	<p align="center"><b>DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES</b> <b>DIRECTORATE: ANIMAL HEALTH</b></p>
	<p align="center"><b>AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS CONTROL STANDARD</b> <b>OPERATING PROCEDURE:</b></p> <p align="center"><b>STANDARDS FOR THE REGISTRATION, MANAGEMENT AND MOVEMENT THROUGH A STOP OVER QUARANTINE FACILITY</b></p>
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## Part A

### PURPOSE, SCOPE AND APPLICATION

#### 1. Purpose

1.1. The purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to describe the minimum standards acceptable for:

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- a) The registration of Stop Over Quarantine (SOQ) facilities in the AHS infected zone and AHS protection zone;
- b) The management of a SOQ in the AHS infected zone and AHS protection zone;
- c) The movement of horses through a SOQ in the AHS infected zone and AHS protection zone.

## 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) 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). 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.

### 2.2. The latest official version of the Veterinary Procedural Notice (VPN) for African horse sickness Control, available on the DAFF website, [www.daff.gov.za](http://www.daff.gov.za) >branches> Agricultural Production Health and Food Safety>Animal Health> Information.

### 2.3. This document does not supersede any other relevant legislation.

## 3. Definitions and Abbreviations

- a) **AHS**” African horse sickness
- b) **“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

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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)

- c) **“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.
- d) **“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.
- e) **“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.
- f) **“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 in the AHS Veterinary Procedural Notice (VPN).
- g) **“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.
- h) **“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 facilities that are registered or may be considered for registration as a SOQ for AHS movement control;
- b) All state veterinarians (SV's), veterinarians and other officials involved in the inspection, registration and monitoring of SOQ's for AHS movement control;
- c) All owners, managers, and other role-players who are involved in the registration, management and operation of a SOQ for AHS movement control;
- d) All owners, agents and transporters who make use of, or transport horses to or from a SOQ facility.

## 5. Scope

5.1. The aim of a SOQ is to facilitate movement of registered horses into the AHS controlled area from the AHS infected area:

- a) Where an AHS movement permit cannot be issued for direct movement of horses due to the AHS risk status of the area of origin;
- b) Where a horse has not been vaccinated against AHS according to the requirements set out for the movement of registered horses in the latest official version of the Veterinary Procedural Notice for African horse sickness Control available on the DAFF website, [www.daff.gov.za](http://www.daff.gov.za) >branches> Agricultural Production Health and Food Safety>Animal Health> Information; or a horse has not been vaccinated in accordance with the AHS vaccine manufacturer's recommendations. A horse that has been vaccinated in the AHS infected area less than 40 days before movement may not move into the AHS controlled area through a SOQ facility;
- c) Where an imported horse that is not subject to post-importation quarantine at point of entry has not undergone a 40 day residency period in the AHS infected zone of South Africa;
- d) Any other equine directed to undergo SOQ prior to movement into the AHS controlled area by the SV: Boland or the National Director: Animal Health (DAH).

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# Part B

## PROCEDURE FOR REGISTRATION OF A STOP OVER QUARANTINE FACILITY

### 1. General

- 1.1. SOQ facilities for AHS must be approved by and registered with SV: Boland for this purpose;
- 1.2. SOQ facilities must be situated in the AHS protection zone or in low risk areas within the AHS infected zone;
- 1.3. SOQ facilities, although approved and monitored by state veterinary authorities, are not state owned enterprises and are constructed, maintained and managed commercially by private individuals;
- 1.4. The state veterinary services are not responsible for any costs associated with a SOQ or the costs associated with the protocol for movement through a SOQ, i.e. all costs are incurred at the owner's expense;
- 1.5. The state veterinary services does not have any influence on the fees charged by SOQ facilities and is not a party to the contractual agreement between the owner and the SOQ in any way and not liable in any way for losses or damages caused to either party whatsoever;
- 1.6. The manager of the SOQ is responsible for ensuring that the SOQ protocol is followed;
- 1.7. The manager of the SOQ is responsible for the welfare and care of the horses at the SOQ facility;
- 1.8. The registration of a SOQ facility is valid for one year and registration must be renewed annually.

