	<p align="center">DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES DIRECTORATE: ANIMAL HEALTH</p>
	<p align="center">AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS CONTROL STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE: ACCEPTABLE IDENTIFICATION OF EQUINES</p> <p align="center">Version 2</p>
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1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to describe the minimum standards acceptable for identification documents and vaccination and health certification for AHS control purposes:
 - a) for all equines that move into the AHS controlled area;
 - b) for all equines that move into a zone of higher control within the AHS controlled area;
 - c) for all equines that reside in the AHS free zone;
 - d) for all equines that reside in the AHS free or AHS surveillance zones for which permission to vaccinate against AHS is requested.
- 1.2. The identification document is an indivisible permanent record called an equine passport that includes a record for appropriate AHS control purposes (identification diagram, description of identification, AHS vaccination certificate and AHS health certification for movement) that must be kept for each equine by the responsible person.

2. Legislation

- 2.1. The Animal Diseases Act 1984 (Act no 35 of 1984):
 - a) 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). 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). Therefore, all statutory requirements applicable to controlled diseases are applicable to AHS.
 - b) 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.
 - c) 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;*

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

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

2.2. A register as described above does not constitute veterinary certification in terms of Rule 5 *Issuing of Veterinary Certificates* of the *Rules Relating to the Practising of Veterinary Professions GNR.1082 of 9 November 2015* under the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act of 1982 (Act no 19 of 1982).

2.3. Rule 5 *Issuing of Veterinary Certificates* of the *Rules Relating to the Practising of Veterinary Professions GNR.1082 of 9 November 2015* of the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act of 1982 (Act no 19 of 1982) Rules and Regulations pertaining to the issuing of veterinary certificates and the identification of animals:

a) Rule number 5 of the rules relates specifically to veterinary certification and states among other points:

i. A veterinary professional may only certify those matters of which

- *he/she has personal knowledge;*
- *can be ascertained by him/her personally; or*
- *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.*

ii. Rule 5 (6) states when issuing a certificate, a veterinary professional must ensure that

- *the certificate contains his/her signature and in clear, legible lettering, his/her name, qualifications, registration number and the physical address of the registered facility and, where applicable his/her official or practice stamp;*
- *he/she completes any manuscript portions in ink;*

- *the certificate contains no deletions, other than those, which are indicated on the face of the certificate to be permissible, and subject to such deletions being initialled by the certifying veterinary professional;*
 - *no correction fluid to be used on a certificate; and*
 - *no blank spaces on any certificates exist that may be used by another person to alter the original.*
- 2.4. The latest official version of the Veterinary Procedural Notice for African horse sickness Control, available on the DAFF website, www.daff.gov.za >branches> Agricultural Production Health and Food Safety>Animal Health> Information.
- 2.5. The latest official version of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code chapter 5.12: Model Passport for International Movement of Competition Horses.
- 2.6. This document does not supersede any other relevant legislation.

3. Definitions and abbreviations

- 3.1. **“AHS”** African horse sickness
- 3.2. **“Breed registering authority”** as defined in terms of the **Animal Improvement Act 62 of 1998**, means an animal breeders' society or a group of animal breeders' societies which is registered as such in terms of section 8 (7) (a) (ii) of said Act.
- 3.3. **“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.
- 3.4. **“Equine”** means and includes all horses, mules, and donkeys , but excludes zebra.
- 3.5. **“FEI”** means the International Equestrian Federation.
- 3.6. **“Identification diagram”** is the diagram where the colour, markings, whorls, scars, iron or freeze brands or tattoos, and other identifying features of an equine

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are recorded in a diagram in a passport that complies with the minimum standards as set out in the AHS Control SOP: Acceptable Identification of Equines.

- 3.7. **“Import Passport”** means a passport issued by an internationally recognised breed registering authority or international competitive body.
- 3.8. **“NHA”** is the National Horseracing Authority in South Africa.
- 3.9. **“OIE”** means the World Organization for Animal Health.
- 3.10. **“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.
- 3.11. **“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.
- 3.12. **“Responsible person”** means a manager or owner of land or an owner of animals.
- 3.13. **“SAEF”** means the South African Equestrian Federation.
- 3.14. **“Supplementary Movement Control Booklet”** means a booklet linked to the passport that contains a health certificate for movement and pages to record AHS vaccinations. The supplementary movement control booklet is specifically designed to be used with an import passport that would not routinely contain the pages for AHS vaccination and the Health Certificate for Movement. Where the import passport does not include an internationally acceptable identification page with a clear diagram and written descriptions in English, an identification page should be included in the supplementary movement control booklet and should be certified by a registered veterinarian..
- 3.15. **“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.

