

Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) Guidelines for the current application of European Commission Regulation (EC) No 504/2008

Background

Horses competing in international equestrian sport under the auspices of the World Governing Body of equestrian sport, Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI), have previously travelled either under a full FEI Passport ("FEI Passport") issued by the National Federation on behalf of the Fédération Equestre Internationale or a national identification document which has been recognised by the FEI as compliant with FEI requirements and to which an FEI Recognition Card has been applied ("FEI recognised Passport"). The Recognition Card is applied in a form that physically provides a cover for any underlying identification document recognised by the FEI as FEI-compliant and a link with an FEI registration number.

Whilst an FEI recognised Passport may provide a suitable means of identification of the horses, its purpose is also to ensure that all necessary records are provided as required at the international level of equestrian sport such as doping or medication tests, , attendance at the event, vaccination records, and disease testing results, etc.

THE APPROACH OF HORSES TRAVELLING EITHER UNDER AN FEI PASSPORT OR AN FEI RECOGNISED PASSPORT CONTINUES OUTSIDE THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU) AS BEFORE.

However as of 1 January 2010 a transition commenced within the EU to a new approach to the identification documents for horses.

On 6 June 2008 the European Commission adopted Regulation (EC) No 504/2008 implementing Council Directives 90/426/EEC and 90/427/EEC as regards to methods for the identification of equidae, which entered into force on 27 June 2008 and is applicable since 1 July 2009. The Regulation is directly applicable in all Member States and thus FEI assumes that owners and keepers of horses in the EU Member States are already aware of the provisions. FEI has been involved in the development of the identification requirements and in particular of the model passport for equidae, which differs only in small details, such as the unique life number, and the microchip, from the FEI-compliant model adopted under Decision 93/623/EEC.

From 1 July 2009, the only organizations which are permitted to issue passports to horses that are permanently resident within the EU are those which are recognised national bodies of Member States which produce passports compliant with requirements laid down in Commission Regulation (EC) No 504/2008 ("EU compliant passport"). The National Federations of the FEI are explicitly included in the list of passport issuing bodies in accordance with Article 4(1)(b) of that Regulation and they are therefore advised to devise their own compliant passports.

As the requirements for an EU compliant passport laid down in the Model in Annex I to that Regulation are in line with the requirements for an FEI recognised passport, all EU compliant passports were expected to become FEI recognised passports. Different from the Model Passport provided by the FEI, the EU passport, designed for all kinds of Equidae, includes Section VIII to be used in case of movement restrictions, and Section IX (Administration of Veterinary Medicinal Products) that is an important and mandatory component of an EU compliant passport is a Section IX. Parts I and II or Part III of this Section must be duly completed in accordance with the instructions set out in Section IX where specific medicinal treatment has been applied that is otherwise not permitted under EU legislation for food-producing animals.

The principle difference between EU requirements for a passport and FEI requirements is that as a matter of principle an EU passport is issued for lifetime and an FEI passport must be revalidated each four years.

However the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 504/2008 across EU Member States has taken place at variable rates and to very variable standards. Hence to date the FEI has not been able to issue guidance that could be applied across all Members States at once.

EU Member State governments place under their full responsibility the names of their passport issuing bodies at their national websites which are linked to a website maintained in assistance to Member States by DG SANCO of the European Commission under the following link.

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/identification/equine/ms_information_en.htm

This Q&A guidance is being issued now at a time when implementation is under way, but is not yet comprehensive, as a means to best direct National Federations of EU Member States during this time of transition to the new approach. It has been agreed with DG SANCO of the European Commission.

NOTE: NO EU RESIDENT HORSE MAY HAVE MORE THAN ONE SUCH EU COMPLIANT PASSPORT AT ANY ONE TIME.

General information on FEI Passports is available at

<http://www.fei.org/veterinary/identification-and-passports>

Information on what are FEI recognised identification documents is available at

http://twww.fei.org/sites/default/files/Annex%20XIV-National%20passports%20approved_1.pdf

FEI General Regulations

http://www.fei.org/sites/default/files/General%20Regulations%2023rd%20Edition%201%20January%202009%2C%20updates%20effective%201%20January%202011CLEAN%20versionMay%202011.doc_0.pdf

Information on EU identification requirements for horses, current EU compliant passports and relevant measures in EU Member States are "listed" at:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/identification/equine/ms_information_en.htm

A copy of Commission Regulation (EC) No 504/2008 is at

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:149:0003:0032:EN:PDF>

Questions and Answers

Does my horse need a passport in the European Union (EU) whether it is competing internationally or not?

