



## **Virtual WHIRDEC Meeting**

**19th May 2022**

### **Minutes of the meeting**

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#### **Identification of equine animals in accordance with AHL by E.-Camara**

Presentation to introduce the EU legislation on horse identification

##### **Slide 2 :**

Legal Framework : Animal health law applicable from the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021

For identification and registration of equine animals, the main part is the part IV.

##### **Slide 3 :**

How those main acts work?

In AHL, there are general rules on traceability of equine animals including:

- Identification of horses
- Registers of competent authorities
- Record-keeping obligations of operators (book kept in the establishment to register horse movements)
- Identification document
- Computer database

The delegated regulation (EU) 2019/2035 gives more detailed rules and the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/963 gives technical specifications for:

- Means of identification
- Model of identification document
- Computer database requirements

#### **Slide 4 :**

Traceability of equine animals

The identification document links the horse with the unique code and its physical means of identification.

Time period for identification is the same as it was in the previous legislation based on the decision of Member states.

Additional information to be recorded in the computer database : the place where the horse is habitually kept (for more than 30 days), all the establishments where horses are kept should be recorded. No need to register the movements in the computer database, they are registered by the operator on the spot, in the establishment in the book that they keep in the establishment.

#### **Slide 5:**

Structure of unique code

The Unique code should be compatible with the UELN. It should be recorded in the computer database.

What is the difference between unique code and ULN (unique life number) ULN (also compatible with UELN) = term previously used in Regulation 2015/262, Unique code is the same concept as ULN, it's just different terminology.

#### **Slide 6 :**

Assignment of the code to the computer database

The unique code is assigned by the competent authority. However the competent authority is obliged to check the existing codes (in the UELN database), not to repeat a code.

The UELN database manager is also in a position to check which unique code has been assigned by the competent authority, because, in accordance with article 111 of AHL, the competent authorities must make some information on horse identification public.

New unique code only assigned in a case of a replacement identification document because in this case, the identity of the horse is unknown. In case of a duplicate identification document, the identity of the horse is known; the unique code must be kept. The unique code is assigned to the horse independently of the country where the horse will live.

#### **Slide 8 :**

Focus on the particular case where the competent authority which is responsible for the issuing of single lifetime document can delegate the task to a delegated body.

**Slide 9 :**

2 possible models of identification document

- Standard document
  - o If no delegation, the competent authority issues and delivers the document to the operator
  - o If there is a delegation, the delegated body issues and delivers the document to the operator
- Extended document
  - o If the issuing and the delivery is delegated to the breed society, the breed society is issuing and delivering the document to the operator
  - o If this is not the case, the breed society (based on article 22 (2) of CIR 2021/963) is issuing the identification document, but the identification document is delivered to the operator by the competent authority.

This could be a breed society located in the territory of the Member State where the horse is located as well as a breed society located in a different Member State to which a breeding programme is extended.

**Slide 10 :**

Who could be a delegated body?

E. Camara sent a questionnaire to the Member States. 26 replies has been received. 21 Member States will delegate, 4 will not, 1 has not yet decided whether it will use the delegation or not.

The outcome of the questionnaire will be discussed during the next zootechnical standing Committee in October 2022.

**Slide 11 :**

Outline diagram

Provisions of article 17 of implementing regulation 2021/963 which says that the diagram must be present in the identification document for horses, but it's not mandatory for donkeys and zebra.

**Slide 12 :**

Identification of a horse kept in the territory of a Member State (MS1) in which a breeding programme of a breed society located in another Member State has been extended (MS2)

Article 10 - The transponder must have the country code of the country of birth of the animal. The identification is done in Member State 1 and the code is attached to this MS1. While the unique code assigned to the horse could be that of the breed society which is located in the other Member State MS2 (the one issuing an identification document).

**Question time :**

- 1) **Helmut Hartmann (HIT Germany)** : Do movements between establishments need to be notified in the database?

The establishments should be registered and then the horses which are in this establishment (based on article 64 of delegated regulation 2019/2035).

