
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 14 APPROVED

SUBJECT MATTER: Vesicular Stomatitis Import Requirements

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In light of the recent vesicular stomatitis disease outbreak, the inconsistency of interstate import requirements has been the topic of great interest. In order to protect the equine industry from the introduction of disease, it is essential for State Animal Health Officials (SAHOs) to establish and adhere to adequate and proven import regulations for interstate movement. These requirements should be based on science that considers the risk of disease incursion and the associated economic repercussions. In 2015, when the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) delisted Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV), the United States Department of Agriculture utilized science to change VSV response policies. The revised 14-day quarantine reflects the scientific evidence that the virus is contained within the vesicle and does not persist beyond a few days post vesicle rupture. Import requirements including restrictions of equines within prescribed areas, such as a ten-mile radius and VSV testing requirements, have questionable foundations in the science of VSV epidemiology. Lastly, it is important to recognize that equine owners and venue managers can experience undue economic hardship from overly restrictive interstate import requirements that are not based on scientific risk. Furthermore, regulatory uniformity would benefit all concerned parties, including equine owners, accredited veterinarians, equine venue managers, and the United States as a whole.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges State Animal Health Officials to modify import requirements related to Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV) to include the use of a timed Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) as illustrated below. For equine originating from VSV affected states, the CVI should be issued within seven (7) days prior to arrival to the destination. Furthermore, for the purposes of standardization, states are urged to require the following statement on the certificate:

"I have examined all equines identified on this certificate and found them to be free of clinical signs of Vesicular Stomatitis (VS). These equids have not been exposed to a VS affected animal or VS quarantined premises within the last fourteen (14) days."