Yes, it does. All horses born in or permanently imported into the EU need an EU compliant passport that meets the criteria of Regulation (EC) No 504/2008. A passport must be applied for from one of the national issuing bodies that meets the EU requirements .

What if I have a horse that has an existing FEI passport under the new requirements of the Regulation?

If there is an existing FEI passport, or an FEI recognised passport, it can stay in place for the lifetime of the horse, provided that it is revalidated at every appropriate time without gaps (see

what to do if the passport is lost, full or damaged). **It must have a Section IX (Administration of Veterinary Medicinal Products) inserted, if none is already present.** Parts I and II or Part III of this Section must be duly completed in accordance with the instructions set out in Section IX, to the effect that the horse is either **intended** for the human food chain, or signed that it **is not intended** for the human food chain.

In the passport model adopted in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 504/2008 the horse is considered by default as a food producing animal unless it is explicitly excluded from the food-chain by the appropriate entry in Section IX.

Under the new requirements of the Regulation, what if I have a horse that has an existing FEI passport that has not been revalidated at the correct time and has therefore expired?

If the existing FEI passport has not been revalidated every 4 years without interruption, and therefore ceases to be a current passport. This means that the document has expired" and the owner of the horse must then obtain an EU compliant passport from a recognised national issuing body, which may entail a downgrading of a "registered horse" to a horses for breeding and production.

(See what if a non expired (validated) FEI passport has been lost, damaged or is full?" below)

What is revalidation of an FEI Passport?

Revalidation occurs when an existing FEI passport/recognition card is given a further 4 year extension to its validity. It does not require a re-inspection of the horse, but it does require a revalidation of the passport, with the new expiration date of the passport being entered into the passport. This must be done at a National Federation.

What passport must I obtain for a horse born in the EU after 1st July 2009?

Only an EU compliant passport can be obtained for horse born after that date. It is very unlikely that horses of that age would be ready for FEI level competition, therefore the young horse is most likely identified for the first time and furnished with a passport for registered horses by an approved breeding organisation or with a passport for horses for breeding and production by one of the approved passport issuing bodies, other than the relevant National Federation. However when they do eventually compete under FEI rules, they must have an FEI recognition card applied to the EU compliant passport.

Does a horse, that is temporarily imported to the EU, need an equine passport that complies with the EU requirement?

If a horse with an FEI passport is temporarily admitted or temporarily imported into an EU Member State, then an EU compliant passport is **not** required and it may travel either under an FEI passport or an FEI recognised passport. http://twww.fei.org/sites/default/files/Annex%20XIV-National%20passports%20approved_1.pdf

When must a horse that is permanently imported to the EU have an equine passport that complies with the EU requirements?

If the horse with an FEI passport becomes resident in an EU Member State (see Article 8 of Regulation (EC) No 504/2008), it must have a Section IX inserted. If the FEI passport is not revalidated, then an EU compliant passport from a recognised national issuing body must be

obtained. Ideally the EU compliant passport applied for would be from the National Federation of the resident country, but this may not always be necessarily possible.

If an EU compliant passport issuing body is not currently found on the above website, then the FEI does not consider passports issued by such body as not compliant with the EU and eligible for consideration of FEI recognition and therefore no FEI recognition of such passports can take place.

What if my horse retires from FEI competition and the FEI passport ceases to be revalidated without interruption?

If the existing FEI passport ceases to be continually revalidated and therefore ceases to be a current passport and is expired, the owner of the horse must then obtain an EU compliant passport from a recognised national issuing body. Up until that time the FEI passport must have a Section IX within it.

Can I travel using an FEI passport that has not been revalidated (is expired)?

No. Any authority inspecting an out-of-date FEI passport as the only means of identification can bring a prosecution for not having a suitable means of identification. Hence an FEI passport must be current (correctly validated) or there must be a EU compliant passport from which the signs of FEI approval are removed by the National Federation and thus, in some cases the horse might be downgraded depending on the underlying EU compliant passport, to a horse for breeding and production with consequences for movements within and into the EU.

What should I do with an expired FEI Passport?

An expired FEI passport should be stamped "cancelled", and the top right hand corner clipped off. The passport can then be kept with any subsequent EU compliant passport or FEI recognition card as a record.

