



- Equines imported from other EU Member States must also be accompanied by an ITAHC, with the exception of high health status animals moving from UK and France under Tripartite Agreement arrangements.

#### Imports from outside the EU

- An equine imported into Ireland from a country outside the EU requires an EU-compliant passport and the relevant health certificate.
- If an imported equine already has a compliant passport, that document must be lodged with an appropriate Irish PIO within 30 days of import, from where the animal details will be recorded.
- Where a new passport is required, an application must be submitted to an approved PIO within 30 days of importing the equine.

#### Transfer of Ownership

When ownership of an equine changes

- the person who transfers equine ownership to another person must present the passport to the new owner at the time of transfer – **never buy an equine without taking possession of its passport**;
- both parties to the transfer must keep a record of the transaction;
- the new owner must register transfer of ownership with the PIO that issued the original passport if it issued in Ireland or with the PIO that lodged the passport in Ireland if it was issued elsewhere.

#### Slaughter

- Equines suitable for slaughter for human consumption must have a passport compliant with current legislative and veterinary requirements.
- Equines **may not be slaughtered** for human consumption if there is an indication on the passport **or** on the DAFM central database that the animal is unsuitable for the food chain.

#### Death of an Equine other than at a Slaughter Plant

- Where the life of an equine is ended other than at an approved slaughter plant, the carcass must be processed through an approved knackery.

- Equine carcasses moving to knackeries must be accompanied by the associated equine passport.
- The associated equine document must **always** be given to the knackery representative who will retain it pending collection by DAFM.
- Where a keeper wishes to retain the passport for sentimental reasons, s/he should contact the issuing PIO. Return of the document to the keeper may be arranged once the document has been invalidated by DAFM and the relevant information is recorded on the DAFM central database and the PIO database.

#### Knackeries

- A list of knackeries approved by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine is available on the DAFM website at: <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/agri-foodindustry/animalbyproducts/euapprovedabplants/>

#### Data Protection

- DAFM is fully committed to keeping personal data submitted by its customers, fully safe and secure.
- Data Protection information for DAFM may be viewed at: <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/dataprotection/>
- AIM Division Privacy Notice may be viewed at <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/animalidentificationmovement/>

#### Queries

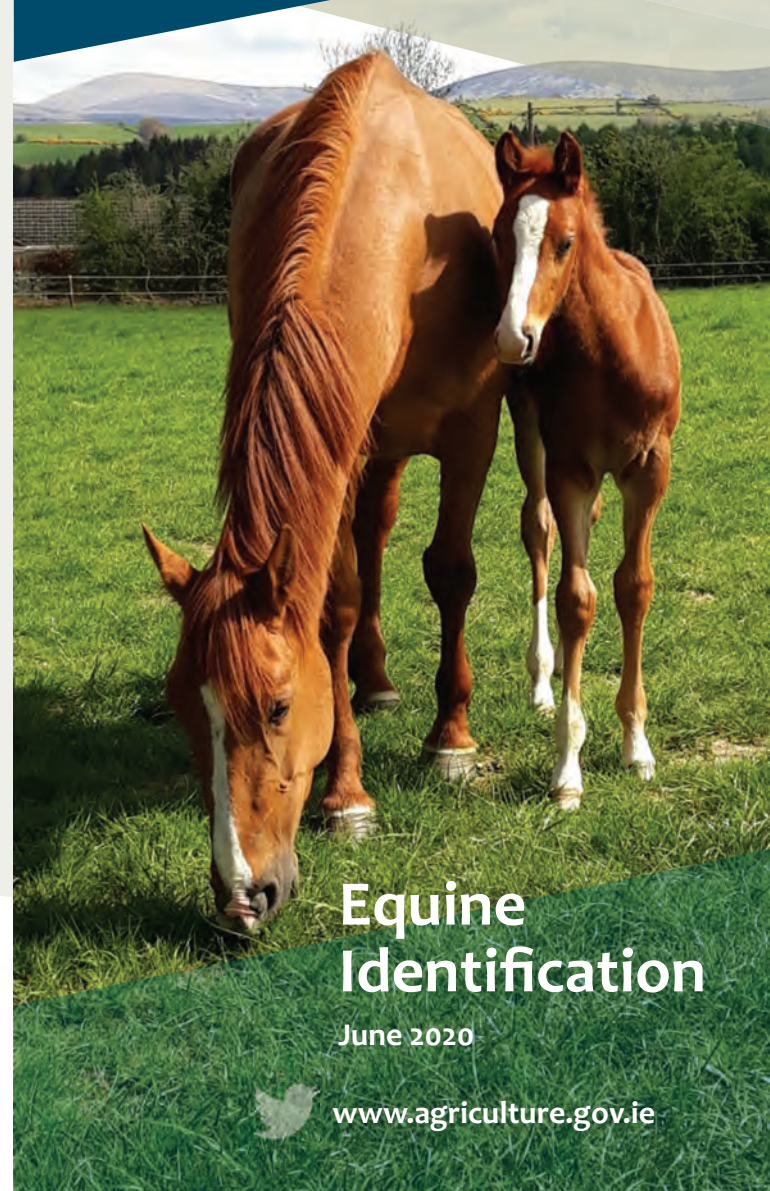
For queries on equine passports, please contact the relevant approved Passport Issuing Organisation (PIO)

or

Animal Identification & Movement (AIM) Division in DAFM

Email [horseid@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:horseid@agriculture.gov.ie)