### 2. Application to register a SOQ Facility

- 2.1. The owner/manager of the facility must apply in writing to the SV: Boland, for the registration or renewal of registration of a SOQ facility. The application will be assessed by SV: Boland in collaboration with the local state veterinarian;

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2.2. The documents listed below must be presented to SV: Boland on application for registration:

- a) "SOQ Facility Application for Registration or Re-registration", available from SV: Boland, must be completed and signed by the applicant (owner/manager), the applicant/owner's appointed private veterinarian and the local state veterinarian responsible for verifying the AHS risk status of the area and supervision of the SOQ facility;
- b) "SOQ Manager Declaration" appropriate for the type of SOQ facility (i.e. vector protected SOQ in the protection zone or SOQ in the infected area), available from SV: Boland, must be completed and signed by the applicant (owner/manager) responsible for the maintenance and management of the SOQ facility;
- c) A clearly marked site plan. The purpose of the site plan is to assess the function of the facility as a SOQ, the proximity of other equidae and the risk posed by potential vector breeding sites. The site plan must indicate:
  - i. Where the proposed SOQ facility will be situated on the holding as well as the surrounding structures on the premises, particularly structures within 200m of the stable facility where the horses in SOQ will be housed during the high vector activity period of the day;
  - ii. Boundary fences, access points, loading areas, roads and any rivers, marshy or vlei areas that could be a breeding site for large numbers of midges;
  - iii. The known farming or business activities involving equidae conducted on the neighbouring properties;
  - iv. The species and estimated number and proximity of other equidae on the holding and equidae on neighbouring properties;
  - v. A plan of the stabling facility and paddocks that will be used to house horses under the SOQ protocol.

2.3. A standard operating procedure (SOP) for operation of the SOQ, including staff training, access control, individual animal temperature and disease monitoring and sample collection and handling;

2.4. A standard operating procedure (SOP) in the case of a suspicion of an infectious

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disease in a SOQ horse or in the case of a positive AHS test result on day 14 of SOQ;

- 2.5. A standard operating procedure (SOP) for transport to a veterinary hospital for emergency veterinary care. The name, address and contact details of the veterinary hospital must be included. If the veterinary hospital is situated in the AHS controlled area, the veterinary hospital must have a vector protected isolation facility and be able to manage the horse under vector protected conditions. The horse must remain at the veterinary hospital under vector protected conditions for the balance of the 14 day SOQ period, or may be returned to the SOQ facility where possible. The horse may only move to a veterinary facility within the AHS controlled area with permission from SV: Boland;
- 2.6. Application for registration of a SOQ facility must be submitted at least two months prior to intended use of the facility for AHS control purposes;
- 2.7. Application for re-registration of a SOQ facility must be submitted at least two months prior to expiry of a previous registration.

### **3. Inspection to approve a SOQ**

- 3.1. If the site and stabling plans indicate the facility may be suitable for registration, the SOQ facility will be inspected by SV: Boland. SV: Boland may delegate this function to the local state veterinarian or an authorized official.
- 3.2. The owner/manager of the SOQ facility and the inspecting official must agree upon a suitable date for the inspection.
- 3.3. The basis for approval will be compliance with the requirements as described in this SOP. The inspecting official will inform the owner/manager of the SOQ facility of any additional information that may be required for the inspection.
- 3.4. Records of all correspondence, standard operating procedures, registers, checklists and inspection reports must be kept for auditing purposes by the manager of the SOQ facility and SV: Boland.
- 3.5. The inspecting official will be responsible for the following actions/procedures:
  - a) Consultation with the local state veterinarian and SV: Boland regarding the AHS risk status and suitability of the holding based on:

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- i. Historical incidence of AHS from published information or local SV personal knowledge;
    - ii. Consideration of disease reporting, relevant environmental factors and equid populations in the area in relation to AHS risk. The local state veterinarian must have reasonably accurate equid census data and be satisfied with the reporting of equine diseases in the area;
    - iii. The assessed administrative capabilities of the manager and the operational suitability of the holding;
    - iv. The current risk status of the state veterinary area where the facility is located. The incidence of AHS in the area must be low for at least the last two years. If there has been a case of AHS recorded within a radius of 30 km of the SOQ in the previous 40 days, or within the SOQ, the local state veterinarian must include a reasonable level of active surveillance in the area to re-confirm the low risk status of the area.
  - b) Inspection of the potential SOQ facility according to this SOP to confirm that:
    - i. The SOQ facility and holding complies with the requirements and conditions of this SOP and any additional requirements as deemed necessary by SV: Boland or the local state veterinarian;
    - ii. The standard operating procedures and registers for the facility are available and comply with the requirements for a SOQ facility;
    - iii. The facility and holding corresponds with the site and stable plans provided.
  - c) Completion of the SOQ Facility Inspection Report obtained from SV: Boland with descriptive comments within 10 working days of the inspection. The inspection report must be forwarded to the owner of the SOQ facility and SV: Boland.
- 3.6. If the SOQ facility does not comply with the requirements of this SOP or is deemed unsuitable for any other reason:
- a) The inspecting official must provide the owner/manager and SV: Boland with a detailed report with the reasons why the SOQ facility cannot be approved;
  - b) If relevant, the inspecting official must arrange for another inspection when the

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owner/manager indicates that all the deficiencies identified have been rectified.

- 3.7. If the SOQ facility is found suitable and compliant with the requirements of this SOP, SV: Boland will issue the registration certificate. The original certificate will be sent to the owner/manager, a copy will be sent to the local SV and a copy will be filed for auditing purposes.

#### **4. Listing of a SOQ for AHS movement control**

- 4.1. All registered SOQ's must be listed in an official "List of Registered Stop- Over Quarantine Facilities" compiled and regularly up-dated by SV: Boland.

- 4.2. The list of registered SOQ facilities must contain the following information for each SOQ facility:

- a) Registration number of facility as assigned by SV: Boland;
- b) Registered name and address of the SOQ facility;
- c) Type of SOQ facility, i.e. SOQ in the protection zone or SOQ in the infected area;
- d) Name, contact telephone numbers and an email address of the owner/manager of the SOQ facility;
- e) Name, contact telephone numbers and an email address of the person at the SOQ facility who will be responsible for bookings (if different from the owner/manager);
- f) Name, contact telephone numbers and an email address of the local state veterinarian;
- g) Province;
- h) District/municipality.

#### **5. Re-Registration of a SOQ facility**

- 5.1. The registration of a SOQ facility is valid for a period of 1(one) year;

- 5.2. The owner/manager of a registered SOQ facility must contact SV: Boland in writing and complete the "SOQ Facility Application for Registration or Re-registration", available from SV: Boland, at least two months before the expiry date of the

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- registration certificate, to arrange for a re-inspection of the SOQ facility;
- 5.3. Copies of site and stable plans need not be submitted annually, unless there are major structural changes that have taken place;
  - 5.4. Copies of inspection reports with check lists and SOP's evaluated during the inspection and a record of all correspondence must be kept for auditing purposes by the owner/manager of the facility and SV: Boland;
  - 5.5. SOQ facilities may only be re-registered once the application for re-registration has been received, evaluated and approved by SV: Boland;
  - 5.6. Re-registration applies to the annual re-registration of SOQ facilities. It does not apply to a new application or to facilities that have had their registration revoked for any reason or where registration has lapsed.

## **6. De-Registration of a SOQ**

- 6.1. The registration of the SOQ facility can be withdrawn at any time, at the discretion of the SV: Boland and the local SV, if there is a change in the AHS risk status of the area or if any shortcomings or non-conformances are detected;
- 6.2. If a SOQ facility has not been re-inspected and re-registered prior to the end of the one year registration period, the facility will automatically be de-registered on the date of expiry;
- 6.3. The registration of an SOQ facility will be withdrawn if the manager of the SOQ facility is changed without prior notice and consultation with SV: Boland.