What must I do in order to have an equine passport that complies with EU requirements and allows a horse to compete at FEI events¹ if I do not already have an FEI passport?

A horse which is resident in a EU Member State, must obtain an EU compliant passport. Then at the point of FEI Registration, an FEI Recognition Card must be applied for.

- All EU compliant passports that are "listed" by the EU Member State concerned must be assessed as suitable identification documents for FEI purposes.
- There must also be an attempt to ascertain whether the horse is expected to undertake FEI competition.
- The FEI Recognition card is then applied to cover the EU compliant passport.

What if a passport issued and "listed on the EU website issuing body" does not appear to fully comply with the standards required by the FEI and thus by Regulation (EC) No 504/2008?

The FEI National Federations of EU Member States are the passport-issuing bodies that upgrade EU-compliant passport to FEI standards, notably by applying the FEI envelope (cover) and the recognition card. When a passport issued by a listed issuing body of an EU Member State does not appear to fully comply with the standards required by the FEI, and thus indeed by Regulation (EC) No 504/2008, the National Federation should take up these cases and concerns directly with the

¹ FEI General Regulation 137 allows for certain lower level competition without an FEI Passport or FEI Recognition Card.

government authority responsible for approving such passport issuing bodies and then, if still required, with the appropriate European Commission services.

Horses that are registered in a studbook which issues non-EU compliant passports may attempt to register the horse in a studbook of the same breed in another Member State where the issued passport complies with Regulation EC (No) 504/2008 and thus with FEI requirements.

Attention must be paid to the general requirement of a single passport at any one time for an individual horse for lifetime.

What if a believed EU compliant passport is not listed on the EU website?

If a believed EU compliant passport is not found on the above website, the National Federation must make contact with its government authorities, to ascertain if the passport is EU compliant, and then request that it be added to the website in a clear manner as a matter of urgency, Further this addition to the national website must be notified to the EU Commission to update the hyperlinks on its website.

What if the horse has an existing FEI passport, is imported from outside the EU for permanent residence and competes within EU Member States?

The current FEI passport can be kept until it expires. After that period, the horse owner must apply for an EC approved passport and then, if necessary, for an FEI Recognition Card.

What if the existing FEI passport is lost or full or damaged before the expiration date?

In the case of loss of an FEI passport the owner must, according to EU rules, apply to the National Federation for a duplicate document, if the identity can be re-established, or a replacement document if there is no proof of a former identification document. These documents are fully compliant with the EU model, as they exclude the horse from the food-chain by default.

The EU procedures for replacing lost documents prevail over FEI procedures for issuing a duplicate document, but are in principle compatible and complementary.

The same procedure applies where an EU compatible passport bears an FEI recognition card.

When a valid passport, whether FEI passport or FEI recognised passport, is full the National Federation must ensure that either missing pages are added or, where such adaptation is impossible or not practical, issue a new passport, which is not a duplicate or replacement in accordance with the EU Regulation, where necessary in consultation with the body that issued the underlying EU compliant passport. In any case, the original FEI passport or FEI recognised passport must be invalidated and then managed in accordance with the rules and procedures of the issuing body, i.e retained by the issuing body or returned to the owner in order to verify a test carried out or a vaccination applied etc .

It is advised to keep the old passport in order to retain the records of early vaccinations etc but to mark it as invalid (article 19.1 Regulation (EC) No 504/2008). The FEI advises National Federations to clip the top right corner of all invalid passports (see attached diagram)

What if the horse is moved from one Member State into another Members State to compete² at FEI events ?

The Horse continues to use its FEI passport or FEI recognised passport issued s by the EU Member State of origin.

Can an EU compliant passport be replaced if it is lost or damaged ?

Yes. And moreover, the horses shall not be kept anywhere in the EU without having a valid passport.

In case of loss or damage, the EU compliant passport must be replaced. Regulation (EC) No 504/2008 provides for different scenarios to be observed depending on the possibility to verify the identity of the horse. An EU compliant passport can be replaced either by a duplicate from the original passport-issuing body or by an entirely new version - a replacement document - of an EU passport from the current host nation. Any national version could be used, but the intention is to use one that is approved for use in the Member Sate of residence.

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² FEI General Regulation 137 allows for certain lower level competition without an FEI Passport or FEI Recognition Card.