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4. Application

4.1. This SOP is applicable to:

- a) All equines that move into the AHS controlled area or all equines that move into a zone of higher control within the AHS controlled area.
- b) All equines residing in the AHS free zone.
- c) All equines for which an application is submitted for permission to be vaccinated against AHS in the AHS free and surveillance zones.

4.2. The equines described above must be identified with a passport that complies with the minimum standards described in this SOP.

5. General

5.1. The equine passport is an indivisible permanent document that must travel with the equine. An electronic equivalent, in a format approved by SV: Boland, may be considered, but must be available at all times and travel with the equine.

5.2. It is the responsibility of the owner and manager and transporter of equines to ensure that a compliant passport accompanies the equine.

5.3. Only equines whose passports are compliant with this SOP will be considered for approval by SV: Boland for permission to enter the AHS controlled area or move to a zone of higher control in the AHS controlled area.

5.4. Only equines with a passport that is compliant with this SOP will be considered for permission to be vaccinated against AHS in the AHS free and surveillance zones.

5.5. The veterinarian must check that the identity of the equine corresponds with the identity details in the passport each time the passport is presented to the veterinarian for any certification.

5.6. The veterinarian must check that the structure of the passport is compliant with the requirements of this SOP each time the passport is presented to the veterinarian for any certification with regards to AHS.

5.7. Any new entries or alterations to the identification diagram or description, health certificate for movement or AHS vaccination certificate in the passport must be certified by a veterinarian.

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5.8. Passports frequently include sections to record additional information. Examples are listed below. Although these sections are not required for AHS movement control or residence in the AHS free zone, inclusion of this information in the passport is regarded as good practise:

- a) Equine Influenza vaccination record;
- b) Record of laboratory health tests;
- c) Record of controlled medical treatments.

6. Minimum requirements for an equine passport for movement to a zone of higher control or for residence in the AHS free zone

6.1. The passport must be bound or held together with staples, twine or glue to form an indivisible booklet with consecutively numbered pages.

6.2. The passport must have a unique passport number that is linked to a database. The recording of the name of the equine and/or the passport number on each page of the passport is considered good practise.

6.3. The passport must contain the following clearly legible information:

6.3.1. Details of the current owner of the equine, which should include

- a) full name of owner
- b) residential address of owner
- c) a telephonic contact number for the owner
- d) email address of the owner

6.3.2. The Identification of the equine

- a) Both an identification diagram and written description of the equine, as described in the OIE Terrestrial Code (Chapter 5.12), must be completed and certified by a veterinarian. It must be possible to identify the equine without reasonable doubt from the diagram and written description.
- b) The full name of the equine must be recorded legibly in the case of a named equine, or included once the equine is named.
- c) The identification diagram and written description must be completed legibly in full as prescribed by the relevant approved passport issuing

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agency, and in compliance with OIE standards. The written descriptions must be easily understandable and should therefore be written in English.

- d) If the equine cannot be positively identified without reasonable doubt from the identification diagram and written description, an additional form of permanent identification should be used such as a microchip, brand mark or tattoo.
- e) If the equine is microchipped, branded or tattooed, microchip numbers, brand marks or tattoo marks must be recorded in full on the identification diagram and certified by a veterinarian.
- f) No line should be left blank.
- g) In the case where the passport is not issued with the completed identification already printed in the passport, and the identification is completed after the passport is issued, there must be some form of visible validation of the identification to indicate the completed identification has been recorded in the database.
- h) Correction fluid must never be used anywhere in a passport.
- i) Minor alterations to the identification diagram and written description in the passport e.g. the inclusion of acquired scars or castration are permitted. All alterations should be certified by a veterinarian.
- j) Major alterations may require that a new passport is issued.