# **Part C**

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR A SOQ FACILITY**

If the SOQ facility is situated in the AHS protection zone, additional requirements as detailed under Part E in this SOP: "Additional requirements for a SOQ in the AHS protection zone", apply.

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## **1. General structural requirements for a SOQ facility**

- 1.1. The SOQ facility should not be located within 100m of stagnant water filled with organic matter or within 100m of compost heaps, or within 100m of other features that are likely midge breeding sites. This includes all areas where SOQ horses are stabled, handled, grazed or worked;
- 1.2. A warning sign must be placed at the entrance to the SOQ facility, indicating that it is a quarantine area and that unauthorized access is not permitted;
- 1.3. The stable building must be a solid structure with floors that are easy to clean and doors that can be closed;
- 1.4. The SOQ stables, camps, work areas and loading facilities must be of suitable repair and construction to ensure the smooth functioning of the facility, safety of the handlers and welfare of the horses;
- 1.5. Good drainage must be available to prevent pools of standing water after rain or cleaning to limit potential breeding sites for vectors;
- 1.6. Disposal methods for garbage/waste of all kinds and discarded equipment must limit the formation of midge breeding sites and must be in accordance with all relevant requirements of South African law;
- 1.7. An office must be available at the SOQ facility for safe and orderly storage of records.

## **2. General management requirements for a SOQ facility**

- 2.1. The SOQ facility must be managed in accordance with Part D: "Protocol for movement through a SOQ facility";
- 2.2. Horses must be individually identified before the start of the SOQ period with a passport that complies with the requirements of the AHS control SOP: Acceptable Identification of Equines. The passport must accompany the horse at all times;
- 2.3. All standard operating procedures and registers specified under Part B: "Procedure for Registration of a Stop Over Quarantine Facility" and Part D: "Protocol for movement through a SOQ facility" must be kept by the owner/manager of the SOQ facility in an auditable format and be readily accessible at the facility to the local state veterinarian, consulting private

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- veterinarian or SV: Boland, even if the owner/manager is not present;
- 2.4. Standard operating procedures and registers must be kept for a period of two years or from registration of the facility if registration occurred less than 2 years previously;
  - 2.5. A veterinary hospital must be nominated by the SOQ facility manager for referral of any horses that may require emergency treatment. If the veterinary hospital falls within the AHS controlled area, the hospital must have a vector protected isolation facility that is approved by SV: Boland;
  - 2.6. No unauthorized persons may be allowed entry into the SOQ facility;
  - 2.7. The SOQ horses must be managed and housed separately from any resident equines on the property or, where separate housing is not possible, the resident equines must be managed under the same conditions as the horses in SOQ;
  - 2.8. SV Boland must be informed immediately if there are major structural changes to the facility or holding or if there are any management changes at the SOQ as these changes may necessitate suspension of the registration of the SOQ until re-inspection and re-approval has occurred;
  - 2.9. SV: Boland must be informed of any known changes in the activities on the SOQ holding and neighbouring holdings that involve equidae;
  - 2.10. The local state veterinarian and SV: Boland must immediately be informed of any suspect or cases of AHS in the area.

## **Part D**

### **PROTOCOL FOR MOVEMENT THROUGH A SOQ FACILITY**

1. The owner/manager or agent of the horse must apply to SV: Boland for a permit for horses to move through a SOQ facility. A movement permit application form must be completed in full and sent to [move@myhorse.co.za](mailto:move@myhorse.co.za) before the horse is moved to the SOQ facility;
2. The owner/manager or agent of the horse must book directly with the SOQ manager and ensure confirmation of the booking is received, i.e. booking space at the SOQ is the

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responsibility of the owner/manager or agent of the horse and not the local state veterinarian or SV: Boland;

