done.

The management of the stallion has been reviewed in conjunction with his available testing and vaccination history. Advice was also received from Dr Peter Timoney, OIE designated EVA expert. The stallion has a history of vaccination with Artervac in 2017 and again in 2019. The stallion was not boostered in 2018 due to shuttling and a shortage of Artervac, but his non-carrier status was confirmed by a negative test breeding to two mares in May 2018 as well as a negative virus isolation and PCR test carried out on semen during the same period for export to New Zealand. The stallion has remained at the stud farm since arriving back from New Zealand in 2018. During this time he has been kept in the stallion unit and the only horse contact he has had was whilst covering. All breeding stock (both resident and visiting mares) are EVA tested prior to the breeding season each year and if the mare is negative (or stable/declining titre), she is permitted to be covered. This testing regime is part of the Irish Thoroughbred Codes of Practice and EVA is a notifiable disease in Ireland.

Ample evidence has been provided to confirm that this stallion is a seropositive, non-semen shedding stallion and no additional testing of semen to confirm his negative carrier status is required. The updated primary series vaccination against EVA administered this year can be used to meet the EVA import requirements.

The reason for this direction is that the biosecurity risks associated with this commodity have been assessed and are managed effectively.

This direction takes effect from the date of signing and continues in effect until amended or revoked.