	<b>DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES</b> <b>DIRECTORATE: ANIMAL HEALTH</b>
	<b>VETERINARY PROCEDURAL NOTICE:</b> <b>AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS CONTROL</b>
<b>APPROVED BY:</b>	<b>Dr Mpho Maja, Director: Animal Health</b>
<b>APPROVAL DATE:</b>	<b>2019 -12- 0 4</b>
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African horse sickness (AHS) is a viral disease of equids (horses, donkeys, mules and zebras) that is transmitted by *Culicoides* midges. The disease is capable of causing severe illness and death in horses, which may adversely affect the livelihoods of the owners of working and sporting animals and the communities that depend upon them. AHS also has a significant impact on international trade and the movement of horses, donkeys, mules and zebra.

The majority of South Africa is considered to be naturally infected with AHS (endemic for AHS) and in this infected zone, vaccination and decreasing exposure to midges are the main protective measures against AHS.

There is a region in the Western Cape Province with low AHS prevalence and this area is home to many horses, mules and donkeys that are naive and therefore vulnerable to severe infection with AHS. These areas in the Western Cape Province have been legislated under the Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act no 35 of 84) as the "AHS controlled area". The AHS controlled area relies on movement control, vaccination control and surveillance to prevent incursions of AHS and safeguard its vulnerable equids and the status of the area.

The AHS controlled area is also an area from which trade in equids can take place internationally. There is great potential for rapid expansion of the equine industry and beneficial research into enhanced AHS preventive and treatment methods; especially should trade and competition with international markets be open for South Africa.

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Since 1997, various guidelines and protocol documents have been used to manage AHS in South Africa and more specifically in the AHS controlled area. These documents for AHS control have been revised into a single, updated document. This consolidated document is known as the “Veterinary Procedural Notice for AHS Control” or “AHS VPN”. The disease control measures in this Veterinary Procedural Notice (VPN) have been developed to address local conditions and are in line with principles contained in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code as well as current European Union legislation.

***Please take note of the following contact details where relevant:***

*For applications to move equids into and within the AHS controlled area and enquiries related to equid movement, please contact [move@myhorse.org.za](mailto:move@myhorse.org.za)*

*For applications to vaccinate equines against AHS in the AHS controlled area and enquiries related to vaccination in the AHS controlled area please contact [vaccinate@myhorse.org.za](mailto:vaccinate@myhorse.org.za)*

*For information about the identification of horses, please contact [passport@myhorse.org.za](mailto:passport@myhorse.org.za)*

*For Pre-notification of movement please contact [prenote@myhorse.org.za](mailto:prenote@myhorse.org.za)*

*For AHS case reporting or information on sample collection for AHS confirmation and testing please contact your local state veterinarian and/or [results@myhorse.org.za](mailto:results@myhorse.org.za)*

*For queries regarding the registration of properties in terms of the Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act no 35 of 1984) for the keeping of zebra or for movement of zebra within and into the AHS controlled area please contact [zebra@myhorse.org.za](mailto:zebra@myhorse.org.za)*

*To report a transgression within the AHS controlled area relating to illegal movement, vaccination or any other equid related law enforcement matter within or relating to the AHS controlled area please contact [regulate@myhorse.org.za](mailto:regulate@myhorse.org.za)*

*For all other enquiries please contact your local state veterinarian.*

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## 1. Purpose, Scope and Introduction

### 1.1. Purpose of this Veterinary Procedural Notice

1.1.1. The purpose of this Veterinary Procedural Notice (VPN) is to define control measures pertaining to African horse sickness (AHS) in equids in order to:

- a) Protect the AHS status of the AHS controlled area;
- b) Protect equids within the AHS controlled area;
- c) Highlight the measures that apply to protect equids in the infected area of South Africa.

1.1.2. This VPN does not substitute, but is to be read in conjunction with, relevant government notices.

## 1.2. Scope of this Veterinary Procedural Notice

- 1.2.1. This VPN applies to all domestic and wild equids, including, but not limited to horses, mules, donkeys and zebra kept in South Africa.
- 1.2.2. Equids imported from other countries may have additional requirements for the control of AHS over and above the requirements of this VPN, as determined by the National Director: Animal Health (DAH).
- 1.2.3. This VPN makes provision for identification of equids, reporting of AHS, registration of properties to keep equids, vaccination against AHS and movement control of equids with regard to AHS.
- 1.2.4. This VPN is designed to facilitate the movement of equids into and between zones of the African horse sickness controlled area to decrease the risk of introducing AHS. An introduction of AHS into the AHS controlled area would affect the export of horses from the AHS controlled area and would increase the risk to equids residing in the area.
- 1.2.5. The following movements are subject to AHS movement control procedures for all equids:
- Movements from the AHS infected zone to any AHS controlled area;
  - Movements between or within control zones in the AHS controlled area;
  - Movements of imported horses that are not subject to post-importation quarantine, to the AHS controlled area.

## 1.3. Abbreviations used in this Veterinary Procedural Notice

Abbreviation	Meaning
AHS	African horse sickness
AHT	Animal Health Technician
ASD	Area Status Declaration
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
DAH	National Director: Animal Health
EU	European Union
HCM	Health Certificate for Movement
ICAR	International Committee for Animal Recording
OIE	Office de International des Epizooties (World Organization for Animal Health)
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction

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<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
PEO	Provincial Executive officer. Government official in charge of Veterinary Services in the Province (either the Provincial Director or the Provincial Chief Director of Veterinary Services)
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SOQ	Stop Over Quarantine
SV	State Veterinarian/Official Veterinarian
SV: Boland	State Veterinarian: Boland
The Regulations	Animal Diseases Regulations, R2026 of 26 September 1986, as amended
VPN	Veterinary Procedural Notice

#### **1.4. Application of the AHS VPN**

- 1.4.1 The application of this VPN is mandated by the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act No. 35 of 1984) and the regulations promulgated in terms thereof.
- 1.4.2 This VPN does not include an “outbreak contingency plan” or “standard operating procedures for outbreak control”. In the case of an outbreak, or suspected outbreak of AHS in the AHS controlled area, this VPN may be overruled by the specific disease control measures implemented to contain the outbreak.
- 1.4.3 This protocol does not invalidate any other disease control measures prescribed in accordance with any other Acts, Regulations and other applicable disease control protocols.
- 1.4.4 This VPN applies to all role players who are involved with equids or involved in relevant activities in the equid industry in South Africa.
- 1.4.5 As annexures, this VPN contains supporting SOP’s and documentation to facilitate its implementation:
- a) AHS control SOP: Acceptable Identification of Equines;
  - b) AHS Control SOP: Standards for the Registration, Management and Movement through a Stop Over Quarantine Facility;
  - c) AHS Control SOP: Standards for the Registration, Management and Movement through a Vector Protected Quarantine Facility for African Horse Sickness Movement Control;
  - d) AHS Control SOP: Multiple Movement Permit System;
  - e) AHS Control SOP: Maps of the African Horse Sickness Control Zones.

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1.4.6 This VPN must be read, interpreted and applied as a whole.

## 1.5. Responsibility

1.5.1. It is the responsibility of every owner, or manager of equids (including agents), all veterinarians working with equids and transporters of equids in South Africa, as well as other role-players involved in the equid industry in South Africa, to be aware of and to comply with the requirements of this VPN and the associated SOPs.

1.5.2. Any ambiguity, contradiction, omission, or problem in the text of this VPN; or any problem which may arise with the application of this VPN, must be reported to the responsible State Veterinarian and Provincial Executive Officer immediately. This must be reported to the National Director: Animal Health as soon as possible.

## 1.6. Definitions

For the purpose of this VPN the following definitions shall apply:

1.6.1. “**Active surveillance**” is the planned, systematic ongoing collection, analysis and dissemination of disease related information that promotes timely action to be taken.

1.6.2. “**AHS Movement Permit**” is an official documented permission, including all associated and/or stipulated conditions, issued by the responsible state veterinarian, required for an equid to move to a zone of higher AHS control, or within a zone in the AHS controlled area where relevant, or out of an AHS outbreak area where relevant. The delegated responsible state veterinarian for issuing the movement permit for AHS movement control is the State Veterinarian: Boland. (SV: Boland)

1.6.3. “**Area Status Declaration**” is a written declaration of the level of AHS risk for a specific state veterinary area, relating to movement of equids from that state veterinary area into the AHS controlled area. The state veterinarian at origin of the equid is responsible for the area status declaration.

1.6.4. “**Certification by a veterinarian**” must comply with the requirements for certification in terms of the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions

Act 1982 (Act no 19 of 1982) and Regulations and Rules, the Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act no 35 of 84) and Regulations as well as the OIE requirements for certification or any legislation that may replace the relevant legislation currently in place, and should include the signature of the veterinarian, the veterinarian's full name, qualification and practice stamp/address.