Telephone 00353-(1)5058881



# Equine Identification

June 2020

[www.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie)



## Responsibilities of Keepers and Owners of Equine Animals – i.e. Horses, Ponies and Donkeys

### If you keep a Horse, Pony or Donkey you **must**

- ensure the premises on which the animal is kept is registered with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) and has been assigned an Equine Premises Registration Number (EPRN) by the relevant DAFM Regional Office whose contact details can be viewed at; <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/contact/regionalveterinaryoffices/>
- be in possession of a valid identification document (equine passport) in respect of each equine in your care and be in a position to present each such document to an authorised officer without delay;
- submit a completed equine passport application form to an approved Passport Issuing Organisation (PIO) for each foal born on your holding - within 6 months of the date of birth of the animal;
- be issued with an equine passport in respect of each equine born on your holding no later than 12 months from the date of birth of that animal (or on movement of the equine from the holding other than as a foal at foot, if that date is earlier) from an approved PIO;
- ensure that each equine moving on to and off your holding is accompanied by its equine passport;
- ensure that all data recorded in the equine passports of equines in your care are accurate and up-to-date at all times; and
- notify the appropriate PIO of any changes in status and/or identification details of each equine – e.g. food chain status, implantation of microchips, castration, owner details, etc. This includes notification of the administration of medicines prohibited for the food chain.

An equine passport is valid for the lifetime of the animal.

At identification, an equine is issued a unique equine life number (UELN) which is also its passport number.

Each equine issued with a passport since 1 July 2009 must have a microchip implanted by a practising veterinary surgeon. The number of that microchip must be recorded on the equine's passport.

All changes to the data recorded on an equine passport, as notified to the appropriate PIO by the keeper, are notified onwards to DAFM's central database by the PIO.

It is an offence to keep an equine that is not properly identified. Furthermore, it is an offence to be in possession of an equine passport if you are not the keeper of the associated equine.

### How to know if an Equine is identified

- The passport establishes the identity of an equine.
- Where you do not have a passport in your possession, the equine must be scanned for the presence of a microchip.
- If a microchip is present, the keeper must contact AIM Division in DAFM to establish if the equine's details are recorded on DAFM's central equine database.
- Where no microchip is detected, the equine must be implanted with a microchip (issued by an approved PIO) by a practising veterinarian and a completed passport application must be submitted to an appropriate approved PIO.

### Obtaining an Equine Passport

- Contact an appropriate approved PIO for details of procedures to properly identify equines in your care. Details of organisations approved by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to issue equine passports are available on the DAFM website at: <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/horses/equineregistrationandpassports/>
- Equines for breeding and production (i.e. where parentage is not recorded on the passport) may only be identified by an approved PIO operating in the State in which the animal is kept.
- All passport applications for equines kept in the State must contain the EPRN of the applicant keeper.
- Passports issued outside Ireland for registered horses kept here must be lodged with an appropriate PIO in Ireland within 30 days of being issued.

### Late Registration

Equines for which passports issue later than 12 months from the equine's date of birth are deemed to be "late registrations". In these circumstances only a duplicate or replacement passport may issue, permanently excluding the equine from the food chain.

### Medicinal Treatments

Where an equine in your care is currently eligible for inclusion in the food chain and requires the administration of medicines, you **must** present the associated passport to the treating veterinary practitioner **prior** to treatment, to ensure the document is updated.

### Loss of a Passport

- In certain circumstances, duplicate or replacement identification documents may issue.
- Where an equine passport is lost, and identity **can** be established through the microchip or DNA, a duplicate document may be issued only by the PIO that issued the original passport (even if the issuing organisation is in another EU Member State).
- Where the passport is lost and identity **cannot** be established, a replacement document must be issued by an appropriate approved PIO operating in the State where the equine resides.
- Issuing of a duplicate or replacement passport permanently excludes the equine from the food chain.

### Movements

- The passport must accompany the equine for which it was issued whenever the animal is moved.
- Equines moved to slaughter in another Member State must move either **direct** to the slaughterhouse or via an **approved assembly centre**, accompanied by an intra-EU animal health certificate (ITAHC) issued by DAFM. This includes equines for slaughter being moved to the UK or France.
- You must notify DAFM when requesting an ITAHC if animals are being moved for the purpose of slaughter.

### Imports from EU Member States

- Equines imported from other EU Member States must be accompanied by a passport which complies with EU legislation.
- Within 30 days of introduction of an equine into Ireland, the associated passport must be lodged with an appropriate approved PIO in Ireland.