3. The SOQ manager, local state veterinarian or SV: Boland may require additional risk mitigation in the form of a negative RT-PCR test for AHS, run at a laboratory approved by the DAH before horses may enter the SOQ facility;
4. The SOQ may operate an “all in all out” system at the discretion of the local state veterinarian, SV: Boland and/or the SOQ manager;
5. The SOQ manager must notify the local SV and SV: Boland by email to [move@myhorse.co.za](mailto:move@myhorse.co.za) of the arrival of the horse. The arrival notification email must include the name of the horse, passport number and/or microchip number, date and time of arrival, estimated date of departure and confirm the horse appears clinically healthy;
6. Day 1(one) of the SOQ period will only start after SV: Boland has given written permission for the SOQ period to start. SV: Boland will only confirm the start of the SOQ period if:
  - a) The SOQ manager has provided all the required details in the written notification of the arrival of the horse received by SV: Boland, and
  - b) The AHS movement permit application with all supporting documentation has been received by SV: Boland and is compliant.
7. Each horse must spend at least 14 continuous, consecutive days in SOQ. Horses in SOQ quarantine may not leave the SOQ facility during the SOQ period.
8. Once in SOQ and until the horse is loaded and leaves the SOQ:
  - a) Horses must be stabled continuously from two hours before sunset to two hours after sunrise,
  - b) Insecticides are compounds which kill insects such as *Culicoides* midges on contact with the substance. Insect repellents are compounds which repel and prevent *Culicoides* midges from settling on, and biting, a horse. It is therefore important that both insecticides and repellents are used. A vector repellent and insecticide registered under the Fertilizers, Farm Feed, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act No.36 of 1947) (e.g. DEET 15% solution) must be applied to preferred midge biting sites, i.e. head, neck, back, tail base and belly:
    - i. Before the horse enters the SOQ stable on the first day of SOQ; and

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- ii. Before the horse exits the stable each day; and
    - iii. The vector repellent and insecticide must be reapplied according to the manufacturer's instructions throughout the period the horse is outside the stable.
  - c) The rectal temperature of the horse must be taken and recorded twice a day, in the morning and evening;
  - d) Any above normal rise in temperature or any other clinical signs that may be indicative of an infectious disease must immediately be reported to the local state veterinarian and SV: Boland. This notification should be followed with a notification in writing within 24 hours.
9. The manager of the SOQ must ensure the following registers are kept and made available to the local state veterinarian, consulting private veterinarian and SV: Boland on request:
- a) A register of staff training and education of visitors;
  - b) An access control register for staff, veterinarians and all visitors;
  - c) A register of all horse/s undergoing SOQ for traceability purposes. Horse details must be recorded including the horse name, passport number, microchip number, details of the last set of AHS vaccinations (batch, date and administering veterinarian), place of origin, date of arrival at the SOQ premises, date of the start of SOQ, sample collection date, result, laboratory reference number, departure date and destination;
  - d) A register of the temperatures for each horse in SOQ, taken and recorded twice daily, in the morning and in the afternoon;
  - e) A register of the date and time each horse was allowed out of the stables and returned to the stables during the SOQ period;
  - f) A register of each application of insecticide inside the facility with the name of the product, batch number and expiry date;
  - g) A register of each application of insecticide on the horse with the name of the product, batch number and expiry date;
  - h) A register of each application of repellent on the horse with the name of the product, batch number and expiry date;