1.6.5. An "**AHS case**" is an equid

- that may or may not exhibit any of the clinical or post mortem signs associated with AHS and in which AHS virus has been detected by an agent identification test using a validated test in a laboratory approved by the DAH that is not due to vaccination in that equid; or
- that may exhibit any clinical or post mortem signs associated with AHS and is epidemiologically linked to a case in which AHS virus has been confirmed by an agent identification test using a validated test in a laboratory approved by the DAH.

1.6.6. "**Donkey**" includes all donkeys, onagers, and kiangs as well as hybrids of these e.g. mules and hinnies.

1.6.7. "**Effective Remedy**" means a remedy registered in terms of the Fertilizers, Farm Feed, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act 36 of 1947) for that purpose, or any medicine or veterinary medicine registered in terms of the Medicines and Related Substances Control Act, 1965 (Act 101 of 1965) for that purpose, or any medicine approved by the Director in writing for a particular use;

1.6.8. "**Equid, Equidae**" means and includes all members of the genus *Equus* and includes horses, donkeys, zebra, onagers and kiangs as well as their hybrids.

1.6.9. "**Equine**" means and includes all horses, mules, and donkeys as defined above, but excludes zebra.

1.6.10. "**Health Certificate for Movement**" is a certificate signed by the veterinarian at origin, not more than 72 hours prior to movement, to state that the equine complies with specific health and vaccination requirements for movement. The Health Certificate for Movement (HCM) must be included in the equine's passport and comply with the

requirements of the AHS Control SOP: Acceptable Identification of Equines.

- 1.6.11. **“High risk area”** means a state veterinary area that the local state veterinarian and/or SV: Boland deem to be high risk for direct movements of equids into the AHS controlled area due to any or a combination of the following: Time of year, a suspicion of or a case of AHS within a 30 km radius in the previous 40 days, weather patterns that may suggest increased vector activity, large or changing populations of feral or wild equids, sub-optimal reporting of equine diseases in the area, or any other factor that may indicate an increase in risk.
- 1.6.12. **“Horse”**, means and includes all domestic and feral equines of the species *Equus ferus ferus* (Prezowski's horse), *Equus ferus tarpan* (Tarpan) and *Equus ferus caballus* (Domestic Horse).
- 1.6.13. **“Identification Diagram”** is the diagram where the colour, markings, whorls, scars, iron or freeze brands or tattoos, and other identifying features of an equine are recorded in a passport that complies with the minimum standards as set out in the AHS Control SOP: Acceptable Identification of Equines.
- 1.6.14. **“Low risk area”** means a state veterinary area where no AHS cases or suspect AHS cases have been reported in at least the last 40 days, and the vector situation of the area and incidence of other vector borne diseases (such as Equine encephalosis virus), climatic conditions, wild or feral equid populations, and the reporting of cases of equine diseases to the local state veterinarian have been considered.
- 1.6.15. **“Multiple Movement Permit”** means a specific movement permit issued by the SV: Boland for registered equines that meet specific conditions to enable same day movement between registered properties in the AHS controlled area that are specifically registered with SV: Boland for this purpose. (Refer to Section 8. *Multiple Movement Permits.* )
- 1.6.16. **“Officer or designated official”** means a person officially appointed to perform a task or duty by the National Director: Animal Health under Section 3 “Authorized Persons” of the Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act 35 of 1984) and Regulations.



- 1.6.17. **“Partial Risk Area”** means a state veterinary area that includes both high and low AHS risk areas.
- 1.6.18. **“Passive surveillance”** means a monitoring system for detecting disease during routine veterinary visits to farms. The system depends on equine owners/veterinarians/any involved persons notifying the state veterinarian of suspect cases of an infectious disease or of circumstances where an infectious disease may be involved.
- 1.6.19. **“Passport”** is the identification document that positively identifies the equine. The format of the passport must comply with the minimum standards as set out in the AHS Control SOP: Acceptable Identification of Equines.
- 1.6.20. **“Approved Passport Issuing Agency”** means a breed registering authority or international competition registering authority, or any other registering authority approved by the National Director: Animal Health to issue passports and administer an auditable equine registration and identification database for the purposes of AHS control in accordance with this VPN. The database must contain the passport number, the name of the horse, a scanned in copy of the identification page, the name of the owner or responsible person and contact details at the time of issue.
- 1.6.21. **“Quarantine”** means the isolation of susceptible animals in a quarantine facility or on a holding which has been approved by a state veterinarian or an official authorized by the National Director: Animal Health, for a specific purpose, to prevent exposure to, or spread of infection.
- 1.6.22. **“Registered Equine”** means an equine identified by means of a passport that is compliant with the AHS Control SOP: Acceptable Identification of Equines, issued by an Approved Passport Issuing Agency as defined above.
- 1.6.23. **“Registered Equine holding”** means a property registered with SV: Boland for the keeping of equines in the AHS controlled area.
- 1.6.24. **“Responsible person”** means a manager or owner of land or an owner of animals.
- 1.6.25. **“Responsible State Veterinarian”** for issuing the Movement Permit for AHS movement control purposes, is the SV: Boland.

- 1.6.26. **“Sentinel”** means an equid that is sampled on a regular basis and included in an active surveillance programme.
- 1.6.27. **“Stop-Over Quarantine facility”** means a specific holding situated in an AHS low risk area, approved by SV: Boland for this purpose. Equines are held at the Stop-Over Quarantine according to the protocol as described in the AHS Control SOP: Standards for the Registration, Management and Movement Through a Stop-Over Quarantine Facility, for a minimum of 14 days and tested negative for AHS virus before they are allowed to move to the AHS controlled area.
- 1.6.28. **the Act**, unless specified otherwise means the Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act 35 of 84) and includes the Animal Diseases Regulations, R2026 of 26 September 1986, as amended from time to time.
- 1.6.29. **“Vaccination Certificate”** means the certified proof of vaccination performed and signed by a veterinarian along with positive identification of the equine vaccinated.
- 1.6.30. **“Vector”** means any of the *Culicoides spp* capable of transmitting AHS.
- 1.6.31. **“Vector protected (VP) quarantine facility for AHS movement control”** means a specific vector protected facility approved by SV: Boland for the purpose of movement of equines into the AHS controlled area. Equines are held at the VP quarantine facility according to the protocol as described in the AHS Control SOP: Standards for the Registration, Management and Movement Through a Vector Protected Quarantine Facility for African horse sickness Movement Control, for a minimum of 14 days and tested negative for AHS virus before they are allowed to move to the AHS controlled area.
- 1.6.32. **“Veterinarian”** means a qualified veterinarian according to the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act 1982 (Act no 19 of 82) and registered with the South African Veterinary Council.
- 1.6.33. **“Veterinary Authority”** means either the provincial government veterinary services or national government veterinary services.
- 1.6.34. **“Zebra”** means and includes all members, subspecies, and hybrids of the species *Equus quagga* and *Equus zebra*.

1.6.35. **“Zebra Keeping Registration (ZKR)”** means the registration of a property with the National Director: Animal Health for the keeping of zebra in the AHS controlled area.

### **1.7. Exemptions/Deviations**

1.7.1. Deviation or exemption from this VPN shall only be permitted with written approval from the DAH.

1.7.2. The DAH has granted SV: Boland permission to allow certain deviations from the requirements of this VPN.

1.7.3. The responsible person must apply in writing to SV: Boland. The application submitted to SV: Boland must include at least the following:

- a) The details and reason for the request for exemption;
- b) Details of the responsible person;
- c) Details of the veterinarian for the equid;
- d) Copies of the equine’s passport showing the passport number and issuing authority, identification diagram, vaccination record against AHS and previous health certificates for movement (if applicable) and/or any other relevant documentation;
- e) In the case of a zebra: As a zebra cannot easily be identified by means of a passport, they are required to be identified by means of a microchip and a form of temporary visual identification and both the microchip number and information regarding temporary visual identification must be provided;
- f) In the case of a donkey or mule: As donkeys and mules cannot easily be identified by means of a passport, they are required to be identified by means of both a passport and a microchip and both the passport identification diagram and microchip number must be provided.

1.7.4. If the exemption requested is not part of the deviations SV: Boland has been given permission by the DAH to evaluate, SV Boland will advise the responsible person to apply directly to the DAH in writing. The application submitted to the DAH must contain at least all the information as listed in 1.7.3. above;

- 1.7.5. Upon receiving a written request for exemption, the DAH will evaluate the exemption request with the input of SV: Boland and other officials or experts as deemed necessary. A written response will be forwarded to the responsible person and SV: Boland.