6.3.3. Health Certificate for Movement

- a) The Health Certificate for Movement is a page in the passport that contains the specific declaration of the health status of the equine for AHS movement control and includes multiple rows in which the details of each movement can be recorded.
- b) A veterinarian must certify that the equine complies with the conditions stated in the health certificate for movement for every movement subject to AHS movement control.
- c) The Health Certificate for Movement must include the following conditions, and movement must commence within 72hrs from the time of certification:

I, the undersigned, inspected this registered equine and certify that it:

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- i. showed no clinical signs of disease,*
 - ii. has not been in contact during the last 15 days (as far as can be ascertained) with other equidae suffering from an infectious or contagious disease,*
 - iii. 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,*
 - iv. does not come from a holding where there has been a case of African horse sickness during the past 40 days,*
 - v. originates from a holding, either;*
the African horse sickness infected area or African horse sickness protection zone and was vaccinated against African horse sickness by a veterinarian using a registered polyvalent African horse sickness vaccine as prescribed by the vaccine manufacturer at least 40 days , and not more than 24 months, prior to movement,
or
the African horse sickness surveillance zone and was not vaccinated against African horse sickness during the past 40 days.
 - vi. Furthermore, I undertake to pre-notify the SV: Boland of the movement of this equine.*
- d) The veterinarian must examine the equine, enter the origin, destination and date of examination as well as certify the declaration on the Health Certificate for Movement within 72 hours prior to movement.
- e) In the case of an imported equine with a passport from the country of origin, a supplementary movement control booklet that contains the Health Certificate for Movement must accompany the passport and be linked to the passport via the passport number. The imported equine must be microchipped and the microchip number must be recorded in both the passport and the supplementary movement control booklet.

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6.3.4. Vaccination Certificate against AHS

- a) The AHS vaccination must be performed and certified by a registered veterinarian in the passport at the time of vaccination.
- b) The Vaccination Certificate against AHS must provide for the veterinarian to certify the following in accordance with Rule 5 of the Veterinary and Para Veterinary Professions Act 19 of 1982:
 - i. Date of vaccination for each bottle of vaccine,
 - ii. Batch number of each bottle of vaccine.
- c) In the case of an imported equine the AHS vaccinations must be recorded in the supplementary movement control booklet.

6.3.5. Unique Passport Number

- a) A unique passport number must be issued by an approved passport issuing agency as defined in this SOP or by SV: Boland.

6.3.6. Passport Database

- b) The unique passport number must be linked to a database kept by the approved passport issuing agency or by SV: Boland, which can be accessed by the competent authority if required.
- c) 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.

7. Supplementary Movement Control Booklet for passports issued outside of South Africa (Import passports)

It is recognized that in countries where AHS is not endemic or not officially controlled by the veterinary authorities, equine passports may not contain all the relevant or compliant sections related to AHS movement control and vaccination. Supplementary Movement Control Booklets are used together with the import passport for AHS Control. The import passport may only be considered acceptable for movement into the AHS controlled area, or movement into a zone of higher control within the AHS controlled area, or vaccination

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within the AHS surveillance zone or AHS free zone or residence within the AHS free zone, provided it complies with the following:

- 7.1. The passport should be compliant with the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, Chapter 5.12.;
- 7.2. The identification diagram, description and passport number must comply with the requirements as set out in this SOP;
- 7.3. The passport must have a unique passport number that is linked to a database that can be accessed by the competent authority;
- 7.4. A supplementary movement control booklet issued by the relevant South African approved passport issuing agency or SV: Boland is obtained by the responsible person and kept with the import passport at all times.
- 7.5. The supplementary movement control booklet is only valid if:
 - 7.5.1. it is used in conjunction with the import passport,
 - 7.5.2. it is linked to the import passport by means of the unique passport number and microchip number,
 - 7.5.3. it is bound or held together with staples, twine or glue to form an indivisible booklet with consecutively numbered pages,
 - 7.5.4. it contains the following:
 - a) a cover page clearly referencing the import passport number, microchip number, registered horse name and the name of the relevant approved passport issuing agency in South Africa (see example: Section 9).
 - b) a Health Certificate for Movement as described in point 6.3.3 (see example section 9.3).
 - c) an AHS vaccination page as described in point 6.3.4 (see example 9.4).
 - 7.5.5. Where the import passport does not include an internationally acceptable identification page as described in point 6.3.2 (see example 9.2), the identification page should be completed in the supplementary movement control booklet and should be certified by a veterinarian.

