

## Equine Domestic Travel Requirements and FAQs

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### *What documents do I need in order to ship by horse across state lines?*

- Negative Coggins Test

#### *What is it?*

A blood test for equine infectious anemia (EIA), a potentially fatal viral infectious disease transferred from horse to horse by biting insects such as horseflies and deer flies. Must be drawn within 12 months prior of travel date.

- Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI/Health Certificate)

#### *What is it?*

A CVI or health certificate declares that your horse has received a veterinary examination during which he was declared healthy enough to travel. During these pre-travel examinations a veterinarian inspects a horse for obvious signs of illness, such as eye or nasal discharge. He or she also checks the horse's body temperature and evaluates the animal's weight and overall body condition. The examining veterinarian also interviews the owner to determine if the horse is eating and behaving normally, and whether the horse has been recently exposed to unhealthy animals.

An owner receives a CVI for each horse that a veterinarian deems fit for travel, a document containing identifying information about the horse and the veterinarian who examined it. Most states require the exam take place within the 30 to 60 days prior to travel. Others, however, require documentation showing that a veterinarian examined the horse within the 10 days prior to entering the state.

\*Your vet will need specific information in order to write a CVI including the name/address of destination, the name and contact information of the shipper, the date of transportation, and a copy of your horse's current coggins.

In addition to CVIs, some states require owners to obtain equine entry permits prior to arrival. It is important to look up your destination state's requirements prior to travel.

### *Why do I need a CVI/Health Certificate to travel out of state?*

Law enforcement can ask you for this documentation at a routine traffic stop. Individual states impose their own penalties for travel regulation noncompliance including fines or jail time. Commercial transport drivers can be asked to produce horses' travel documents during required weigh station stops. Complying with all of a state's regulations helps protect your horse and the horses he comes in contact with and also lays a solid paper trail.

### *What if I am shipping my horse internationally?*

**Contact your veterinarian at least 90 days prior to travel.** This will allow the veterinarian to find out requirements of the country you traveling to. Your horse must have an international health certificate, export and import papers, and proof that the USDA and customs fees have been paid, and records for any other specific health requirements listed by the country you are entering.

Know your port of entry, crossings, and contact information of the transportation company readily available along with all addresses and contact persons before contacting your veterinarian.

### ***What do I need in order to attend and compete at a horse show or event?***

*In general, you should have a copy of your current coggins and proof of your flu/rhino vaccination given within the last six months. You should also review the organizations drugs/medication policies and submit a medication report form for regularly given medications. It is the responsibility of the owner or trainer to know medication withdraw times and make sure they are adhered to.*

Here are the specific vaccination requirements for USEF/FEI governed shows/events:

#### **USEF:**

GR845 Equine Vaccination Rule 1. At Federation licensed competitions, horses entering the grounds must be accompanied by documentation of Equine Influenza Virus and Equine Herpes Virus (Rhinopneumonitis) vaccinations within six months prior to entering the stables. Horses not in compliance with this rule may be required to leave the competition grounds upon request by Competition Management.

- **In the case of vaccines administered by a veterinarian,** the exhibitor, upon request by Competition Management, must provide documentation from the veterinarian on documenting that the horse in question received the vaccinations; name of the vaccines and date of vaccine administration.
- **In the case of vaccines administered by a person other than a veterinarian,** the exhibitor, upon request by Competition Management, must provide a receipt of the vaccine purchase which is signed by the owner, or agent with care, custody, and control of the horse; name, serial number and expiration date of the vaccine; and date of vaccine administration.

#### **FEI:**

Horses must be vaccinated against equine influenza in order to compete at FEI events. Every horse's passport is checked at events to ensure that the horse has been vaccinated according to the FEI Veterinary Regulations, therefore all equine influenza vaccines that have been given to the horse must be recorded in the horse's passport. All vaccinations must be administered by a licensed veterinarian. This veterinarian does not have to be a registered FEI veterinarian. The vaccines given must be recorded in the horse's passport, signed by the veterinarian administering the vaccines and the passport must be stamped with the veterinarian's clinic stamp

## Tips for Travel

At least **one month prior** to your trip:

1. Look up the website or prize list of the show or event you wish to attend. Most competition organizers post regional or additional health requirements for exhibitors. Otherwise, call or e-mail the show coordinator with any questions you might have. Some shows/events have their own bio-security forms they require you to completed and present at check in.
2. Check the date of your horse's coggins test and vaccination status. Contact your veterinarian if you need a health certificate or an appointment to update vaccinations/coggins. A regular coggins takes up to 3-4 days to return from the lab so plan accordingly. Otherwise, you may pay additional rush fees.
3. Create a folder or binder with a copy of each horse's coggins and vaccination documentation. It is also helpful to save copies to a folder on your phone that can be accessed or sent electronically if needed.

**To recap:** At least one month prior to your trip, be sure to familiarize yourself with and take care of all equine-related travel requirements. Remember, **it is the owner or authorized agent's responsibility** to supply and present complete, legible, and original documentation that meets the destination state's health requirements. After all of your months of hard work and preparation, you and your horse deserve a productive and enjoyable experience that isn't overshadowed by quarantines or disease threats.