## 2. Legal Basis

### 2.1. The Animal Diseases Act, 1984 ( Act no 35 of 1984)

- 2.1.1. African horse sickness (AHS) is a controlled animal disease as defined in section 1 of the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act no. 35 of 1984) in that control measures have been prescribed in terms of section 9 of the Act (Animal Diseases Regulations, No. R. 2026 of 26 September 1986, Table 2, as amended from time to time). Therefore, all statutory requirements applicable to controlled diseases are applicable to AHS.
- 2.1.2. Any suspicion of AHS or a case of AHS must be reported to the Director in terms of the Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act 35 of 1984) and Regulations:
  - a) Section 11(1)(b)(ii) of the Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act 35 of 1984) and Regulations states: *“Any owner or manager of land on which there are animals, and any owner in respect of animals, shall, whether or not such owner or manager has obtained advice regarding the health, or any certificate of fitness or health of the animals in terms of section 13(1)(c), from the director, whenever such animals have become or can reasonably be suspected of having become infected with any controlled animal disease, immediately report such incidence in the prescribed manner to the director.”*
  - b) Section 11(2) of the Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act 35 of 1984) and Regulations as amended states: *“A veterinarian or any other person who finds the incidence or suspected incidence of any controlled animal disease in any animal or progeny or product thereof, shall immediately report such incidence to the director”.*
  - c) Regulation 12 (1) of the Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act 35 of 1984) and Regulations as amended states that *“the reporting of the incidence or suspected incidence of a controlled animal*

*disease by a responsible person in terms of section 11(1)(b)(ii) of the Act shall forthwith be done verbally to the responsible State Veterinarian or responsible technical officer, and shall be confirmed in writing as soon as possible thereafter.”*

2.1.3. Any suspicion or a case of AHS must also be brought to the notice of owners of equids on neighbouring properties and owners of equids who potentially may, or previously may have, received animals, in terms of the Animal Diseases Act 1984 ( Act 35 of 1984) and Regulations:

a) Regulation 12 (3) of the Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act 35 of 1984) and Regulations as amended states that *“a responsible person shall also forthwith bring the incidence or suspected incidence of a controlled animal disease referred to in sub regulation (1) to the notice of each owner or manager of adjoining land and each owner of susceptible animals on the same or adjoining land; and each prospective buyer of his susceptible animals as well as a person who has bought susceptible animals from him during the immediately preceding 30 days.”*

2.1.4. According to Regulation 12B (3), *“A veterinarian, person or a laboratory that does diagnostic testing or screening for a controlled animal disease or a notifiable animal disease, shall report on all the diagnostic testing or screening for such animal diseases and the results thereof in the format as prescribed by the Director.”*

2.1.5. In terms of the Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act 35 of 1984) and associated Regulations, permits for the movement of controlled animals must be obtained prior to movement:

a) Regulation 20 (1) (a) (vii) states that *“no person shall, except under the authority of a permit issued by the responsible State Veterinarian and otherwise than in accordance with the conditions specified in such permit move or remove any controlled animal or thing to, across or from land in a controlled area.”*

b) For the purpose of movements of equids to, across or from land in the AHS controlled area, the DAH has hereby defined the responsible state veterinarian in terms of Regulation 20 (1) as the SV: Boland.

- c) An electronic veterinary movement permit is acceptable provided it is issued by SV: Boland and is available in a legible format on a device that accompanies the equid during movement and is available at the destination, if requested by an official.

2.1.6. In terms of Section 3 and Regulation 20, the conditions under which the responsible state veterinarian may issue a veterinary movement permit for AHS control are contained in this VPN and associated SOP's.

2.1.7. The DAH, in terms of Regulation 20 (5), hereby grants exemption from Regulation 20 (1) for:

- a) Equines moving within a control zone of the AHS controlled area.
- b) Equines moving out of the AHS controlled area into the infected area.
- c) Equines moving between control zones of the AHS controlled area provided they are moving from a zone of higher control to a zone of lower control e.g. from the free zone to the surveillance zone or protection zone or from the surveillance zone to the protection zone.
- d) Equines moving between control zones of the AHS controlled area from a zone of lower control to a zone of higher control, provided they comply with all other movement requirements, namely a valid passport with a completed identification as described in the AHS Control SOP: Acceptable Identification of Equines; a valid Health Certificate for Movement completed in the passport and certified by a veterinarian; and certified valid AHS vaccinations where relevant. The veterinarian that completes the health certification for movement must complete the relevant Pre-notification for movement and send it to SV: Boland prior to the movement taking place.

2.1.8. Properties in certain zones of the AHS controlled area must be registered for the purpose of keeping equids.

- a) Regulation 20B (1) states that "*no person shall keep equines on any land in the African horse sickness free zone as described in Table 1, unless such equines and land are registered with the director for this purpose*".

b) Regulation 20B (2) states that *“no person shall keep zebra on any land in the African horse sickness free zone and the African horse sickness surveillance zone and the African horse sickness protection zone as described in Table 1, unless such zebra and land are registered with the director for this purpose.”*

2.1.9. All equines must be vaccinated against AHS in terms of Regulation 11 (4), Regulation 20B(3) and 20B(4) and Table 2. The conditions of vaccination against AHS are contained in this VPN.

2.1.10. Regulation 17 (1), states that: *Each responsible person in a controlled area shall enter on a regular basis in a register kept by him for this purpose full particulars of-*

*(1)(a) the kinds of animals on his land and the number of each such kind;*

*(1)(b) each controlled veterinary act that he applied or caused to be applied in terms of regulation 11 in respect of such animals, with an indication of-*

*(i) the date on which each such act was thus applied;*

*(ii) the number and kind of animals in respect of which each such act was thus applied on each of those dates; and*

*(iii) a description of each such act and, where applicable, of the remedy used in the application of that act.*

2.1.11. In terms of AHS vaccination, Regulation 17 (3) states that *whenever animals are ... treated in terms of a control measure the responsible person shall in a register kept by him for this purpose enter full particulars of -*

*(i) the dates on which animals were ... treated;*

*(ii) the number and kinds of animals ... treated on each of those dates;*

AHS vaccination details recorded by a veterinarian in a passport will also serve as a register where applicable.

2.1.12. This VPN is not intended to relieve any role-player of any responsibility which may be placed on him/her by any other Act of the Republic of South Africa.

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## 2.2. Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act 1982 (Act no 19 of 1982)

### 2.2.1. Rule 5: Issuing of veterinary certificates states that

- (1) *Certificates or other documents, which are issued by veterinary professionals in their professional capacity, must contain facts which are professionally verifiable, save for the historical information and identity supplied by the owner, which must be stipulated as such.*
- (2) *A veterinary professional may only certify those matters of which -*
  - (a) *He/she has personal knowledge;*
  - (b) *Can be ascertained by him/her personally; or*
  - (c) *Are the subject of a supporting certificate from another veterinary professional or delegated para-veterinary professional, who acted under that veterinarian's instruction and who has personal knowledge of the matter in question and is authorised to provide such a supporting document.*

## 3. AHS Controlled Area of South Africa

According to Section 31 of the Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act 35 of 1984) and Regulations, sections of the Western Cape Province have been prescribed as the AHS controlled area. These are published in Table 1 of the Regulations as amended. Maps of the AHS controlled area are included in the AHS Control SOP: Maps of the African horse sickness Control Zones.

South Africa is divided into four zones for the purpose of AHS control. These zones are described below. Where a holding is not contained within one zone, it assumes the status of the zone of lowest control.

### 3.1. The AHS Infected Zone

This zone encompasses all of South Africa outside of the AHS controlled area. AHS is considered endemic in this zone. The following control measures apply to the AHS infected zone:

- a) Annual vaccination of all equines;



- b) Any AHS case, or suspicion thereof must be reported to the local state veterinarian;
- c) Movement control within the zone may be implemented at the discretion of the local state veterinarian;
- d) Movement of equids out the AHS infected zone into the AHS controlled area is controlled.

### **3.2. The AHS Controlled Area**

#### **3.2.1. The AHS Protection Zone**

This zone encompasses the areas as described in Table 1 of the Regulations of the Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act 35 of 1984) as amended from time to time. It is intended to create an immune barrier between the AHS infected zone and the AHS surveillance zone. The following control measures apply to the AHS protection zone:

- a) Annual vaccination of all equines;
- b) Registration of all properties for the purpose of keeping zebra;
- c) Registration of properties and horses approved for the use of multiple movement permits. (Refer to Section 8. *Multiple Movement Permits*);
- d) Any AHS case, or suspicion thereof must be reported to the local state veterinarian;
- e) Movement of equids from the AHS infected zone to the AHS protection zone is controlled.