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8. AHS vaccinations recorded prior to a completion of a compliant identification diagram in a validated passport

- 8.1. AHS vaccinations recorded prior to a completion of a compliant identification diagram in a validated passport are generally not acceptable as certification by a veterinarian for AHS movement control or AHS vaccination control purposes.
- 8.2. SV Boland may consider whether AHS vaccinations recorded prior to completion of a compliant identification diagram in the validated passport can be acceptable as certification by a veterinarian for AHS movement control or AHS vaccination control purposes.
- 8.3. The veterinarians involved in vaccinating and identifying the equines must provide to SV Boland alternative identification and records that clearly demonstrate the equine was positively identified by the veterinarians at the time of vaccination:
 - 8.3.1. Auditable veterinary records must be submitted to SV Boland by the veterinarians.
 - 8.3.2. Veterinary records must clearly show the vaccinations performed and the vaccination dates.
 - 8.3.3. Veterinary records must clearly and unambiguously identify the vaccinated animals. This identification must demonstrate equivalence to a passport identification e.g., a microchip number and date of implantation (if this date is known), any unique branding or tattoos, complete and suitable photographs, identification diagrams of the equine or equivalent.
 - 8.3.4. The alternate identification method must have been present in the record at the time of vaccination.
 - 8.3.5. Veterinary records should have been kept and managed by the relevant veterinary practice.

9. Duties of the approved passport issuing agency

The control and management of equine passports is an important aspect of ensuring the information therein is reliable and a true reflection of the health status of the equine. Therefore, in addition to the passport itself complying with the requirements of this SOP, for a passport to be approved by the DAH for AHS control purposes the approved passport issuing agency must be able to demonstrate to the DAH reasonable control over the following:

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- 9.1. Linking of unique passport numbers to the equine identification diagram for that equine in the database;
- 9.2. It should be clear from visual inspection of the passport that the approved passport issuing agency has captured the completed identification diagram in a database. A dated stamp on the completed identification diagram indicating that this has been performed is ideal, but a verification system approved by the DAH will also be accepted;
- 9.3. A contact point for reporting of detected discrepancies, problems or fraudulent activities in connection with the passports issued;
- 9.4. Management of invalid, lost or stolen passports or any passport that should be cancelled for any reason;
- 9.5. Management of secure access to the central database by the competent authority.

10. Guideline documentation for a passport

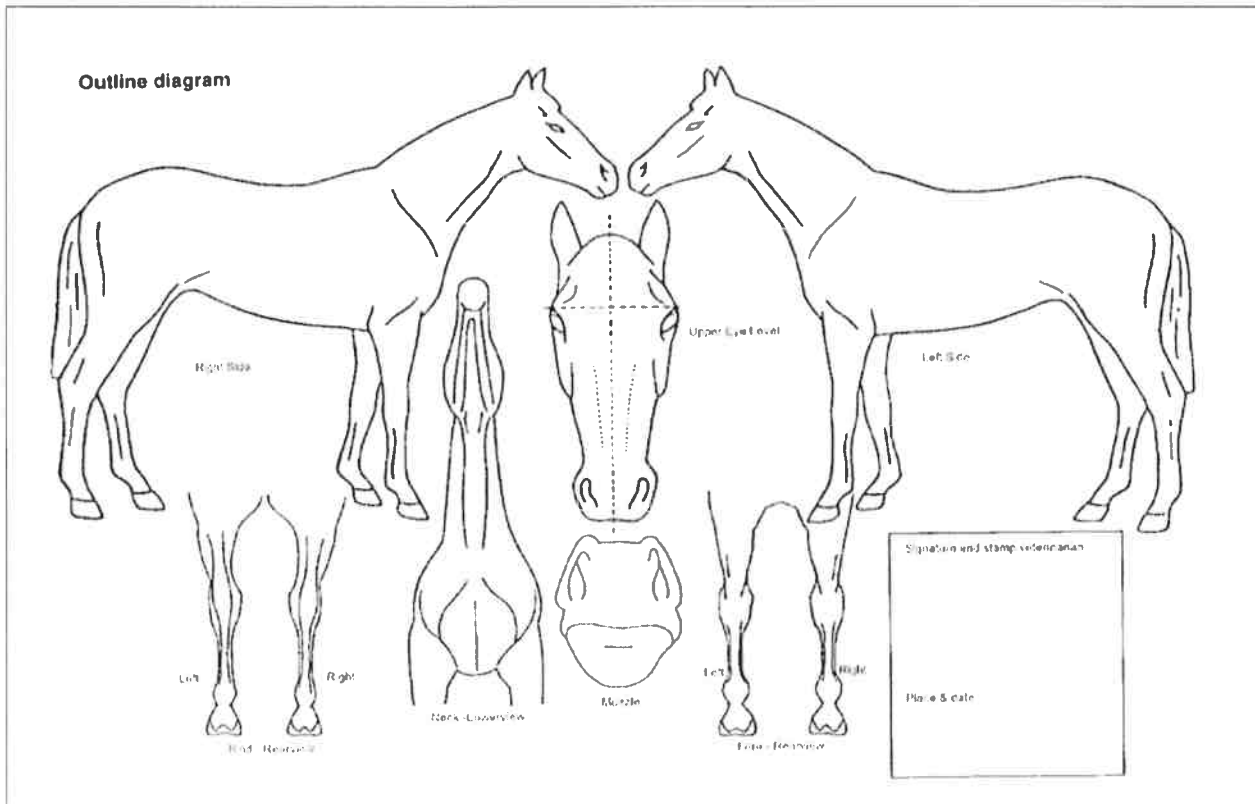
Examples of the minimum requirements for a passport are included below:

