



Ref: CTO 2019 020 [G]

Shuttle Stallions: EVA Vaccination

CTO direction as to equivalent measures in relation to equids

Pursuant to section 27(1)(d)(iii) of the Biosecurity Act 1993 I, Lucy Johnston, Manager Animal Imports, Ministry for Primary Industries (under delegated authority), give the following directions for EVA vaccination of shuttle stallions in relation to the *Import Health Standard: Horses (HORANIIC.GEN)*.

Under the IHS Horses, uncastrated male horses must meet the recommendations as described in the OIE Code. Stallions using the vaccination against EVA option are required to be vaccinated and regularly revaccinated in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer.

Most shuttle stallions imported into New Zealand each year are imported under that option, on the basis of their most recent vaccination. In the UK the registered vaccine Artervac requires a six monthly booster. In the past few years, Europe has found itself in the situation of intermittent short supply and short expiry dating of stocks of Artervac. Achieving six monthly booster vaccinations in shuttle stallions can become impossible when in-date vaccine supply problems occur. The Artervac vaccine previously recommended a booster vaccination period of twelve months since last vaccination. There is no scientific evidence available for the reduction of annual to six monthly boosters, only predictions that the more frequent vaccination acts to achieve optimal protection sooner.

Virus neutralisation (VN) titres at 1:80 in a dilution series has been demonstrated to be the threshold above which protection against clinical disease occurs (Fukunaga et al. 1990). Allowing shuttle stallions with VN titres $\geq 1:80$ a vaccination interval of 12 months manages the risk. Shuttle stallions with VN titres $< 1:80$ and/or vaccination intervals greater than 12 months will be required to start a new primary course.

The reason for this direction is that the biosecurity risks associated with this commodity have been assessed and are managed effectively.

This direction takes effect from the date of signing and continues in effect until amended or revoked.