

# Importing Horses - EU Countries



There has been a vast increase of consumers travelling to the Continent for that special horse. Equally, there is a host of European horses and ponies on display and available via the Internet.

In order to take advantage of these competitive European prices and foreign breeds, it is important to note the legal considerations relevant to importing them:-

DEFRA's website provides detailed information on equine importation.

1. All horses must be accompanied by a horse passport.

Passports must include the new Section IX declaration on human consumption.

2. Horses must come from holdings free of disease – European legislation has laid down detailed obligations in this respect.

There are restrictions on importing horses from countries not free of African horse sickness.

3. Before travel an official veterinarian must inspect the horse within 48 hours of export and an official health certificate must be completed and must accompany the consignment.

The Republic of Ireland and France are excluded from this requirement.

4. Post-import veterinarian and documentary checks are likely to be requested and official veterinarians have the right to restrict movement of an animal that may pose a disease risk to Great Britain.