The Warmblood Studbook of Ireland (WSI) is working with stallion owners to develop an approval system Irish breeders believe in and foreign buyers support.

In this Guide we present useful information to guide yourself and your stallion through the process.

If you need more information or advice please contact Studbook Administrator Dawn Kelly (admin@irish-warmblood.com or 087.222.9701). We are here to help you.

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Transform Your Stud Farm

Approved stallions are the fuel that keeps the continental European sport horse industry in gear and powering ahead. WSI supports progressive stallion owners and stallion stations to serve mare owners in Ireland and overseas. Together we can restore Ireland to the top tier of showjumping breeding, maintain Ireland’s lead in eventing breeding, begin to breed successful dressage horses, and provide mounts for Team Ireland’s riders and other countries’ national teams.

Owning a stallion approved by WSI, and eligible to enter the optional KWPN 70 Day Stallion Test, will set you apart in our rapidly developing industry. Knowledgable Irish breeders demand Approved Stallions with world-class genetics and athleticism. WSI’s proven selection systems and procedures, combined with the immense resources and technical expertise of the KWPN, set the new modern standard.

WSI’s enhanced stallion approval system and performance requirements are just two of the many innovations we have introduced. More exciting innovations are planned.

WSI will approve senior, middle-aged, and young stallions. Approving senior, proven sires is desired by members with young, modern mares. But rapid genetic advancement can come only by using modern young stallions bred to meet the demands of tomorrow’s sport requirements. So WSI is always on the look-out for superior young stallions and we encourage their use.

Warmbloods are not foreign to us. Join today and jump ahead with WSI.
WSI Philosophy

Our stallion approval process is guided by our values:

1. WSI will inspect a stallion only if he fulfils our published criteria for pedigree and damline quality. If your stallion is ineligible to be approved your application and payment for Stage 1 inspection will be returned.

2. WSI uses insights from the social sciences to reduce bias in our inspection system and decision-making process. For example, Stage 1 inspections are “blind”: Only the Chair knows the pedigree and damline of the stallion, and the Chair does not disclose this information to the other Committee members until after Stage 1 decisions have been made.

3. WSI discloses all data about approved stallions to our members, including summaries of his health, radiographic examination, and genomic results. We believe transparency is very important.

4. Inspectors are governed by strict conflict of interest regulations published in WSI's Rules. Inspectors may not inspect their own stallions, or stallions they have bred or previously owned, or stallions in whose sale or lease they have been involved. And once an inspector has played a role in approving a stallion, he or she must stand back for five years from any commercial involvement with the stallion.

5. Horse welfare comes first with WSI. We expect stallions to be prepared for inspection in a sympathetic manner without training techniques designed to make the horse jump extravagantly or unnaturally. Stallions are subject to testing for prohibited substances. See WSI’s Rules for additional information.
Inspection Preparation

Make sure your stallion is current with his influenza and tetanus vaccinations and worm treatments. If he is not up to date take care of these things now, well before the Stage 2 and Stage 3 inspections.

Have a skilled farrier trim your stallion’s hooves. But do this well before the inspection date in case he becomes tender.

Do not over-train your stallion. Young stallions should be given experience so they are relaxed and moving forward. But do not jump them too often or they will become tired, bored, or unhappy with the pressure. Mind his mind as much as you mind his body.

Young stallions approved by WSI on the basis of their loose-movement and loose-jumping athleticism are required to attend an evaluation day in the period of January - March of their 4-year-old year so inspectors can assess their development and rideability. Inspectors hope to see a relaxed young stallion showing his natural athleticism as he moves and jumps under saddle.

4-, 5-, 6-, and 7-year-old WSI Approved Stallions are required to compete in two Dublin Qualifiers (or the equivalent for Eventing and Dressage stallions) each year so inspectors can monitor their development in sport. If your stallion becomes sick or injured WSI will work with you to select alternative appropriate shows to exhibit your stallion.

Stallions with progeny will have a sample of them inspected. We do this to better understand what qualities your stallion transmits to his foals and what types of mares best suit him. You may select some foals to be assessed and others will be chosen randomly. Try to secure cooperation from owners of these progeny. Additional charges may apply for progeny evaluations.
Steps in the Approval Process

1. Complete a Stage 1 Stallion Inspection Application and send it to WSI along with a clean, clear copy of the stallion’s passport (registration page, marking chart, and extended pedigree). If your stallion is already approved by a WSI Recognised Studbook he does not need to attend the Stage 1 inspection. In this case please contact WSI for a Stage 2 application. If you are not already a Member of WSI please send your membership application along with the inspection application. If you are not a breeder you must take out a Sport Membership.

