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Guidance on criteria for risk assessment
Application of Annex II to Decision 97/794/EC to registered horses
(SANCO/454364/2014)

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According to Annex II to Decision 97/794/EC, 3% rate of sampling for serological testing does not apply to registered horses as included in the definition provided for in Article 2(c) of Directive 2009/156/EC. However, this fixed rate of blood sampling is replaced by a risk-based approach. On the basis of a risk assessment, the official veterinarian of the border inspection post shall sample any animal when it is considered necessary on the basis of his/her assessment.

In order to carry out the risk assessment, the following criteria should be considered when making a decision to sample a registered horse:

- Unsatisfactory outcome of the documentary check of the health certificate (e.g. non-compliance with the EU model, lack or inconsistency concerning the health guarantees).
- Anomalies concerning the other documents accompanying the animal (e.g. passport, declarations, laboratory results).
- Issues of identification or traceability in documents.
- Doubts or inconsistencies concerning the dates and places of testing, vaccination or any official check as indicated in the health certificate or the passport (e.g. vaccination certified in country X while identity check was recorded in the passport in country Y on the same date).
- Itinerary including a stopover in unauthorised countries, emergencies en route.
- Unexplained change of means of transportation or place of destination.
- Health alert related to the countries/regions of origin or dispatch, including countries/regions which regained recently a status to export horses to the EU after suspension.
- Suspicious clinical signs on the animal or those traveling with.
- Unreliable or suspicious age indication in the certificate (or passport) vis-à-vis the vaccination and testing (animal presented as vaccinated/tested at a date earlier than the known vaccination campaign was carried out in that country).