#### **3.2.2. The AHS Surveillance Zone**

This zone encompasses the areas as described in Table 1 of the Regulations of the Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act 35 of 1984) as amended from time to time. It is intended to provide a wide area of surveillance using both active and passive surveillance programs. The following control measures apply to the AHS surveillance zone:

- a) Vaccination against AHS is only permitted with written approval of the SV: Boland;

- b) Registration of all properties for the purpose of keeping zebra;
- c) Registration of properties and horses approved for the use of multiple movement permits. (Refer to Section 8. *Multiple Movement Permits*);
- d) Any AHS case, or suspicion thereof must be reported to the local state veterinarian;
- e) All deaths of sentinel animals due to a suspected infectious disease must be subject to appropriate sample collection performed by a veterinarian or delegated officer under official supervision and testing must be performed at a laboratory approved by the DAH to rule out AHS as a cause of death;
- f) Movement of equids from the AHS infected zone and/or AHS protection zone to the AHS surveillance zone is controlled.

### 3.2.3. The AHS Free Zone

This zone encompasses the areas as described in Table 1 of the Regulations of the Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act 35 of 1984) as amended from time to time. It is intended to create an area of increased control from which international trade of equines can take place. The following control measures apply to the AHS free zone:

- a) Vaccination for AHS is only permitted with written approval of the SV: Boland;
- b) Registration of all equines and properties where equines are kept;
- c) Registration of all zebra and properties where zebra are kept;
- d) Equines resident in the AHS free zone must be identified by means of a passport compliant with the AHS Control SOP: Acceptable Identification of Equines;
- e) All cases of equine mortality suspected to be as a result of an infectious disease must be subject to appropriate sample collection performed by a veterinarian or delegated officer under official supervision and testing must be performed at laboratory approved by the DAH to rule out AHS as a cause of death;

- f) Any AHS case, or suspicion thereof must be reported to the local state veterinarian;
- g) Movement of equids from the AHS infected zone and/or AHS protection zone and/or AHS surveillance zone to the AHS free zone is controlled.

## **4. Control measures**

### **4.1. Vaccination of equines against AHS**

#### **4.1.1. The AHS Infected Zone**

- a) All equines in the AHS infected zone of South Africa must be vaccinated annually against AHS with an effective remedy by the responsible person;
- b) Only a vaccine registered under the Fertilizers, Farm Feed, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act No.36 of 1947) for this purpose, or under the Medicines and Related Substances Control Act, 1965 (Act No. 101 of 1965) for this purpose or any medicine approved by the DAH in writing for a particular use will be accepted as an effective remedy;
- c) For movement into the AHS controlled area, only vaccination against AHS with an effective remedy performed by a veterinarian will be considered as valid;
- d) To reduce the likelihood of transmission of vaccine virus, vaccination is recommended in the low vector activity period from 1 June to 31 October;
- e) All AHS vaccinations performed by a veterinarian must be recorded in the vaccination certificate in the passport as follows:
  - i. Date of vaccination for each bottle of the vaccine,
  - ii. Batch number of each bottle of the vaccine,
  - iii. Certification by the vaccinating veterinarian for each bottle of the vaccine.

#### 4.1.2. The AHS Protection Zone

- a) All equines in the AHS protection zone of South Africa must be vaccinated annually against AHS with an effective remedy by the responsible person;
- b) Only a vaccine registered under the Fertilizers, Farm Feed, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act No.36 of 1947), or the Medicines and Related Substances Control Act, 1965 (Act No. 101 of 1965) or any medicine approved by the DAH in writing for a particular use will be accepted as an effective remedy;
- c) For movement to a zone of higher AHS control (i.e. the AHS surveillance or AHS free zones), only vaccination for AHS with an effective remedy performed by a veterinarian will be considered as valid;
- d) Vaccination may only be performed in the low vector activity period from 1 June to 31 October. Where the vaccination to cover multiple serotypes consists of more than one bottle, the administration of all bottles in accordance with the vaccine manufacturer's recommendations must fall within this period;
- e) All AHS vaccinations performed by a veterinarian must be recorded in the vaccination certificate in the passport as follows:
  - i. Date of vaccination for each bottle of the vaccine,
  - ii. Batch number of each bottle of the vaccine,
  - iii. Certification by the vaccinating veterinarian for each bottle of the vaccine.

#### 4.1.3. The AHS Surveillance and Free Zones

- a) Vaccination of equines against AHS in the AHS surveillance zone and AHS free zone may only be performed by a veterinarian and **may only be performed with the written permission of the SV: Boland;**

- b) Application to vaccinate equines against AHS must be made to SV: Boland in writing, using the prescribed application form emailed to [vaccinate@myhorse.org.za](mailto:vaccinate@myhorse.org.za);
- c) Permission to vaccinate equines against AHS will only be considered during the low vector activity period of the year, from 1 June to 31 October. Where the vaccination consists of more than one bottle to cover multiple serotypes, the administration of all bottles in accordance with the vaccine manufacturer's recommendations must fall within this period;
- d) Permission to vaccinate equines in the AHS surveillance and AHS free zones will be issued subject to a veterinarian performing the vaccinations;**
- e) Permission to vaccinate equines in the AHS surveillance and AHS free zones will only be issued on condition the equine is identified by means of an approved passport compliant with the standards as set out in the AHS Control SOP: Acceptable Identification of Equines;**
- f) The approved passport must be present at the time of vaccination and the details of the vaccination must be recorded by the veterinarian in the passport at the time of vaccination;**
- g) Permission to vaccinate equines in the AHS surveillance and AHS free zones, if granted, is valid for one vaccination season only;
- h) Equines vaccinated in the AHS surveillance and AHS free zones must only be vaccinated against AHS with an effective remedy by the responsible veterinarian;
- i) Only a vaccine registered under the Fertilizers, Farm Feed, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act No.36 of 1947) for this purpose, or under the Medicines and Related Substances Control Act, 1965 (Act No. 101 of 1965) for this purpose or any medicine approved by the DAH in writing for a particular use will be accepted as an effective remedy;
- j) For movement to a zone of higher AHS control (i.e. from surveillance zone to free zone), only a vaccination with an

effective remedy performed by a veterinarian will be considered as valid;

- k) All AHS vaccinations performed by a veterinarian must be recorded in the passport as follows:
  - i. Date of vaccination for each bottle of the vaccine,
  - ii. Batch number of each bottle of the vaccine,
  - iii. Certification by the vaccinating veterinarian for each bottle of the vaccine.

#### **4.2. Registration of properties for the keeping of equids**

- 4.2.1. According to Section 20B of the Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act 35 of 84), no person may keep equines on any land in the AHS free zone unless such equines and land are registered with the DAH. Registration of holdings for the keeping of equines in the AHS controlled area is hereby delegated to SV: Boland.
- 4.2.2. No person may keep zebra on any land in the AHS controlled area unless the land is registered with the DAH.
- 4.2.3. The holdings in the AHS controlled area approved for the use of multiple movement permits must be registered with the SV: Boland for this purpose. (Refer to Section 8. *Multiple Movement Permits*)
- 4.2.4. Updated registers of all equid movements onto and off holdings in the AHS free zone must be kept by the responsible person and made available upon the request of the SV: Boland.

#### **4.3. Reporting**

##### **4.3.1. The AHS Infected Zone**

- a) In terms of Section 11 (2) and Regulation 12 of the Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act no 35 of 84), any AHS case, or suspicion thereof in the AHS infected zone of South Africa must be reported to the local SV immediately by "*a veterinarian or any other person who finds the incidence or suspected incidence of any controlled animal disease in any animal or progeny or product thereof...*"

- b) The initial case(s) identified in an area must be laboratory confirmed by means of an agent identification test performed at a laboratory approved by the DAH, either from blood samples in the case of a live equid, or organ samples in the case of a dead equid. Samples should be submitted under the supervision of the responsible state veterinarian of the area. Where this is not possible, the local state veterinarian must be kept informed of all samples submitted at all times.
- c) Samples must be sent to a laboratory approved by the DAH for laboratory testing for AHS as soon as possible. The laboratory should be contacted for their preferred sampling and transportation methods.
- d) After laboratory confirmation of the first identified case in an area, a state veterinarian may confirm and report a subsequent case of AHS in that area based on clinical signs and an epidemiological link to a laboratory confirmed case, without laboratory confirmation.
- e) Any case of AHS or suspicion thereof must be reported to the DAH by the local state veterinarian via the sub directorate of Epidemiology in the Directorate of Animal Health by means of a correctly completed situation report (SR1).
- f) It is the local state veterinarian's responsibility to ensure that any initial suspected AHS case in an area is confirmed and the SR1 for each case is completed in full and sent to the sub directorate of Epidemiology in the Directorate of Animal Health.
- g) In terms of Regulation 12 of the Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act no 35 of 84), it is the duty of the responsible person to inform: owners of susceptible animals on adjoining properties as well as owners that received susceptible animals from the infected property during the previous 30 days or prospective buyers for the next 30 days, that there has been a case of AHS, or suspicion thereof on his/her property.
- h) In terms of Regulation 12B (3) of the Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act no 35 of 84), all laboratories or persons who perform diagnostic testing for AHS must report the results of all such

testing to the relevant local state veterinarian and the National Directorate of Animal Health via the sub directorate of Epidemiology.

