Information on the implementation of Commission Regulation (EC) No 504/2008 on the identification of equidae

report based on MSs' information

Unit G2 – Animal health
Directorate-General for Health and Consumers
European Commission, Brussels

This presentation does not necessarily represent the views of the European Commission
Points to discuss:

1. Equidae in numbers.
2. Central database.
4. Measures adopted by MSs to prevent the falsification of passports.
5. Links from MSs to information required by Reg. No. 504/2008.
6. Problems identified by MSs.
7. Solutions to the system proposed by MSs.
TOTAL NUMBER OF EQUIDAE – 6,946,583

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AT</th>
<th>BE</th>
<th>BG</th>
<th>CY</th>
<th>CZ</th>
<th>DE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93,000</td>
<td>259,367</td>
<td>127,772</td>
<td>5,179</td>
<td>80,112</td>
<td>461,779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DK</td>
<td>EE</td>
<td>EL</td>
<td>ES</td>
<td>FI</td>
<td>FR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>38,219</td>
<td>725,182</td>
<td>74,100</td>
<td>930,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR</td>
<td>HU</td>
<td>IE</td>
<td>IT</td>
<td>LT</td>
<td>LU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24,176</td>
<td>74,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>499,217</td>
<td>28,808</td>
<td>9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LV</td>
<td>MT</td>
<td>NL</td>
<td>PL</td>
<td>PT</td>
<td>RO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,964</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>400,000</td>
<td>323,640</td>
<td>80,541</td>
<td>729,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>SI</td>
<td>SK</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td>CH</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>362,000</td>
<td>26,768</td>
<td>16,540</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>89,039</td>
<td>65,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
total number of equidae
Registered / breeding and production – **2.246.743 / 2.741.923**

(no data from DE, FI, MT, NL, UK)
## Central Database

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries with CDB</th>
<th>Countries without CDB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AT, BE, BG, CH, CZ, DE, DK, EE, <strong>EL</strong>, ES, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SI, SK,</td>
<td>CY (2), <strong>EL</strong>, FI (2), <strong>IE</strong> (under development), NO, SE, UK,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Alternative methods for identification as the only method for identification

1. Branding – hot iron/ freeze (CZ (2.271), HU (for registered horses – 5.357), SE (trotting horses), SK),
2. Eartags for equidae for slaughter (ES, FR (1.892)),
3. DNA markers (AT (7.800 combined with brands), PL (181 trakehner - combined with brands), SI (2)).

NOT USED/ ALLOWED: BE, BG, CH, CY, DE, DK, EE, EL, FI, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, NO

Combined with transponder: HR (branding and DNA), RO (branding), PT (branding), HU (branding – horses for breeding and production)
Measures adopted by MSs to prevent the falsification of passports

Technical specifications:

- Serial number of the document,
- Hologram,
- Logo of issuing body,
- High quality of the paper, secured paper (watermarks, UV, unique colour marks, special shape),
- The integrity of the cover (special binding),
- Passport made in a way that changing of pages is not possible (special binding),
- Original signature and stamp of competent authorized person (approving horse description as well),
- Embossing on the cover and pages,
- Graphical and written description of the horse mandatory,
- Printed directly from the Central database.
Measures adopted by MSs to prevent the falsification of passports

**Others:**

- Original passport is scanned and electronically saved,
- Veterinarian's check (of transponder) before issuing a duplicate of passport,
- Consultation with the Central database before issuing a passport,
- After death or slaughtering of equidae the passports are rendered invalid by the official vet and they are sent to the contact point. The passports are checked by the contact point, the horses are cancelled from the official database and passports are sent back to the issuing bodies.
Information required by Commission Regulation (EC) No. 504/2008

**art. 4(5)** - Issuing bodies for equine passports,

**art. 5(6)** - Identification of equidae – derogation for a time limits on identification,

**art. 7(2)** - Derogations concerning the identification of certain equidae living under wild or semi-wild conditions,

**art. 12(4)** - Alternative methods for identification,
**Information required by Commission Regulation (EC) No. 504/2008**

- **art. 14(2)** - Derogation for certain movements and transport without or with simplified identification documents (smart card),
- **art. 23(3)** - the name, address and sixdigit UELN-compatible identification code of the central databases,
- **art. 23(4)** - a contact point to receive the attestation referred to in Article 19(1)(c) – info on equidae which has been slaughtered, killed or died.
Links from MSs to the information required by Commission Regulation (EC) No. 504/2008

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/identification/equine/ms_information_en.htm
Problems identified by MSs

1. Difficulties in establishing the **total number of equidae** presented on the territory of MS.

2. Difficulties in establishing the **number of registered horses and equidae for breeding and production**.

3. Not all MSs provided the data on **number of passport issued**, for equidae born before and after 1 July 2009.

4. Not all MSs assume that equidae for which identification documents are issued after the deadline (art. 5(6) of Reg. No 504/2008) should be excluded from the food chain.
Problems identified by MSs

5. Not all MSs receive passports of horses sent for slaughter to another MS (a very small number of passports is returned to issuing bodies after slaughter of equidae).

6. Not all MSs monitor the purpose of horses traded and monitor/analyse data on confirmation of slaughter of dispatched equidae.

7. Some MSs allow return a horse from the slaughterhouse to the owner when a horse delivered to the slaughterhouse has no passport or there are some irregularities with the passport.

8. Not all MSs have procedures on supervision/control of passport issuing bodies.
Solutions to the system proposed by MSs

1. Number of issuing bodies and models of passports should be decreased.
2. A Central database in all MSs and a central contact point should be designated.
3. To make the complete description of the horse mandatory (or use of pictures if it allows the identification of the horse).
4. To use a plastic film in the passport to avoid modification of the horse’s description.
Solutions to the system proposed by MSs

5. A Central database in EU accessible for competent authorities of MSs where models of passport, issuing body’s stamps, official flying chapter IX models, list of vets authorized to delivered flying chapter IX are collected from all Member States. Possible link to CDB of MSs.

6. To put the stamp of the vet or the issuing body part on the sticker and part on the sheet in order to avoid replacement of the sticker.
Solutions to the system proposed by MSs

7. The horse’s description must be recorded in the Central database.
8. The exclusion of the horse from the food chain must be updated in the database.
9. Microchips should be supplied only to vets and the traceability of the microchip should be ensured.
10. Each implantation of a microchip must be officially certified in the passport and registered in the database (including the date).
Solutions to the system proposed by MSs

11. Registration of residence of equidae: the end goal is for all horses to add the owner and the residence information in a central database (like the identification and registration of cattle). Preferable to arrange this on European level.

12. Registration of the movements of all equidae between MSs, for example in Traces.

13. Holding register where records are kept from a central database (like in cattle/sheep/goats).