You need the information for the establishment (unique registration number and name) and for each equine animal, there is a list, and there is no information on the movements.

- 2) **Eva Natmeßnig** : I do not see the issue that the transponder code must have the 3 digits of the country where the animal is born - Annex I, It is Article 9

In article 10 of Regulation 2021/963, the Member State shall establish a system to ensure the uniqueness of the code displayed by the transponder.

- 3) **MARÍA ARANZAZU RODRÍGUEZ SAÍNZ DE LOS TERREROS**: If our association is located in one country, but we have extended our breeding program to another country, we will issue the identification document but can the delivery be delegated or not? What about data transfer to the central database of the MS1?

If the delivery is delegated, the breed society can issue and deliver the identification document to the operator. If the delivery is not delegated, the breed society will issue the identification document and send it to the competent authority of MS1. The competent authority of MS1 will deliver the identification document to the operator.

The data transfer between databases in Member States is not obligatory by the EU regulation. The data transfer from the breed society located in another Member State to the central database of the other Member State, where the horse is kept is not regulated, but there is no prohibition. If you agree with the central database, it's fine.

The EU legislation is regulating the exchange of data only on voluntary basis, but between databases.

- 4) **Latvia Data Center** : is it obligatory to issue the passport in that country where the horse is born if the breeding program is in another Member State?

The passport is issued by the breed society, which is implementing the breeding program, if it is a purebred animal. If this program is extended to a territory to another Member State and in this extended part the horse is kept, the breed society in the first Member State can issue the passport.

- 5) **Zumnorde-Mertens, Dr. Enrica** : What happens with the transponder when a horse is older and a transponder cannot be organised from the state where the horse was born? Is it then allowed to use a transponder from the present member state?

Yes because it's the responsibility of the Member State where the Horse is kept to ensure that the horse is identified with a transponder. But both transponder numbers must be recorded in the computer database.

**6) Jeroen Vanavermaete:** regarding duplicates:

Under the new legislation, a duplicate without pedigree (ONC) can only be issued by the issuing agency that issued the original passport.

In practice this is not feasible. When a horse is in another country and a passport without pedigree is requested, this is a shortcut to obtain a simple document without pedigree.

When you have this purebred breeding animal, he is linked all his life to the breeding book . When the horse passport is lost, it looks normal to obtain a new one from that breed society. The operator is requesting the competent authority of his Member State to get the duplicate. The competent authority of this Member State is requesting the duplicate in the other Member State. The duplicate is issued and is coming back to the competent authority and then it is delivered to the operator.

Sometimes it is not possible or even the operator doesn't want it, and you would like to issue a standard document.

There is only one derogation for issuing of a duplicate (not by a breed society that issued a original) - Article 25(4) of 2021/963 - Where the lost original single lifetime identification document was issued prior to the date of application of this Regulation by an issuing body that is no longer in existence and has no successor, the duplicate identification document shall be issued in accordance with paragraph 2 by the competent authority or as applicable the delegated body in the Member State where the equine animal is habitually resident

**7) Jeroen Vanavermaete:** In this case (see above), a French horse located in Belgium whose passport has been lost, the duplicate should be requested in France, can we use a Belgium outline diagram form to request the duplicate in France? will the equine animal be identified on the basis of the identification document where the animal is habitually kept ?

E. Camara : The description in case of duplicate was already done, exists in the database and can be used to issue the duplicate. The description should be done in the place where the horse is kept. There are 2 options :

- the Belgium authorised person who is authorized by the French competent authority to do so
- the agreement between 2 countries : a person from France could be also authorised to do the description.

C. Teyssier : If we have to issue the duplicate and we need a new description, we would agree to use the one done by a Belgium vet. The microchip is already on the horse, we would ask the vet to do the description and read the microchip to be sure this is the right horse and the description has not changed too much. And we would accept to use this description to print the duplicate.

**8) Marianne Ek:** What happens if the owners of a horse want to register a horse older than 12 months?

According to the law, a duplicate identification document will be issued (art. 25) because the deadline for identification is not respected.

