

Impact of the ESWG Recommendations on Horse Owners

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The **September 2008 NAIS Business Plan** states that horses which require either a test for equine infectious anemia or a health certificate for movement off their premises will also be included in **Tier 1 (top priority)** for NAIS.

On August 1, 2006 the Equine Species Working Group (ESWG) recommended that the current system of maintaining brand inspection records, Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVI), VS 127 permits and/or International Certificates of Veterinary Inspection be used in place of movement recording in case trace-back is needed in the event of an animal disease outbreak. They ended this particular recommendation with the following statement: "States and USDA are encouraged to move these forms into an electronic format to expedite retrieval." This last statement is particularly revealing but first let's look at what each document is and how this recommendation may impact us as horse owners.

What is a CVI?

A Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) is an official document, issued and signed by a licensed, accredited veterinarian. The CVI provides documentation that an animal, or a group of animals, was apparently healthy and showed no signs of contagious or communicable diseases on the date the inspection took place. Their original purpose was to prevent the spread of contagious or communicable diseases from one state into another state.

CVI's are multi-part forms. The owner gets one or two copies, one copy stays at the vet clinic, one is mailed to the State Veterinarian in the state of origin and one copy is mailed to the State Veterinarian's office in the state of destination.

The examining veterinarian records the dates and results of any tests required, and other facts about the animals, including age, breed, sex, vaccination status, and any other details required by the state of destination. The CVI also shows the name and address of the consignor (owner and shipper) and the name and address of the consignee (new owner/receiver; where they're going) and the reason they are being moved (show, sale, etc).

In the event of a disease outbreak, animal health officials use CVI's to track the disease back to its source, and forward to potentially exposed animals or people. All states have required a CVI for animals coming from another state for many years, however, a growing number of states either have or are considering requiring that CVI's be obtained for travel within the state.

When do I need a CVI?

Each state determines the health requirements and rules for CVI's for animals entering from outside its borders as well as transport within the particular state. In many states, the CVI is valid for 30 days from the date of vet inspection. In others, it is valid for 45 days. The information is obtained from the State Veterinarian's office.

In addition, horse owners need to carefully read the health requirements for shows or events. Some county and state fairs require a CVI within 10 days of the show/event.

What is a VS 127 permit?

A VS 127 permit is a permit allowing the movement of restricted animals. For example, a VS 127 permit is required to move a horse that tests positive for Equine Infectious Anemia from one location to another.

What is an electronic CVI?

An electronic Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (eCVI) is the same CVI as described above but instead of a handwritten multi-part form, the information is entered into a computer database program developed by GlobalVetLink. The owner/transporter receives a hard (print) copy to carry with them during transport and copies are automatically sent to the State Veterinarian of the originating and destination states via the internet. This system helps the USDA and State Governments meet the mandate of the October 21, 1998 Government Paperwork Elimination Act.

In addition, the US Animal Health Association (USAHA) Resolution 12, dated November 1, 2001 stated that the USDA utilize an electronic CVI to document intra and interstate movement of livestock and poultry. This resolution was reaffirmed in 2004. It is worth noting that the co-chair of the USAHA Livestock ID Committee is none other than the founder and president of GlobalVetLink and J. Amelita Facchiano, who was the co-chair of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) Equine ID subcommittee until 2008 and has been a member of the USDA's Equine Species Working Group since its inception. Ms Facchiano was the Director of Marketing and Sales for GlobalVetLink and now is employed as a member of the USDA Veterinary Services Project Team for implementation of the eCVI program.

The two main benefits of this system are a legible copy for the owner/transporter and an immediate transfer of the information to the respective State Veterinarian offices, instead of the 14 to 30 days it often takes for copies of the handwritten CVI to be received.

These possible benefits are outweighed by the fact that the USDA Veterinary Services Project Team has **designed eCVI's to interface with the NAIS animal tracking database**. If the owner has a premises ID and/or the animal has an individual ID, both will be entered on the eCVI. When the tracking databases are fully operational, the eCVI system will send a "sighting report" to the tracking database.