2. Stage 1 inspections are held throughout the country. The stallion is seen in-hand and his loose movement and/or movement under saddle, and jumping ability and overall athleticism, are evaluated. (Dressage stallions are not jumped.) You will be informed at the end of the Stage 1 inspection if your stallion has been selected for Stage 2.

3. Before your stallion goes to the Stage 2 inspection he must have his DNA analysed to confirm his parentage (if not already done). He must have a genomic profile created and have his DNA tested for genetic markers associated with osteochondrosis (DNA-OC test). And he must be tested for the mutated allele associated with Fragile Foal Syndrome (WFFS1). Thoroughbred stallions must undergo the Speed Gene test. All stallions must attend a clinical and radiographic examination at Troytown GreyAbbey Equine Hospital under the supervision of Michael Sadlier, Chairman of the WSI Veterinary Committee. These examinations are focused on soundness for sport and breeding, and screening for moderately to highly heritable traits that WSI does not want to see in our population. Samples are taken for laboratory tests for sexually-
transmitted diseases. These examinations must be scheduled and paid for through the WSI office.

4. Stage 2 is for stallions that progress from Stage 1 and for stallions already approved by a WSI Recognised Studbook. Depending on the age of your stallion and his level of training and fitness he will be assessed loose-moving, loose-jumping, and/or jumping under saddle with your own rider. If he is presented for approval under the eventing breeding direction will be assessed on the cross-country course. Young stallions (2- and 3-years-old) will not be ridden. You will be informed at the end of the Stage 2 inspection if your stallion has been accepted for Stage 3. If your stallion passes Stage 2 he must be stabled overnight at CoiÓg Equestrian Centre so inspectors can assess his stable behaviour and character.

5. Stage 3 is for stallions that progress from Stage 2. Your stallion will perform similar activities as during the previous stage except if he is under saddle he will be ridden by WSI’s test rider. The test rider will report his/her evaluation of your stallion to the inspectors. If your stallion passes Stage 3 he will be Approved subject to fulfilment of sport performance requirements and your ongoing compliance with Studbook Rules.

6. The next step is voluntary and no expectation will be placed on you to accept this invitation: Now that your stallion is a WSI Approved Stallion, following an additional review of his x-rays by the KWPN, he will be invited to participate in the KWPN Stallion Performance Test in Ermelo without having to go through the selection process in the Netherlands. WSI is the only European studbook that can offer you this opportunity.
Inspection Process

The Studbook Administrator evaluates the pedigrees and damlines for eligibility for inspection under WSI rules.

At the Stage 1 Inspection stallions are identified by microchip and the Chair compares the stallion's marks with the marking chart. The only identifying data on the inspection score sheets used by the inspectors are birth year, colour, size, and a letter of the alphabet used as an identifier.

The reason for this system is we do not want inspectors to be positively or negatively influenced by knowing the breed of the stallion, his sire or damsire, or the name of the owner or breeder. WSI asks stallions owners, riders, and handlers not to disclose the bloodlines, breed, or any other information about their stallions to the inspection committee, even if asked to do so.

Before Stage 2 the Chair informs the other members of the Stallion Committee of the pedigree of each stallion so they can perform additional pedigree and damline analyses, watch competition videos (if available), etc.

During Stage 3 the Test Rider is not informed of the pedigree of the stallion until after his or her written assessment of each stallion has been completed.

At the end of Stage 3 the Chair discloses and discusses each stallion’s pedigree with the audience attending the inspection. The Chair also will discuss the stallion’s attributes and the factors that led to the inspection committee’s decision.
Eventing Stallions: Additional Inspection Requirements

Just because a stallion is a Thoroughbred or a true half-bred does not mean he is suitable for eventing breeding. The blood stallion must be able to pass on superior riding horse qualities (three good gaits, and especially a superior canter; elasticity; and jumping ability) along with additional traits required for eventing sport.

WSI uses an additional set of five inspection criteria in our process. In addition to the criteria we use for showjumping stallions we also include:

- gallop
- stamina
- courage
- 5th leg
- blood in athleticism.