10.1. DETAILS OF OWNER OF EQUINE

Unique Passport Number and issuing authority:	e.g. 1234567890 issued by SAEF, the Western Cape Government, FEI, Studbook, NHA
Registered horse name	
Full Name of Owner	
Physical Address of Owner	
Contact Number of Owner	
Email/Fax Address of Owner	

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10.2. IDENTIFICATION DIAGRAM AND DESCRIPTION OF EQUINE



Unique Passport Number and issuing authority:	e.g. 1234567890 issued by SAEF, WC Government, FEI, Studbook, NHA
Full Name of Equine:	
Colour:	
Gender:	
Year of birth: (if verified)	
Breed Type: (if known)	
Microchip Number:	

Description of body (including brands/scars etc):

Description of head markings:

Written description of leg markings		
Left Fore		Hoof
Right Fore		Hoof
Left Hind		Hoof
Right Hind		Hoof

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10.3. HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR MOVEMENT

I, the undersigned, inspected this registered equine and certify that it:

- i. Showed no clinical signs of disease,
- ii. Has not been in contact during the last 15 days (as far as can be ascertained) with other equidae suffering from an infectious or contagious disease.
- iii. 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,
- iv. Does not come from a holding where there has been a case of African horse sickness during the past 40 days,
- v. Originates from a holding, either;

The African horse sickness infected area or African horse sickness protection zone and was vaccinated against African horse sickness by a veterinarian using a registered polyvalent African horse sickness vaccine as prescribed by the vaccine manufacturer at least 40 days, and not more than 24 months, prior to movement,

Or

The African horse sickness surveillance zone and was not vaccinated against African horse sickness during the past 40 days.

Furthermore, I undertake to pre-notify the state veterinarian: Boland of the movement of this equine.

NB. Movement must commence within 72hrs of signature of this certificate by your veterinarian.

ORIGIN			DESTINATION			DATE EXAMINED	NAME AND ADDRESS OF CERTIFYING VETERINARIAN	SIGNATURE OF CERTIFYING VETERINARIAN
Date of departure	District	Holding	Date of Arrival	District	Holding			

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10.4. AHS VACCINATION RECORD

VACCINATIONS AGAINST AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS

Every vaccination against AHS which the equine undergoes must be entered clearly and in detail on this sheet in the space provided below


Date of Vaccination			Type, Name Batch No of vaccine	Name and address of Veterinarian	Signature and stamp of Veterinarian
DD	MM	YY			
			AHS 1		
			AHS 2		
			AHS 1		
			AHS 2		
			AHS 1		
			AHS 2		
			AHS 1		
			AHS 2		
			AHS 1		
			AHS 2		
			AHS 1		
			AHS 2		
			AHS 1		
			AHS 2		
			AHS 1		
			AHS 2		
			AHS 1		
			AHS 2		

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10.5. Example of a cover page for a supplementary movement control booklet

Unique Passport Number and issuing authority:	e.g. 1234567890 issued by SAEF, Western Cape Government, FEI, Studbook, NHA
Registered horse name	
Microchip number	
Full Name of Owner	
Physical Address of Owner	
Contact Number of Owner	
Email Address of Owner	
This supplementary movement control booklet is only valid when used in conjunction with a valid import passport and it must be linked to the horse's import passport by means of the unique passport number and the horse's microchip number.	

This is the end of the AHS control SOP: Acceptable Identification of Equines.

Signature	
Name	Dr Mpho Maja
Designation	Director: Animal Health
Date	2023 -02- 15

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