#### 4.3.2. The AHS controlled areas (AHS Protection, AHS Surveillance and AHS Free Zones)

- a) In terms of Section 11 (2) and Regulation 12 of the Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act no 35 of 84), any AHS case, or suspicion thereof in the AHS controlled area of South Africa must immediately be reported to the SV: Boland and the responsible state veterinarian of the area by *“a veterinarian or any other person who finds the incidence or suspected incidence of any controlled animal disease in any animal or progeny or product thereof ...”*
- b) Any AHS case, or suspicion thereof, all equid deaths of unknown cause and all fevers of unknown cause in equids in the AHS free zone must be reported to the SV: Boland and the local state veterinarian within 24 hours.
- c) The initial case(s) identified in an area must be laboratory confirmed by means of an agent identification test performed at a laboratory approved by the DAH, either from blood samples in the case of a live equid, or organ samples in the case of a dead equid. Samples should be submitted under the supervision of the responsible state veterinarian of the area or SV: Boland and the SV: Boland must be kept informed of all samples submitted at all times.
- d) After laboratory confirmation of the first identified case in an area, a state veterinarian may report a subsequent case of AHS in that area based on clinical signs and an epidemiological link to a laboratory confirmed case, without laboratory confirmation.
- e) AHS must be ruled out by a veterinarian or delegated veterinary officer under official supervision for all cases of equid mortality in the AHS free zone suspected to be from an undiagnosed infectious disease and all deaths of sentinel animals in the AHS



surveillance zone suspected to be from an undiagnosed infectious disease.

- f) While sampling results are awaited, no movement of susceptible species will be permitted off the property in terms of Regulations 13 and 20 of the Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act no 35 of 84).
- g) Any case of AHS, or suspicion thereof must be reported to the DAH by the local state veterinarian via the sub directorate of Epidemiology in the Directorate of Animal Health by means of a correctly completed situation report (SR1).
- h) It is the local state veterinarian's responsibility to ensure that any initial suspected AHS case in an area is confirmed and the SR1 for each case is completed in full and sent to the sub directorate of Epidemiology in the Directorate of Animal Health.
- i) In terms of Regulation 12 of the Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act no 35 of 84), it is the duty of the responsible person to inform: owners of susceptible animals on adjoining properties as well as owners that received susceptible animals from the infected property during the previous 30 days or prospective buyers for the next 30 days, that an AHS case, or suspicion thereof has occurred on his/her property.
- j) In terms of Regulation 12 of the Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act no 35 of 84), all laboratories or persons who perform diagnostic testing for AHS must report the results of all such testing to the local state veterinarian, the SV: Boland and the national Directorate of Animal Health via the sub directorate of Epidemiology.

#### **4.4. Surveillance**

##### **4.4.1. Objectives of surveillance**

- a) The demonstration, using appropriate sampling and testing methods, that AHS virus is not circulating in the absence of clinical signs in the equine population of the AHS free and surveillance zones.

- b) The early detection of outbreaks of AHS in the AHS controlled area. The main components of surveillance include:
- passive clinical surveillance for clinical AHS cases through existing animal health services (state and private veterinary services);
  - sentinel surveillance with monthly sampling of sentinels that have not been recently vaccinated, i.e. they have not been vaccinated for at least the previous two years;
  - negative reporting;
  - vector surveillance;
  - wildlife surveillance.

#### 4.4.2. The AHS Infected zone

- a) Routine passive surveillance is performed.
- b) Where possible, typing of recovered AHS virus may be performed.

#### 4.4.3. The AHS Controlled Area

- a) Routine passive surveillance is performed.
- b) Any AHS case, or suspicion thereof, all equid deaths of unknown cause and all fevers of unknown origin in equids must be reported to the local SV.
- c) Samples to rule out AHS must be collected by a veterinarian or delegated officer under official supervision for all cases of equid mortality in the AHS free and AHS surveillance and AHS protection zones suspected to be from an undiagnosed infectious disease that may be AHS.
- d) Typing of recovered AHS virus must be performed.
- e) Sequencing of samples collected during outbreaks may be performed as determined by SV: Boland where appropriate.

- f) An active surveillance strategy appropriate to the epidemiological situation must be undertaken by SV: Boland and may comprise the following:
- i. Sentinel surveillance
    - This is conducted monthly on a representative proportion of equines to detect a specified minimum expected prevalence of disease in such numbers and spatial layout as to adequately represent the equine population of the zone.
  - ii. Negative reporting:
    - This is implemented through veterinarians and AHTs to support passive surveillance in demonstrating the absence of AHS infection by acquiring evidence that undiagnosed clinical disease is not occurring in the general equine population.
    - Owners/managers of equines and/or veterinarians may be asked to confirm there has been no case of AHS, or suspicion thereof on their property or on their client's property for a given time period.
  - iii. Vector Surveillance
    - This should be performed in vector protected export quarantine stations and within selected areas at specified times as determined by the SV: Boland.
    - This should also be performed during outbreaks to monitor vector populations and circulating virus in vectors.
  - iv. Wildlife surveillance
    - Zebra and wild or feral donkeys and horses must be sampled and tested using appropriate test methods whenever an animal is moved within the AHS controlled area.

## 5. Movement Controls of Registered Equines

### 5.1. General considerations

5.1.1. A diagrammatic summary of equine movement requirements can be found at: <http://idata.co.za/myhorse/#infographics>

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- 5.1.2. All equids that move into an AHS zone of lower AHS control are subject to the same movement control conditions and requirements as equids resident in that zone, e.g. an equid moved to the AHS infected zone from the AHS controlled area is subject to the same movement control conditions and requirements to move from the infected zone back into the AHS controlled area as the equids that are resident in the AHS infected zone.
- 5.1.3. According to the Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act no 35 of 84), Regulation 20(1)(a)A, all equid movements into, out of and within the AHS controlled area require a veterinary movement permit issued by the responsible state veterinarian. This permit is known as an AHS Movement Permit.
- 5.1.4. The DAH has granted exemption from the requirement for an AHS Movement Permit for some equine movements. Table 1 below includes a summary of movements that require an AHS Movement Permit and/or a Health Certificate for Movement and/or a Pre-notification of Movement.
- 5.1.5. For the purpose of movements of equids to, across or from land in the AHS controlled area, in terms of Regulation 20(1), the DAH has hereby defined the responsible state veterinarian as the SV: Boland. Thus only the SV: Boland may issue AHS movement permits and no other state veterinarian is permitted to do so.
- 5.1.6. It is the responsibility of the owner or manager at origin and destination as well as other role-players such as transporters to ensure that for movements where an AHS Movement Permit is required, a valid AHS Movement Permit accompanies the equids during transport and that all the conditions of such a permit are complied with.

Table 1: Equine movements requiring AHS veterinary movement control

<b>Origin and Destination</b>	<b>AHS Movement Permit required</b>	<b>Health Certificate for Movement and Pre-notification required</b>
From the AHS infected zone to any of the zones in the AHS controlled area	Yes	Yes
From any of the zones in the AHS controlled area to the AHS infected zone	No	No
Within the same zone in the AHS controlled area	No	No

<p>From a zone of higher control to a zone of lower control within the AHS controlled area, i.e.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From the AHS free zone to the AHS surveillance zone OR</li> <li>• From the AHS surveillance zone to the AHS protection zone OR</li> <li>• From the AHS free zone to the AHS protection zone.</li> </ul>	No	No
<p>From a zone of lower control to a zone of higher control within the AHS controlled area, i.e.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From the AHS surveillance zone to the AHS free zone OR</li> <li>• From the AHS protection zone to the AHS surveillance zone OR</li> <li>• From the AHS protection zone to the AHS free zone.</li> </ul>	No	Yes

5.2. The conditions for movement include requirements for identification, AHS status of the area of origin, vaccination against AHS and health certification. In addition to the requirement for a permit, the table below serves as a summary of the requirements for direct equine movements from the AHS infected zone to the AHS controlled area.:

Table 2: Direct AHS movement permits

<b>For direct movements of equines from the AHS infected zone to the AHS controlled area:</b>	
Identification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The equine must be identified by a passport compliant with the AHS Control SOP: Acceptable Identification of Equines</li> </ul>
Area of origin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ASD must be of low risk for the state veterinary area or portion of the area (partial risk) of origin of the equine</li> <li>• There must have been no case of AHS within a 30 km radius of the equine's area of origin for the preceding 40 days</li> </ul>
Vaccination against AHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The equine must have been vaccinated with an effective remedy by a veterinarian not more than 24 months and not less than 40 days before movement</li> </ul>
Health certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The equine must be clinically healthy. The health certification for movement must be completed by a veterinarian not more than 72 hours prior to movement of the equid</li> </ul>
Pre-notification of movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The movement must be pre-notified by the veterinarian to SV: Boland within 72 hours of the movement occurring</li> </ul>
<i>Additional requirements for donkeys and imported horses are contained in Section 6 of this VPN</i>	
<i>This table is not applicable to zebra and their hybrids. Please refer to Section 7 of this VPN.</i>	

### **5.3. Identification**

#### **5.3.1. Passports**

- a) All equines that move into the AHS controlled area or into a zone of higher control within the AHS controlled area, must be identified by means of a passport compliant with the standards as set out in the AHS Control SOP: Acceptable Identification of Equines.
- b) The passport must accompany the equine at all times and where possible, throughout the equine's life.
- c) A passport serves as official identification of an equine only if it complies with the standards as set out in the AHS Control SOP: Acceptable Identification of Equines.
- d) A list of approved passports for movement will be made available from SV: Boland on request.