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- i) A register describing any abnormalities or break in SOQ protocol, e.g. transport to a veterinary hospital for emergency care or if a horse escapes. If horses are removed for any reason during the SOQ period, the local SV and SV: Boland must be informed by the SOQ manager immediately, and within 24 hours in writing;
  - j) A register of disease investigations and veterinary care required for any horse in SOQ. Any clinical condition or temperature of the horse that may be suggestive of an undiagnosed infectious disease must be reported to the local state veterinarian and SV: Boland immediately, and within 24 hours in writing.
10. A minimum of 14 days after the official start of SOQ and as long as there has been no break in quarantine and no suspicion of AHS, a blood sample must be drawn by a veterinarian or authorised para-veterinary professional and submitted to a laboratory approved by the DAH for AHS RT-PCR testing.
- a) Samples may not be collected prior to day 14.
  - b) The laboratory should be contacted for their preferred sampling, packaging and transportation methods;
  - c) The laboratory submission form must be completed in full and must note that the test is for movement under the SOQ protocol;
  - d) On the day of sampling, the private veterinarian must check the temperature logs for the horse and advise SV: Boland if the temperature logs are not complete or if any irregularities were recorded.
11. SV Boland will only consider issuing a permit for the movement of the horse from the SOQ to the AHS controlled area if:
- a) Permission was granted by SV: Boland in writing for the start of the SOQ period;
  - b) There has been no break in SOQ and there is no indication that there were any irregularities during SOQ;
  - c) SV: Boland received written negative AHS test results;
  - d) The AHS risk status of the area remained low risk for the preceding 40 days.
12. The private veterinarian must complete the health certificate for movement (HCM) in the passport and pre-notify SV: Boland of the movement of the horse into the AHS controlled area.

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# Part E

## ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR A SOQ IN THE AHS PROTECTION ZONE

- The registration of a SOQ in the AHS protection zone will only be considered if the stable facility is vector protected according to the minimum standards set out in this SOP and the horses in the facility are managed under vector protected conditions, as described in this SOP.
- All of the structural, management and procedural requirements for a SOQ in the infected zone apply to a SOQ in the AHS protection zone. Additional requirements for a SOQ in the AHS protection zone are listed below.
- An AHS movement permit issued by SV: Boland is required for movement both to a SOQ in the AHS protection zone and for movement out of a SOQ in the AHS protection zone after completion of the SOQ period, i.e. two AHS movement permits are required.

### 1. Additional structural requirements for a SOQ In the AHS protection zone

- 1.1. The stable building must be constructed of solid walls and a solid ceiling with no gaps in the construction, robust enough so that the horses to be quarantined are not able to cause damage that would create a breach in vector protection or injure themselves;
- 1.2. Gates and doors to the facility should be lockable and in good working order;
- 1.3. The stable building must have sufficient space, light and ventilation to safeguard the welfare of the horses throughout the SOQ period;
- 1.4. The floor must be constructed from material that is easy to clean and does not allow pooling of water, i.e. this excludes dirt floors;
- 1.5. All air inlets and drains must be constructed with filters or screens to prevent entry of vectors. Filters and screens must be in good repair, changed regularly and must be checked before the start of each SOQ period;
- 1.6. Entry and exit must be through a double-door entry and exit system. There should be no unscreened openable doors or windows;
- 1.7. All screening must be effective against midges with netting of appropriate gauge

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e.g. 80-100 % shade cloth or equivalent vector proof material. Metal mesh is not suitable;

- 1.8. Windows must be secured, and glass should be shatter proof or covered with netting;
- 1.9. Regular maintenance must be performed by the owner/manager to ensure all screening is securely fixed so that it does not become dislodged or loose at any time and all screening is in good repair with no tears, holes or gaps through which midges may enter the building;
- 1.10. There must be a functioning automatic insecticide dispenser at all times during the SOQ period (e.g. alphacypermethrin or cypermethrin) inside the stabling area as well as inside the double door entry/exit system;
- 1.11. The SOQ facility including the paddocks, fences and working areas must be of suitable repair and construction to permit the easy and safe handling of horses and operation of the SOQ;
- 1.12. A warning sign must be placed at all entrances to the SOQ, indicating that it is a biosecure area with no unauthorized access allowed.

