

UK-EU Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement Equine Sector response to Call for Information

Dear respondents,

This guidance is designed mainly for equestrian competitors/competition, studs, breeders, semen agents, transporters, transport agents etc. to help with your answers to the [Defra Call for Information on the UK-EU SPS Agreement](#).

If you are a member of the food, feed or trade sector – please contact BETA for specific advice and guidance.

The answers to many of the questions are straightforward or will be obvious to you, where they are not, or where we feel we can make a greater impact, we have suggested responses that you could use. That said, if you wish to provide your own responses please do, what we have provided are suggested submissions only.

Question	
	Background information
Q1.1	a) I am responding on behalf of a business
Q1.2	i) Other and insert free text making sure you use the word “equine” or “equestrian” eg equine transporter, equine transport agent, equine breeder/stud, equestrian competitor
Q1.3	Get together the proportion % of your total revenues that are supplied or moved to the named regions (GB, NI, RoI, Crown Dependencies (Jersey, Guernsey etc), EU and Rest of World)
Q1.4	Get together total value/amount of imports/goods/services of imports from the same regions as above and supply the proportion % from each region
Q1.9a	m) Other and stress “equestrian” or “equine”
Q1.9b	Tick all that may be relevant including “Other” and specify “equine” or “equestrian”
Q1.10	Tick all that may be relevant inc b) Live Animals and hh) Other and specify “equine” or “equestrian”
	Operational impact
Q2	If we revert to horse and germinal products movements as they were pre-Brexit, what would be the extent of the changes required? We suggest “mild” or “moderate” (unless you disagree, because in theory, the changes will be beneficial to us)
Q3	Tick all that apply including “other” and highlight that the changes back to pre-Brexit certification and border crossings processes would be beneficial to business and for horse welfare

Q4	We anticipate that the changes would be beneficial by reducing paperwork and associated business expense and removing lengthy and costly delays at Border Control Posts
Q5	How long do you think it will take you to be able to comply? We suggest one of the shorter periods of time that are listed
Q6	We suggest “other” and specify “minimal operational changes”
Q7	We suggest “including representatives of the equestrian sector in a dedicated stakeholder advisory group”
	Business awareness and readiness
Q11	If you answered “Unconfident” or “very unconfident” we suggest that you mention that “there is little clarity at the moment as to what the details of the rules we will be required to comply with are. We have been notified of the regulations that are “in scope” but there is a lot of detail that we await in order to be fully informed and prepared – consequently running a dedicated equine sector stakeholder advisory group through the British Horse Council would be crucial to success”.
Q12	Repeat your answer to Q11
Q14a	Please tick whichever boxes you prefer plus “other” and specify “there is a lot of detail that we await in order to be fully informed and prepared – consequently running a dedicated equine sector stakeholder advisory group through the British Horse Council would be crucial to success. It is also critical that the UK has access to the EU’s TRACES NT system”
Q14c	Please tick whichever boxes you prefer plus “other” and Please tick whichever boxes you prefer plus “other” and specify “there is a lot of detail that we await in order to be fully informed and prepared – consequently running a dedicated equine sector stakeholder advisory group through the British Horse Council would be crucial to success. It is also crucial that the UK has access to the EU’s TRACES NT system”.
Q15	Please tick whichever boxes you prefer plus “other” and Please tick whichever boxes you prefer plus “other” and specify “there is a lot of detail that we await in order to be fully informed and prepared – consequently running a dedicated equine sector stakeholder advisory group through the British Horse Council would be crucial to success. It is also crucial that the UK has access to the EU’s TRACES NT system”.
	Benefits and costs
Q16	This is a great question to identify all the benefits of reverting to cross border movements as they were pre Brexit. Please tick all that apply including “other” and consider stating “with the introduction of the proposed SPS changes of fewer checks, removal of non tariff barriers and faster cross border movements we will be able to reopen UK–EU markets and restore competitiveness. By introducing mandatory digital registration of horse-keeping premises and specified movements under Dynamic Alignment, we will be able to rapidly model and trace disease with minimal IT development using TRACES NT, ADIS and UK’s Central Equine Database. This aligns the UK with existing global best practice and supports wider government objectives on data-driven regulation. We will be able to replace labour-intensive EHCs with digital movement notifications, reducing pressure on the veterinary workforce and lowering administrative costs for Defra, APHA and other departments whilst simultaneously enabling real-time disease notifications and strengthening welfare and biosecurity standards”

Q17	Please supply or estimate the financial benefits of the proposed changes to your business (such as reduced paperwork, fewer vet costs, reduction in staff costs, time saved, welfare benefits, restoration of former revenue streams and business transactions, increased participation in sport etc)
Q18	We suggest one of the shorter timeframes because we anticipate that the benefits will quickly be seen by our sector
Q21	We anticipate that the benefits will quickly be seen by our sector with comparatively little lead in time required because post Brexit administrative burden will be reduced
	Supply chain and regional impacts
Q22a	In most cases we anticipate “no”
Q23a	In most cases we anticipate “no”
	Feedback on online survey
Q25b	“We are disappointed that the equine sector seems to have been largely overlooked in your response template. As a £9.5bn sector that is the second largest rural employer, engages 3 million participants, including 1.8 million regular riders, delivers £1.2bn in social value, supporting physical and mental wellbeing and hosted numerous globally renowned equestrian events prior to their atrophy when the UK left the EU - we have been adversely affected by post Brexit changes. The racing sector has experienced a 67% fall in British-trained runners competing in the EU, a 92% fall in EU-trained runners in Great Britain and a 61% reduction in temporary exports for breeding. In addition we have seen the complete loss of the UK–EU fresh chilled germinal products market and mass relocation of riders, trainers, stallions and breeding operations to the EU. Our sector has shifted from one of international strength to structural disadvantage. Please ensure that a specific equine sector advisory group is set up through the British Horse Council to remedy our considerable loss”

If you have a specific question that is not covered by the above and would like to talk through your options, please email jan.rogers@bef.co.uk

Respond to [Defra online via the dedicated webpage](#)

Deadline 23 April 2026