#### **5.3.2. Microchipping**

- a) To enhance traceability, it is recommended that all horses that move into or between zones in the AHS controlled area are permanently identified with an ISO and ICAR compliant microchip.
- b) These microchip numbers should be recorded in the equine's passport.

### **5.4. Vaccination requirement against AHS**

5.4.1. If the equine originates from a holding, either in the AHS infected zone or AHS protection zone, it must have been vaccinated against AHS, according to Table 2 of the Regulations of the Animal Diseases Act, by a veterinarian, in accordance with Rule 5 of the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act, using an effective remedy as prescribed by the vaccine manufacturer at least 40 days, and not more than 24 months, prior to movement.

5.4.2. If the equine originates from a holding in the AHS surveillance zone it must not have been vaccinated against AHS during the past 40 days.

- 5.4.3. Vaccination against AHS must be performed by a veterinarian and recorded in the equine's passport and the passport must accompany the equine during its journey.
- 5.4.4. The vaccination certificate for AHS included in the passport of the equine serves as an official certified vaccination history of an equine only if it complies with the requirements as set out in the AHS Control SOP: Acceptable Identification of Equines.

## **5.5. Area Status Declaration (ASD)**

- 5.5.1. This is a declaration by the responsible state veterinarian or delegated authorized official, of the AHS risk status of a state veterinary area under his/ her supervision.
- 5.5.2. Auditable records of every Area Status Declaration will be kept by SV: Boland.
- 5.5.3. Area Status Declarations from adjacent state veterinary areas may need to be considered where appropriate.
- 5.5.4. An Area Status Declaration may be of high, partial or low AHS risk. A State veterinary area cannot be considered low risk if any suspect or confirmed AHS cases have been reported within that area during the previous 40 days. A partial risk Area Status Declaration may be issued when the State Veterinarian at origin is of the opinion a defined portion of his/her area (e.g. the 30 km around an outbreak of AHS) is of high AHS risk but that the remainder of his/her area is of low enough AHS risk to permit direct movements into the AHS controlled area.
- 5.5.5. If, for any reason, an Area Status Declaration cannot be obtained by SV: Boland for an area, AHS movement requirements will be the same as for an area with a high risk Area Status Declaration.
- 5.5.6. Any issued Area Status Declaration may be retracted and amended at any time and with immediate effect by the responsible state veterinarian or delegated authorized official or the DAH.
- 5.5.7. When issuing an Area Status Declaration, the state veterinarian must consider at least the following factors:
  - a) Suspected or confirmed cases of AHS in the area;

- b) Extent and reliability of reporting of equine diseases in the area;
- c) Climatic conditions in the area and the time of year;
- d) The AHS vector situation and incidence of other vector borne diseases (such as Equine Encephalosis);
- e) Large populations of wild/feral equids in the area.

## **5.6. AHS Movement Permit**

- 5.6.1. Please see *Table 1: Equine movements requiring AHS veterinary movement control* in this VPN with regard to whether a movement requires an AHS Movement Permit. Where an AHS Movement Permit is required, no equine may be moved without such a permit issued by SV: Boland and in any way other than in accordance with the conditions set out in the permit.
- 5.6.2. Application for an AHS Movement Permit must be made by the responsible person, in writing, on an approved application form, available from [www.myhorse.org.za](http://www.myhorse.org.za), to SV: Boland.
- 5.6.3. AHS Movement Permits are valid for one movement only unless specified on the permit.
- 5.6.4. All conditions stipulated on the AHS Movement Permit must be complied with.
- 5.6.5. The AHS Movement Permit is only valid for movement if accompanied by a valid compliant passport, a valid Health Certificate for Movement and a valid AHS Vaccination Certificate, all certified by a veterinarian as described in the AHS Control SOP: Acceptable Identification of Equines.
- 5.6.6. Any issued AHS Movement Permit may be retracted if there is a change in the risk profile at origin, e.g. in the event of an AHS outbreak or for any reasons the state veterinarian at origin or SV: Boland may determine.
- 5.6.7. It is the responsibility of the owner or manager at origin and destination as well as other role-players such as transporters to ensure that the AHS Movement Permit is valid before movement of the equine.
- 5.6.8. In the event that an AHS Movement Permit is cancelled, SV: Boland must immediately inform the original applicant and the state veterinarian at origin.



- 5.6.9. In the event that a horse arrives at a holding without a valid AHS Movement Permit, the owner/ manager of the holding must immediately inform SV: Boland. The horse must not be off loaded and should be transported out of the AHS controlled area.
- 5.6.10. Where permission from SV: Boland or the DAH (as required) is given for a deviation from any of the movement requirements, the AHS Movement Permit must include details of any additional conditions specific to such a permission.
- 5.6.11. Equids moving between control zones of the AHS controlled area from a zone of lower control to a zone of higher control, are exempt from the requirement for an AHS Movement Permit, provided all other movement requirements are complied with, namely a valid compliant passport, a valid Health Certificate for Movement and a valid AHS Vaccination Certificate, all certified by a veterinarian as described in the AHS Control SOP: Acceptable Identification of Equines. The veterinarian who completes the health certification for movement must complete the relevant Pre-notification for movement form and send it to SV: Boland within 72 hours after examination of the equine.

## **5.7. Health Certificate for Movement**

- 5.7.1. A valid Health Certificate for Movement (HCM) certifies that an equine was inspected by a veterinarian before movement and found to comply, to the best of the attending veterinarian's knowledge, with the requirements contained in the Health Certificate for Movement, as detailed below:
- a) The equine showed no clinical signs of disease,
  - b) The equine has not been in contact during the last 15 days (as far as can be ascertained) with another equid suffering from an infectious or contagious disease,
  - c) The equine does not originate from an area where veterinary restrictions pertaining to diseases communicable to equidae are in force and does not come from a holding under veterinary restrictions,

- d) The equine does not come from a holding where there has been a case of AHS during the past 40 days,
- e) The equine was vaccinated according to the vaccination requirements as described in this VPN.

5.7.2. The Health Certificate for Movement must be completed by a veterinarian.

5.7.3. The examination for the Health Certificate for Movement must be performed within 72 hours prior to the movement of the equine.

5.7.4. The Health Certificate for Movement must be completed in the valid passport in accordance with the AHS Control SOP: Acceptable Identification of Equines and must accompany the equine during its journey.

5.7.5. Where permission from SV: Boland or the Director: Animal Health (as required), is given for a deviation from any of the movement requirements, the private veterinarian must complete the Health Certificate for Movement as directed by the conditions included in the AHS Movement Permit, and must make note of such deviations in the Health Certificate for Movement in the passport.

5.7.6. After issuing a Health Certificate for Movement, the private veterinarian must immediately notify SV: Boland should he/she become aware of any AHS suspect or confirmed AHS cases within 30km of the holding during the following 14 days.

## **5.8. Pre-notification of movement**

5.8.1. **It is the responsibility of the veterinarian completing the Health Certificate for Movement to notify SV: Boland of the intended movement of the equine within 72 hours of the movement.**

5.8.2. This notification must be performed by completing and sending the official Pre-notification of Movement form available at [www.myhorse.org.za](http://www.myhorse.org.za) as prescribed by SV: Boland using the email address specified on the form.

5.8.3. The Pre- notification form must include at least the following information:

- a) The passport number of the equine;
- b) The date of completion of the Health Certificate for Movement;

- c) The date of intended movement of the equine;
- d) The holding of origin and destination of the equine;
- e) The most recent AHS vaccination details of the equine.

Only Pre-notifications signed by a veterinarian are acceptable.

