

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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POLICY

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Date: 10/19/2012

GAIN Report Number: IN2138

India

Post: New Delhi

India Notifies New Horse Import Regulations

Report Categories:

FAIRS Subject Report

Livestock and Products

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Approved By:

Thom Wright

Prepared By:

Thom Wright

Report Highlights:

India notified an update to the Livestock Importation Act on October 5, 2012 related to India's sanitary regulations for African horse sickness and contagious equine metritis.

General Information:

Introduction: India notified an update to the Livestock Importation Act on October 5, 2012 related to India's sanitary regulations for African horse sickness and contagious equine metritis.

Disclaimer: This summary is based on a *cursory* review of the subject announcement and therefore should not under any circumstances be viewed as a definitive reading of the regulation in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural export trade interests.

Type of Regulation: Notified Change

Important Dates:

- Publication Date: October 5, 2012
- Date of Implementation: With immediate effect
- WTO Notification Date: Not notified (as of October 19, 2012)

Products Affected: Live equines.

Agency in Charge: Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.

Proposed Changes:

The notification revises India's Livestock Importation act. Key changes include:

- Removal of the contagious equine metritis exception for equine males up to seven years and unbred females up to five years of age.
- Horses originating from countries which have not experienced African horse sickness in the last 2 years will now be allowed entry.
- Exporting countries must certify that equines were protected from culicoides when transiting an infected zone.

The full text of the official notification is below.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries)

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 5th October, 2012

G.S.R. 752(E).—In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Livestock Importation Act, 1898 and in supersession of the notification of the Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries *vide* number G.S.R.389 (E) dated the 7th May, 2010 published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such supersession, the Central Government hereby regulates the import of horse or other equidae into India in the manner laid down in the Schedule as under:-

SCHEDULE

1. General Requirement: The horse or other equidae shall be accompanied with a valid passport or if the horse or other equid is not originating from countries not issuing pass port, it must be accompanied by a complete history sheet with an identification certificate duly authenticated by an official veterinarian of the exporting country.

2. Testing Requirement: (1) The horse or other equidae shall come from a country,-

(i) where the African Horse Sickness Virus (AHSV) has not been reported for the last two years preceding the exportation;

(ii) free from African Horse Sickness Virus (AHSV) when African Horse sickness (AHS) is a notifiable disease in the whole country, systematic vaccination is prohibited, importation of equids and their semen, oocytes or embryos are carried out in accordance with Chapter 12.1 of Terrestrial Animal Health Code of World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE);

(iii) where the horse or other equidae have not travelled to or through any country infected with African Horse Sickness for the last two years preceding the exportation;

(iv) with a certificate of veterinary authorities certifying that the horse or other equidae -

(a) have not shown any clinical signs of African Horse Sickness (AHS) on the day of shipment;

(b) have not been vaccinated against African Horse Sickness (AHS) forty days immediately preceding the exportation;

(c) were protected from *Culicoides* attacks at all times when transiting through an infected zone.

(v) where Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) has not been reported during the last twenty months preceding the exportation.

