

Imports from Outside the EU

A horse imported into Ireland from a country outside the EU requires a passport. An application for a passport must be lodged with one of the approved passport issuing organisations within 30 days of importing the horse. If an imported horse already has a passport, the existing passport must be registered with the appropriate Irish passport issuing organisations which will record details of the animal.

Slaughter

Horses suitable for slaughter for human consumption must have a passport compliant with current veterinary requirements.

Knackeries

Horses not intended for human consumption can be disposed of through knackeries. Horses cannot be slaughtered for human consumption if there is any indication on the passport that the animal is unsuitable for the food chain.

Legislation

- U Legislation relating to equine identification is contained in The European Communities (Equine) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 357 of 2011) as amended by (S.I. 371 of 2012)
- U Passports are essential in the control and prevention of disease, in public health and animal welfare.
- U Authorised officers conduct spot checks to ensure compliance with the legislation. It is an offence to contravene this legislation.

Queries

Direct any queries in relation to equine passports to:

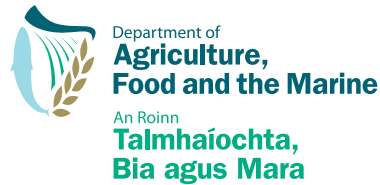
the relevant approved issuing organisation

or

Animal Identification and Movement Division,
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine,
Backweston Campus,
Celbridge,
Co. Kildare.

Telephone: (01) 505 8881

Email: horseid@agriculture.gov.ie



PASSPORTS FOR EQUINES

Horses, ponies and donkeys must have passports



Microchip

From 1st July 2009, all equines issued with a passport must have a corresponding micro-chip inserted by a veterinary surgeon.



Passport

- ⊕ An equine animal must have a passport before 31 December of the year of birth or within 6 months following the date of birth, whichever occurs later.
- ⊕ A foal must be micro-chipped and issued with a passport before it leaves the birth holding.
- ⊕ However foals under the age of six months that are unweaned and accompanied by their dam or foster mare do not need to be accompanied by a passport.
- ⊕ Passports must accompany equines whenever they are moved either within Ireland or moving out of the country.
- ⊕ A passport is valid for the lifetime of an equine.

Passport Issuing Organisations

Contact details for organisations approved by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to issue equine passports are available on the Department's website at:
<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/horses/equineidentificationdocumentspassports>

Horse Passport

Unregistered Adult Horses

Contact one of the approved passport issuing bodies to have unregistered adult horses registered, micro chipped and issued with a passport. Such horses cannot be slaughtered for human consumption as there is no recorded history of medicines given to these animals.

Cost of Registration

The cost of registration consists of a combination of the fees charged by the approved passport issuing organisation, the fee charged by the veterinary practitioner and any additional costs such as DNA costs, etc. incurred as part of the registration process.

Return of Passports to Issuing Organisation on Death of an Equine

Passports must be returned to the passport issuing organisation within 30 days of the death of the animal. Passport issuing bodies record the death of the animal.

Loss of a Passport

A keeper can apply to an approved passport issuing organisation to replace a lost passport. This passport states that the horse cannot be slaughtered for human consumption. Where the original passport is lost and the animal's identity can be established by reference to the micro-chip, the issuing body shall issue a duplicate passport. Where the original passport is lost and the animal's identity cannot be established the issuing body shall issue a replacement passport.

Imports from EU Member States

Horses imported from other EU Member States must be accompanied by a passport, which complies with the EU legislation.