5.8.4. Where permission from SV: Boland or the DAH (as applicable) is given for a deviation from any of the movement requirements, the private veterinarian must complete the Pre-notification as directed by the conditions included in the AHS Movement Permit, and must make a note of such deviations on the Pre-notification form.

**5.8.5. After issuing a Pre-Notification of Movement, the private veterinarian must immediately notify SV: Boland should he/she become aware of any AHS suspect or confirmed AHS cases within 30km of the holding during the following 14 days.**

## **5.9. Movement from high risk areas**

5.9.1. Direct movements of equids to the AHS controlled area from the AHS infected zone are not permitted if there has been a case of AHS within a 30 km radius of the equid within the last 40 days.

5.9.2. Direct movement to the AHS controlled area from the AHS infected zone is not permitted where the Area Status Declaration is either:

- a) of high AHS risk status or
- b) of partial AHS risk status where the equine originates from a holding in a high AHS risk area within a state veterinary area classified as partial risk.

5.9.3. Additional risk mitigation requiring quarantine and agent identification testing at a laboratory approved by the DAH will be required for all equines moving into the AHS controlled area when the Area Status Declaration at origin is of high AHS risk status.

5.9.4. These movements must be performed in compliance with the current official version of one of the following protocols as directed by SV: Boland:

- a) AHS Control SOP: Standards for the Registration, Management and Movement through a Stop Over Quarantine Facility; or
- b) AHS Control SOP: Standards for the Registration, Management and Movement through a Vector Protected Quarantine Facility for African Horse Sickness Control.

5.9.5. Where a “Stop Over Quarantine” or a “Vector Protected Quarantine” is used, only a SV: Boland registered “Stop Over Quarantine” or “Vector Protected Facility for AHS Movement Control” may be used for this purpose.

5.9.6. SV: Boland is under no obligation to issue an AHS Movement Permit for movement into the AHS controlled area from a “Stop Over Quarantine” or from a “Vector Protected Facility for AHS Movement Control”. The AHS risk will be taken into account before a permit is issued and SV: Boland may cancel an AHS Movement Permit, if granted, at any time.

## **6. Supplementary movement controls for equines**

### **6.1. Movement of foals equal to or younger than 6 months of age**

6.1.1. An AHS movement Permit can be issued by SV: Boland for the movement of an unvaccinated foal without a passport, from the AHS infected zone into the AHS controlled area or from a zone of lower control to a zone of higher control within the AHS controlled area under the following conditions:

- a) A written application for a movement permit and a written application for a dispensation is submitted to SV: Boland ([move@myhorse.org.za](mailto:move@myhorse.org.za)) on the prescribed application forms;
- b) The foal is not more than 6 months of age;
- c) If the foal is accompanied by the biological dam or a foster dam:
  - i. the mare must comply with the AHS movement requirements for a registered equine as described in this VPN;
  - ii. The foal must be identified by means of an identification diagram supplied by SV: Boland that complies with the identification as described in the AHS Control SOP: Acceptable

Identification of Equines. The diagram must accompany the permit application and the foal date of birth must be specified in the permit application and subsequent Pre-notification of movement. If the foal is microchipped the microchip number should be included on the permit application;

- d) If the foal is not accompanied by the biological dam or a foster dam, the foal must be identified by means of a passport that complies with the requirements as described in the AHS Control SOP: Acceptable Identification of Equines;
- e) All other conditions for movement from the AHS infected zone into the AHS controlled area or from an AHS zone of lower control to and AHS zone of higher control within the AHS controlled area apply.

6.1.2. Any equine equal to or older than 7 months of age must comply with the standard requirements for movement of an equine.

## **6.2. Movement in the case of a medical emergency**

6.2.1. An AHS movement Permit can be issued by SV: Boland for the movement of an equine into the AHS controlled area or into a zone of higher control within the AHS controlled area for medical treatment in the case of a medical emergency. Movement will only be permitted to veterinary holdings approved for AHS risk mitigation purposes by SV: Boland..

6.2.2. Please contact SV Boland at [move@myhorse.org.za](mailto:move@myhorse.org.za) or 021 011 4363 in the case of a medical emergency.

## **6.3. Movement of donkeys and mules**

6.3.1. The Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act no 35 of 84) includes donkeys and mules under the definition of "equines". Donkeys and mules do not regularly move into the AHS controlled area or between zones in the AHS controlled area. In order to facilitate the movement of donkeys and mules into the AHS controlled area or between zones within the AHS controlled area, donkeys and mules may be moved under the conditions for the

movement of registered equines, with additional risk mitigation measures. All movement requirements as for a registered equine described in “Chapter 5: Movement controls of registered equines” apply to donkeys and mules including:

- a) Passport identification
- b) Vaccination against AHS
- c) Area Status Declaration
- d) AHS Movement permit
- e) Health certificate for Movement
- f) Pre-notification of movement

6.3.2. As donkeys and mules may not readily show clinical signs of AHS and the infectious period in donkeys and mules is not well established, the Health Certificate for Movement does not provide sufficient information to address the risk for movement of donkeys and mules moving from the AHS infected zone into the AHS controlled area. Therefore, in addition to the standard movement conditions, the following requirements must be complied with:

- a) Donkeys and mules must test negative for AHS using a validated agent identification test at a DAFF approved laboratory on a sample taken not more than 72 hours prior to movement;
  - i. As there is often difficulty in phenotypically distinguishing individual donkeys and mules, these animals must be microchipped and the microchip number must be recorded in the identification section of the passport and the microchip number must be checked when these animals are sampled.
  - ii. The veterinarian must ensure that the correct animals as stated on the AHS movement permit and identified in the passport are sampled.

#### **6.4. Movement of equines imported from countries not recognized as free from AHS by South Africa and not subject to post-importation quarantine**

6.4.1. Direct movement of these equines into the AHS controlled area of South Africa from their country of origin is not permitted.

- 6.4.2. No equine may be moved into the AHS controlled area without obtaining an AHS movement permit from SV: Boland and in compliance with all associated or stipulated conditions contained on the permit.
- 6.4.3. SV: Boland may only consider issuing an AHS movement permit for movement into the AHS controlled area for equines imported from countries not recognized as free from AHS by South Africa, under one of the following conditions:
- a) Following importation, the equine must be resident in an area within the AHS infected zone of South Africa that has been issued a low risk ASD, with proof of arrival in such an area, for 40 continuous days before the intended date of movement to the AHS controlled area;
- OR
- b) The equine must be moved to the AHS controlled area through an authorized AHS Stop-Over Quarantine (SOQ) Facility in the AHS infected zone in accordance with the "AHS Control SOP: Stop Over Quarantine. This will specifically be indicated on the import permit application and details will be included on the South African import permit, including the specific Stop-Over Quarantine facility to be used.
- 6.4.4. All other relevant requirements for movement as described in Chapter 5 of this VPN must be complied with before SV: Boland will consider issuing an AHS movement permit.
- 6.4.5. If movement through an AHS Stop-Over Quarantine Facility in the AHS infected zone is selected:
- a) The completed application form for import of horses not subject to post- importation quarantine to move an equine into the AHS controlled area via a Stop-Over Quarantine Facility, must be submitted to the SV: Boland or an authorized representative with confirmation of the facility booking for SOQ.
  - b) The SV: Boland or an authorized representative will verify the booking as well as the estimated dates of the booking at the registered Stop-Over Quarantine on the application form for an import permit.

- c) The SV: Boland or an authorized representative will submit the application for an import permit directly to the permit office of the Directorate Food Imports and Export Standards (vetpermits@daff.gov.za) once the relevant section of the import permit application form has been completed. The SOQ facility will be named in the veterinary import permit.

## **7. Movement controls for zebra and their hybrids**

### **7.1. General considerations**

- 7.1.1. Zebra and their hybrids may only be moved into the AHS controlled area from the AHS infected zone onto a property registered to keep zebra and they may only be moved during the AHS low vector activity period. For these movements, this period will be confined to the months of July, August and September each year. This period may be reduced or changed by SV: Boland in consultation with the DAH if there is a change in the epidemiology of AHS.

### **7.2. Area Status Declaration (ASD)**

- 7.2.1. Zebra and their hybrids may not be moved into the AHS controlled area from the AHS infected zone unless the Area Status Declaration at origin is classified as low risk.

