



VERY IMPORTANT: NON PEDIGREE PASSPORTS:

It has come to WAHO's attention that some owners or agents of horses imported to EU Member States from third countries, which are in Europe to stay on a temporary basis perhaps for training or showing or other competitions, have not applied for import registration with their country's relevant WAHO Registering Authority Member. Instead, they have purchased EU-compliant but non-pedigree generic passports for these horses while they are in Europe. These documents are valid for health records and travel purposes to comply with EU rules when imported horses do not already have passports issued by their country of origin. Examples include "Equidenpass" issued in Germany and "Equipas" issued in Belgium, there may be others. However, for registration purposes these generic documents are not recognized by WAHO. They cannot take the place of properly issued pedigree passports issued by WAHO Registering Authority Members, including for export and import purposes.

Please be reminded that it has been a mandatory WAHO rule since 1 January 2014 that all exported horses are required to have legally issued passports. Therefore, this situation should not still be arising. It is causing considerable problems not only for the importing registries of the horses' final destination, which must confiscate and replace these generic passports with their own correct ones, transferring all the pages with vaccination and health records, but also for international show organizers. We would therefore like to take this opportunity to remind you of the relevant subclauses (d), (e) and (f) in WAHO rule 28, clause 4:

- (d) In the case of horses which already have a legally issued passport, the importing Registration Authority shall endorse this passport with the new registration details and return it to the current owner.
- (e) An importing Registration Authority must not issue a new passport to a horse which already has a legally issued Arabian horse passport but may if necessary add pages in order to comply with their country's law.
- (f) If the imported horse has no legally issued Arabian horse passport, the importing Registration Authority must issue one. From 1st January 2014, all exported horses are required to have legally issued passports.

Furthermore, it has come to WAHO's attention that some of these importers are also having these horses microchipped on arrival in Europe without reference to the WAHO Registering Authority Member in their country, many of which have particular rules regarding microchipping, such as breed-specific microchips or requiring strict re-identification of the subject horse before a microchip is implanted. See also WAHO Rule 35 on Microchipping.