## **2. Additional management requirements for a SOQ In the AHS protection zone**

- 2.1. Access to the vector protected stable building must be by means of a double door entry/exit system where one of the doors must be closed if the other door is open;
- 2.2. A SOP must be in place for entry and exit through these doors;
- 2.3. The surfaces inside the vector protected building including the netting must be treated with a residual insecticide spray registered in terms of the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act No. 36 of 1947):
  - a) before the horse enters the building/stable for the beginning of the SOQ period, and
  - b) daily, before the horse re-enters the building/stable e.g. after it is worked or turned out.
- 2.4. The doors of the VP stable building must remain closed throughout the high risk period of the day. During the low risk period of the day while the horses are outside and while the stable building is cleaned, the doors may remain open for a

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- limited period to facilitate cleaning;
- 2.5. No unauthorized persons may be allowed entry into the facility;
  - 2.6. Visitors should be under the supervision of a trained staff member when in the facility;
  - 2.7. An access control register for staff, inspectors and visitors must be kept, indicating date and time of each visit, name of visitor, purpose of visit, designation, contact details and a signature;
  - 2.8. Roughage to be fed must be treated to reduce the risk of possible vector introduction to the VP stable building by immersing it in water or treating it in a method approved by SV: Boland;
  - 2.9. To reduce the risk of possible vector introduction to the VP stable building, bagged wood shavings or rubber mats must be used as bedding. Alternate bedding may only be used if it is treated in a method approved by SV: Boland;
  - 2.10. The local state veterinarian and SV: Boland must be immediately informed of any break in the VP quarantine.

### **3. Additional movement procedure requirements for a SOQ in the AHS protection zone**

- 3.1. Pre-movement to the AHS protection zone SOQ
  - a) Before horses enter the facility for the start of SOQ, the facility must be cleaned and disinfected and treated with insecticide. Sealing of the building and the functioning of the double door entry/exit system must be checked;
  - b) An AHS movement permit is required prior to entry into the AHS controlled area even though the destination is a SOQ facility;
  - c) Pre movement testing is required: The horse must test negative on a RT-PCR for AHS at a laboratory approved by the DAH on blood samples collected at the holding of origin in the AHS infected zone, not more than 72 hrs prior to intended entry into the AHS controlled area. Test results must be forwarded directly to SV: Boland (move@myhorse.org.za) and the local state veterinarian in the AHS infected zone by the owner/manager of the equine;

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- d) A Health Certificate for Movement (HCM) must be completed in the passport by the certifying veterinarian according to the AHS movement permit requirements;
- e) The certifying veterinarian must send a pre-notification of the movement to SV: Boland.

### 3.2. Post arrival at the AHS protection zone SOQ

- a) Horses in each barn or continuous airspace should be operated on an all in all out basis;
- b) Horses must be stabled in the vector protected stable building continuously from 15:00 in the afternoon to 10:00 the following morning;
- c) The horses must not leave the registered SOQ facility during the SOQ period;
- d) Entry to the vector protected stable building by personnel from 15:00 to 10:00 is only permitted through a double door entry/exit system;
- e) The SOQ manager must inform the local state veterinarian and SV: Boland within 24 hours if the horses exit the vector protected stable building between 15:00 and 10:00 the following morning, for any reason, including escape or veterinary treatment;
- f) Both an effective insecticide and an effective vector repellent (e.g. DEET 15% solution) registered under the Fertilizers, Farm Feed, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act No.36 of 1947) must be applied to preferred midge biting sites, i.e. head, neck, back, tail base and belly:
  - i. Before each instance the horses enter the vector protected building/stable; and
  - ii. Before each instance the horses exit the vector protected building/stable; and
  - iii. Reapplied according to manufacturer's instructions throughout the period the horses are outside the vector protected building/stable.

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# Part F

## RESPONSIBILITIES WITH REGARD TO THE REGISTRATION, MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF SOQ FACILITIES

SV: Boland is responsible for the inspection, registration and auditing of SOQ facilities in collaboration with the local state veterinarian. SV: Boland may delegate the inspection and auditing of a SOQ facility to the local state veterinarian or to an authorized official.