### **7.3. Procedure for movement of zebra from the AHS infected zone into the AHS controlled area**

- 7.3.1. Zebra and their hybrids may not be moved into the AHS controlled area without an AHS Movement Permit issued by SV: Boland;
- 7.3.2. Zebra and their hybrids must have been kept in a pre-translocation facility in a low risk state veterinary area, pre-approved by the local state veterinarian and SV: Boland, for at least 21 days prior to the intended date of translocation to the AHS controlled area. This low risk area must comply with the same requirements as a low risk state veterinary area for an AHS Stop Over Quarantine Facility (See AHS Control SOP: Standards



for the Registration, Management and Movement through a Stop Over Quarantine Facility);

- 7.3.3. Applications must be submitted to [zebra@myhorse.org.za](mailto:zebra@myhorse.org.za) at least 14 days prior to the initial movement into the pre-translocation facility;
- 7.3.4. A pre-translocation facility must be adequately fenced and may not exceed 5 hectares in size. Family groups should be housed together in camps of approximately 1 hectare in size. Where a boma is used, at least 10m<sup>2</sup> should be allocated to each animal;
- 7.3.5. The owner/manager of the zebra and their hybrids must obtain written permission to use the pre-translocation facility from the local state veterinarian and SV: Boland prior to the start of a pre- translocation period. The owner/manager must notify both SV: Boland and the state veterinarian at origin in writing prior to the start of the 21 day pre-translocation period;
- 7.3.6. Zebra and their hybrids must be identified by means of the following:
  - a) All zebra and their hybrids that move into the AHS controlled area must be permanently identified with an ISO and ICAR compliant microchip and the microchip number must be recorded on the movement application, sample submission forms and on the permit;
  - b) During the pre -translocation and transport period an additional visible temporary individual identification is required, (consider painted numbers as an example) which must be recorded on the movement application and on the permit.
- 7.3.7. Zebra and their hybrids are exempt from the requirement of a veterinary examination within 72 hours of departure, as zebra do not readily show any clinical signs of AHS.
- 7.3.8. As zebra do not readily show clinical signs of AHS and the infectious period in zebra is not well established, zebra and their hybrids must test negative for AHS using an agent identification test performed at a laboratory approved by the DAH on a sample collected under state veterinary supervision before the start of the pre-translocation period and a second sample collected not less than 21 days after the start of the pre-translocation period. The supervising private veterinarian must ensure

that both the temporary identification number and microchip number appear on the sample submission form. This testing will be at the owner's expense.

7.3.9. Pre-notification of movement as described for registered horses must be sent to SV: Boland on the prescribed form.

7.3.10. At destination, the local state veterinarian or designated official may conduct a visual inspection to confirm the temporary identification of the zebra or their hybrids as indicated on the permit.

#### **7.4. Procedure for movement of zebra within or out of the AHS controlled area**

7.4.1. Zebra and their hybrids may not be moved between, within or out of any zone in the AHS controlled area without an AHS Movement Permit issued by SV: Boland. Applications must be sent to [zebra@myhorse.org.za](mailto:zebra@myhorse.org.za) at least 7 days prior to the movement.

7.4.2. All zebra and their hybrids that move to a zone of higher AHS control within the AHS controlled area should be permanently identified by means of the following:

- a) An ISO and ICAR compliant microchip and the microchip number must be recorded on the permit.
- b) During the transport period an additional visible temporary individual identification is required (consider painted numbers as an example).

7.4.3. Zebra that reside permanently in the AHS controlled area are not regarded as high risk, however, for surveillance purposes, when zebra are moved within or out of the AHS controlled area, good quality samples must be taken from each zebra and submitted timeously to SV: Boland for agent identification testing at a DAFF approved laboratory. The cost of this testing will be covered under the surveillance programme, i.e. this testing will not be at the owner's expense. An approximate age for each zebra should be included on the sample submission form.

7.4.4. SV: Boland will only issue a movement permit if he/she is satisfied that the movement of the zebra or their hybrids does not present a risk, based

on the history of outbreaks in the area, the time of the year and available test results.

- 7.4.5. Pre-notification of the date of movement with confirmation of the microchip numbers, details of temporary identification and blood sample collection must be sent to SV: Boland on the prescribed form to [zebra@myhorse.org.za](mailto:zebra@myhorse.org.za).

## **7.5. Vaccination**

- 7.5.1. Zebra and their hybrids may not be vaccinated against AHS as there is no AHS vaccine registered for use in zebra and their hybrids.

## **8. Multiple Movement Permits**

- 8.1. SV Boland may consider waiving the requirement for a Health Certificate for Movement to be completed within 72 hours before movement and issue a Multiple Movement Permit for temporary same day return movements of registered horses valid for a period of 12 months under the following conditions:
- a) The horse, holding at origin and all movement conditions comply with the AHS Control SOP: Multiple Movement Permit System;
  - b) The horse is vaccinated according to the movement requirements of the AHS zone of origin;
  - c) The horse is identified by a passport and microchip that complies with the AHS Control SOP: Acceptable Identification of Equines.
- 8.2. Only temporary same day movements from the following holdings will be considered for a Multiple Movement Permit:
- a) Between registered holdings in the AHS protection zone and nominated holdings in the AHS surveillance zone or AHS free zone;
  - b) Between registered holdings in the AHS surveillance zone and nominated holdings in the AHS protection zone or AHS free zone;
  - c) Between registered holdings in the AHS free zone and nominated holdings in the AHS surveillance zone or AHS protection zone.

- 8.3. The holding of origin must be registered by SV: Boland according to the AHS Control SOP: Multiple Movement Permit System. The holding of destination must be on the list of nominated holdings for movement submitted to SV: Boland.
- 8.4. SV: Boland will keep the local SV informed of all Multiple Movement Permit System registered holdings in his/her area.
- 8.5. The horse must only be moved from origin to destination and back to origin on the same day and within daylight hours.
- 8.6. Monthly health attestations as described in the AHS Control SOP: Multiple Movement Permit System must be completed for all horses registered for a Multiple Movement Permit by both the veterinarian and the owner/manager of the registered holding.
- 8.7. The owner/manager of the Multiple Movement Permit System registered holding of origin must keep a census and register of all equid movements onto and off the holding, updated online in the prescribed format by the 7<sup>th</sup> day of each month, while the multiple movement permit is valid. The register must contain at least the following information:
  - a) An up to date census of all equids on the holding;
  - b) A record of all equid movements onto or off the holding. All temporary movements of registered horses under the Multiple Movement Permit system as well as permanent movements of equids must be recorded.
- 8.8. When travelling under the conditions of the Multiple Movement Permit the horse must be accompanied by a valid passport as described in the AHS Control SOP: Acceptable Identification of Equines as well as the Multiple Movement Permit in hard copy or an electronic copy on a device that accompanies the horse.
- 8.9. Additional requirements may be implemented by SV: Boland or the local state veterinarian, based on risk management.
- 8.10. A Multiple Movement Permit may be retracted in the event of any non-compliance or a change in the AHS risk status, as determined by SV: Boland and the local state veterinarian.

- 8.11. It is the responsibility of the owner/manager of the registered holdings of origin and destination, as well as the owner/manager of the horse registered for a Multiple Movement Permit, as well as the transporter of the horse to ensure that the Multiple Movement Permit is valid before movement takes place.

## **9. Auditable Records**

- 9.1. SV: Boland must retain copies of:
  - 9.1.1. Applications for movement or applications for vaccination permissions,
  - 9.1.2. All related correspondence,
  - 9.1.3. Permits issued for movement and vaccination permissions issued,
  - 9.1.4. Applications for movement permits or vaccination permissions that are denied,
  - 9.1.5. Area Status Declarations.
- 9.2. All records must be kept in an easily accessible electronic or hardcopy format and be made available to the DAH upon request.
- 9.3. A record of any exemption granted from a requirement of this VPN must be kept by the owner/manager of the equid and SV: Boland.
- 9.4. Monthly statistics relating to movements, registrations and vaccination permissions must be generated and kept by SV: Boland on request from the DAH.

This is the end of the Veterinary Procedural Notice for African horse sickness Control. The AHS Control SOP's referred to in the VPN are listed under point 10 below and are available on the DAFF website or from SV: Boland or from your local state veterinarian.

## **10. Annexures to this VPN**


- 10.1. The following AHS Control SOP's form the annexures to this VPN:
  - 10.1.1. AHS control SOP: Acceptable Identification of Equines
  - 10.1.2. AHS Control SOP: Standards for the Registration, Management and Movement through a Stop Over Quarantine Facility;

10.1.3. AHS Control SOP: Standards for the Registration, Management and Movement through a Vector Protected Quarantine Facility for African horse sickness Movement Control;

10.1.4. AHS Control SOP: Multiple Movement Permit System;

10.1.5. AHS Control SOP: Maps of the African horse sickness Control Zones;

10.2. Please note that the AHS Control SOP's referred to in the VPN may be accessed and downloaded from the DAFF website or are available on request from SV: Boland or your local state veterinarian. Please ensure you refer to the latest version of this VPN and the latest version of the associated AHS Control SOP's.

Signature	
Name	Dr Mpho Maja
Designation	Director: Animal Health
Date	2019 -12- 0 4