Interstate movement refers to animals traveling from one state to another. **Intrastate** movement refers to animals traveling **within** the state. Imagine the burden and expense if a CVI is needed for travel within your state! Every show, event, trip to the vet or farrier would require a CVI. Would the Amish and commercial carriage drivers need a CVI every 30 days? How is this recommendation any different from the original recommendation that all movements be reported to the database for NAIS? The answer is that it is NOT, ***IF*** the requirement for CVI's is changed to intrastate movement. The ESWG recommendation is yet another example of a "feel good" statement designed to fool horse owners.

Last, some states now require a premises ID to obtain an eCVI. Some also require animal ID. If you are a resident of one of those states, your ability to show or ship a horse will require you to participate in NAIS. ***This certainly negates the USDA's claim that NAIS is "voluntary with a capital V"!***

GlobalVetLink eCVI participating states, as of October 2008:

Arizona, Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

However, eCVI's are now accepted in all 50 states. Veterinarians may subscribe directly to the GlobalVetLink service if their state does not have a specific agreement with GlobalVetLink. GlobalVetLink now has a webpage for horse owners: <http://globalvetlink.com/about/animal-owners/>

Equine Interstate Passport Card/Equine Event Extension Form

Several states adopted a cost-effective solution for competitors who travel frequently with their horses to shows/events in other states. The Equine Event Extension program is designed to extend a CVI from 30 days to 6 months. AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, VA & WVA signed agreements to accept these extensions from each other. Other states may be added in the near future. Florida has developed a laminated card, named an interstate passport card, in place of the form. Competitors must check with the state veterinarian's office for those states they plan to travel to as requirements and restrictions are not consistent from state to state. For example, LA requires permanent ID of horses via microchip, brand or tattoo. Other states will accept digital photographs as proof of identity. If a horse is identified by microchip, ***the owner/transporter MUST travel with a microchip scanner to verify identity when traveling in FL, GA, KY, NC, OK and VA.*** In all other states, if a microchip is used as means of identification, equine owner ***MUST*** provide regulatory authorities immediate access to a functional scanner if requested. In other words, even if the regulations do not specifically state a scanner must be carried at all times, you ***WILL*** need to carry one if your horse is identified via microchip.

Premises ID ***IS*** required in all states participating in this system.

You must still carry your Coggins results (VS form 10-11) and the original health certificate (CVI) with you in addition to the Equine Passport Card/Event Extension Form. Competitors must check with the state veterinarian's office for those states they plan to travel to as requirements for date of Coggins test varies from state to state.

Equine owners carrying an equine event permit will also be required to carry an accurate, up-to-date event itinerary that documents each equine movement. A copy of the form used for NC is included below.

Violators of any requirement of the passport program are subject to the laws of the state where the violation occurs and ***may range from immediate return of the state of origin to revocation of passport and civil penalties or criminal prosecution.***

Upon permit expiration, the complete travel itinerary must be forwarded to the office of the State Veterinarian issuing the permit.

Since the ESWG does not mention the Equine Interstate Passport Card or Equine Event Extension Forms in their recommendation, it is not clear whether these will be accepted for tracking purposes should NAIS be implemented. Horse owners who currently utilize these forms or card are advised to keep abreast of this issue as showing in other states will become a very expensive proposition should a 30 day CVI be mandated through NAIS.

"GoPass" Electronic Equine Interstate Passport

In June 2008, Global VetLink launched an electronic version of the Equine Interstate Passport Card. Veterinarians in the state of Washington are approved to issue *GoPass* certificates for horses entering California, Montana, Nevada, Oregon and Idaho. The second phase is a group of south central states: Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas. *GoPass* will dovetail nicely into the requirements for NAIS tracking!



North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Veterinary Division

Equine Event Permit
Travel Itinerary

Departure Date	In Transit Stops	Destination	Return Date	Purpose of Trip

As part of the permit agreement, an accurate, up to date transport record is required to be kept by the owner or transporter at all times.

1. The permit number recorded below must be the same as that listed on the permit.
2. Additional sheets of itinerary may be added and attached as necessary.

I hereby certify that all travel has been recorded for the period that the permit is valid. The original signed copy must be available at all time during transport of the horse. **Upon permit expiration, the complete travel itinerary must be forwarded to the office of the State Veterinarian issuing the permit.**

Owner/Agent Signature

Permit Number