### 1. Responsibilities of SV: Boland:

- 1.1. Inspection for registration of a potential SOQ facility and associated standard operating procedures and registers in collaboration with the local state veterinarian;
- 1.2. Registration of a compliant SOQ facility by issuing an approval letter for the facility containing the following:
  - a) The name, address and registration number for the SOQ facility;
  - b) The name and contact details of the owner of the SOQ facility and the name and contact details of the approved SOQ manager;
  - c) The name and contact details of the local state veterinarian;
  - d) The name and contact details of the consulting private veterinarian;
  - e) The name and contact details of the approved veterinary hospital for emergency referral;
  - f) Proof of registration must be sent to the local state veterinarian and the owner/manager of the SOQ facility.
- 1.3. Auditing of SOQ facilities in collaboration with the local state veterinarian at least once a year;
- 1.4. Annual re-inspection of SOQ facilities for maintenance of registration in collaboration with the local state veterinarian;
- 1.5. Maintenance of a list of approved SOQ facilities;
- 1.6. Regular communication with the relevant state veterinarians, private veterinarians

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and SOQ managers;

- 1.7. Written confirmation of the start of SOQ for each horse;
- 1.8. Receipt and processing of applications to move horses into the AHS controlled area via the SOQ facilities.

## **2. Responsibilities of the certifying private veterinarian**

- 2.1. Immediate notification to the local state veterinarian and SV: Boland if there is any suspicion of an undiagnosed infectious disease that could be AHS either on the SOQ holding or on a holding within 40km of the SOQ facility;
- 2.2. Verification of the identification, AHS vaccination dates and passport of the horse;
- 2.3. Collection of samples for AHS testing on or after day 14 of SOQ;
- 2.4. Completion of the laboratory sample submission form;
- 2.5. Verification that the temperature logs of the horse are complete and that no irregularities have been noted;
- 2.6. On receipt of negative test results, completion of the health certificate for movement in the passport, not more than 72 hours prior to movement;
- 2.7. Written pre-notification of the movement to SV: Boland.

## **3. Responsibilities of the local state veterinarian**


- 3.1. Consultation with SV: Boland regarding the state vet area risk status and inspection, registration and operation of a SOQ facility for AHS movement control;
- 3.2. Inspection of the SOQ facilities, structure, operation, management and registers according to this SOP;
- 3.3. Issuing of the inspection reports as described in this SOP;
- 3.4. Consultation with SV: Boland with regard to auditing of the SOQ facilities;
- 3.5. Informing SV: Boland if any irregularities are detected or any corrective action has been taken or if there are any concerns that may increase the AHS risk at the SOQ.

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#### 4. Responsibilities of the manager of the SOQ

- 4.1. The drafting and maintenance of all standard operating procedures for:
- a) Training of staff and access control,
  - b) Operation of the SOQ facility,
  - c) Communication with the SV: Boland, the local state veterinarian and the certifying private veterinarian,
  - d) The emergency hospitalization of horses,
  - e) Maintenance and operation of vector protection if the SOQ is situated in the AHS protection zone.
- 4.2. Operation of the SOQ protocol as described in this SOP.
- 4.3. The completion of all relevant registers associated with each SOQ in a manner that is easily auditable. Registers must be available to the local state veterinarian, certifying private veterinarian or SV: Boland on request.
- 4.4. Notification of the local state veterinarian and SV: Boland (move@myhorse.org.za) in writing within 24 hours of the arrival of a new horse.
- 4.5. Communication of any rise in temperature or abnormal clinical symptoms in the horses on the holding that may indicate an infectious disease to the local state veterinarian and SV: Boland within 24 hours.
- 4.6. Communication of any irregularities or corrective action required or taken to the local state veterinarian and SV: Boland within 24 hours.
- 4.7. Release of a horse from SOQ for movement into the AHS controlled area only if an AHS movement permit has been issued by SV: Boland and received by the manager of the SOQ.

This is the end of the AHS control SOP: Standards for the Registration, Management and Movement through a Stop Over Quarantine Facility.

Signature	
Name	Dr Mpho Maja
Designation	Director: Animal Health
Date	2019 -12- 04

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