These traits are assessed on the cross-country course by the Committee and through the genomic Speed Gene test developed by Professor Emmeline Hill.
Inspection Teams

Stage 1 inspections are done by the WSI Inspection Committee. The inspectors are:

**Thomas Reed** (WSI Inspector SJ/EV/DR)
**Claire Wood** (WSI Inspector SJ/EV/DR)
**Johan Knaap** (WSI Inspector SJ/EV/DR)
**Arnold Kootstra** (WSI Inspector SJ/EV/DR & KWPN Inspector)
**Peter Strijbosch** (WSI Inspector SJ/EV/DR & KWPN Judge).

There will be at least two inspectors at each Stage 1 inspection.

Stage 2 and Stage 3 inspections are done by the WSI Stallion Committee, whose membership is composed of WSI inspectors and officio and ex officio members of the KWPN Stallion Commission. The WSI Test Riders offer advice to the Committee:

**Thomas Reed** (Chair & WSI Inspector SJ/EV/DR)
**Claire Wood** (WSI Inspector SJ/EV/DR)
**Mikala Münter** (WSI Test Rider DR)
**Paddy O’Donnell** (WSI Test Rider SJ/EV)
**Cor Loeffen** (WSI Inspector SJ/EV & KWPN Stallion Commission Chair SJ)
**Bert Rutten** (WSI Inspector DR & KWPN Stallion Commission Chair DR)
**Wim Versteeg** (WSI Inspector SJ/EV/DR & KWPN Senior Inspector).

There always will be at least three inspectors at each Stage 2 and Stage 3 inspection.
Important Dates & Schedules

Stage 1 Inspections (Showjumping/Eventing/Dressage)
5 February  Roscrea EC (SJ/EV)
20 March    Slieve Bloom Stud (DR)

Stage 2 Inspections (SJ/EV)
September  CoilÓg Equestrian Centre
09:00 am   Evaluation of stallions in-hand
01:00 pm   Lunch
02:00 pm   Evaluation of stallions under saddle
05:00 pm   Evaluation of loose-jumping stallions

Stage 3 Inspections (SJ/EV)
September  CoilÓg Equestrian Centre
08:00 am   Evaluation of eventing stallions on x-c
09:00 am   Evaluation of loose-jumping stallions
10:00 am   Evaluation of stallions under saddle
01:00 pm   Lunch
02:00 pm   Evaluation of stallions under saddle
03:00 pm   Presentation of Approved Stallions

Stage 2 Inspections (DR)
September  Slieve Bloom Stud
09:00 am   Evaluation of stallions in-hand
01:00 pm   Lunch
02:00 pm   Evaluation of stallions loose
03:00 pm   Evaluation of stallions under saddle

Stage 3 Inspections (DR)
September  Slieve Bloom Stud
09:00 am   Evaluation of stallions loose
10:00 am   Evaluation of stallions under saddle
01:00 pm   Lunch
02:00 pm   Evaluation of stallions under saddle
03:00 pm   Presentation of Approved Stallions

April is WSI’s harvest time...and yours if you own an outstanding stallion.
Costs and Payment Methods

Membership
€115  WSI Membership or
€500  Sustaining Member or
€500  Sport Membership (non-breeder) or
€1,500 Lifetime Member

Stage 1 Inspection
€75   Irish Warmblood Stallion
€150  Recognised Studbook Stallion
€250  Non-Recognised Studbook Stallion

DNA-OC Test
€200  Irish Warmblood Stallion
€255  Other Stallion

WFFS1 Test
€65

Speed Gene Test (only for Thoroughbred Stallions)
€400

Clinical & Radiographic Examinations & Lab Tests
€600  Clinical exam, x-rays, and lab tests

Parentage Verification (if not already done)
€50

Stages 2-3 Inspection
€500  Includes stable, fodder, and bedding

No refunds will be given. If the stallion becomes ill or injured the payment will be credited toward a future inspection or other services provided by WSI.

Bank: Bank of Ireland
Account: Irish Warmblood Studbook Ltd
IBAN: ie91bofi90441322533027
BIC: bofiie2d
Questions?

Contact WSI Studbook Administrator Dawn Kelly (087.222.9701).

Partial funding for the 2019 Stallion Inspections may be provided by the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine (DAFM) under a funding scheme approved by the European Commission.

As a matter of policy the only public money WSI accepts is aid provided through funding schemes approved by the European Commission. WSI does not solicit or accept funding from DAFM that does not comply with EU law.
The DNA-OC Breeding Value assigned to your stallion may add value to him...
and add value to his progeny: higher prices as foals, sport prospects, broodmares, and breeding stallions.
Stallions with above average DNA-OC breeding values may command higher stud fees.
WSI Approved Stallions stand with KWPN Approved Stallions as a cut above the rest, both here and abroad.
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