- 9) **Jessica De Wael-KWPN:** how it happens if a horse is born in France for example and must be registered in a foreign studbook (Holland for example)

The breeding book in the Netherlands must have extended his breeding program in France. The operator is requesting the passport in the breed society in the Netherlands and he gets the passport through the competent authority in France.

- 10) **Nidal Korabi :** In the case of extended SLID: Why is the issuing Breeding Society sending the SLID to CA and not directly to the Operator? Isn't that just a waste of time? (in Croatia Breeding Soc. and CA are connected with databases and CA can see everything electronically?)

If everything is happening in Croatia, (no extension of activity and not 2 countries involved) it depends who is responsible for issuing the identification documents. If the competent authority has delegated the task to the breed society. The operator requests and gets its passport from the breed society. If there is no delegation, it means that the competent authority is responsible and wants to keep an eye on the issuing of the identification documents.

- 11) **MARÍA ARANZAZU RODRÍGUEZ SAÍNZ DE LOS TERREROS :** regarding duplicates: Under the new legislation, a duplicate of horses WITH pedigree, can be issued by the CA of the country where the horse is kept if it is different from the breeding association that issued the original? Or it should be issued by the breeding association that issued the original one?

The duplicate should be issued by the original one because the horse belong to the breeding program of this particular breed society.

## Identification document issuance – by E.Goulas

13 countries responded to the small questionnaire focused on the issuance of identification documents.

### Question time :

- 1) **Henrike Lagershausen :** Was the survey sent to the CA of the MS or sent to the breeding societies?

The survey was sent to competent authorities.

- 2) **Julie, Denmark :** Regarding the license issued by FEI to extend the validity of the TRACES certificate. Do you know if this is already in use, and how does FEI issue the license?

E. Camara has requested FEI and when she will get the full reply, she will share it with the participants.

- 3) **Henrike Lagershausen :** Sharing of best practice on the implementation of validation mark and licence would be great.

This will probably be one of the subjects of the Whirdec meeting next year.

- 4) **Ronald Funke Küpper** : Could you give all of us the link to the public consultation of the "IA on registration and approval of establishments" ?

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12486-Animal-health-places-where-livestock-terrestrial-animals-are-kept-additional-rules- en> \t " blank" \o  
"https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12486-animal-health-places-where-livestock-terrestrial-animals-are-kept-additional-rules- en

## HorseLink – M. Becherer

### Question time :

- 1) **Jessica De Wael – KWPN** : Is the site open to consultation for individuals?

No, you have to have access to the interface and this is done by Deltahorse, you need a membership for using the horselink tool.

- 2) **Joan Gorkum van** : Now every horse are registered in every country, is there a possibility to skip export protocols when there is a transfer in EU?

Maybe in the future it would be. All the organizations have their own database. Horselink is only a link to get easily the information of a horse in case it was already recorded in another database.

## Equiface – S. Gautier

### Question time :

- 1) **Caroline Sussex** : What about complicated markings?

A complicated marking is not more difficult to be done in the app. The most complicated things for the app are the light, shadow on the foal's face, foals moving a lot, not enough distance to take a good picture.

- 2) **Ronald, Smart Studbook Connections** : Is it available for all systems?

The app is available on IOS and android.

- 3) **Marianne Ek** : Will the markings from the app be used in the passports?

The markings from the app are already used and printed in the French horse passports. The app is used by French veterinarians and Ifce Identifiers.

Jeroen Vanavermaete: in Belgium we are working on a similar system that will be used by all vets.

- 4) **Marianne Ek** : Will this be available to other organisations?

The app is really connected to the French database. It's a part of a whole system, it could not easily be shared. We can discuss it and make demos, but we could not make it easily available to other organizations.

- 5) **Ronald, Smart Studbook Connections** : Similar app is available from Smart Studbook Connections and useable for all software systems.

**Conclusion :**

We wanted to thank a lot E. Camara for coming and making a presentation and giving us all these useful explanation; and Max and Sandrine for their demos. Do not hesitate to suggest subjects for next time, if you want.