



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

## APHA Briefing Note 50/22

# Equine Export Health Certificates 3987, 1261 and 1263: Information on CFT Piroplasmosis courtesy testing for USA exports

Date issued: 02 December 2022

## Purpose

1. To inform exporters:

APHA have taken the decision to cease offering courtesy Complement Fixation test (CFT) for Piroplasmosis for US exports. This will be effective from the 31<sup>st</sup> of December.

From 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 APHA will only accept samples where the CFT piroplasmosis test is a requirement of the EHC.

This is relevant to Export Health Certificate 3987, 1261 and 1263.

## Background

2. Equines exported to the USA are required, on arrival in the USA, to undergo post-import quarantine. During quarantine, horses are tested, among other diseases, for equine piroplasmosis using the competitive enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (cELISA) – **AND the complement fixation test (CFT)**.
3. Exporters can request that a pre-export Piroplasmosis CFT is performed on horses destined for the USA to avoid the risk that they test positive in post import quarantine after arrival. APHA have performed this test pre-export using reagents derived from the USA.
4. The USA are no longer able to supply APHA with the reagents needed for the CFT test.

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

5. To conserve the small remaining stock of reagents, APHA have taken the decision to cease offering this as a courtesy test from the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

## Action

6. We are currently unable to advise any alternative laboratories for this test as other countries may be in a similar situation.

### Alternatives

7. Exporting the horse 'on risk' that it tests negative on arrival at the USA
  - a. To reduce the risk of rejection on arrival in the USA, exporters and their veterinary surgeons are strongly recommended to have horses tested prior to export, and preferably carried out by USA labs to reduce the risk of different results being found at the post-import quarantine sampling.
  - b. It is also possible to have a different serological test for piroplasmiasis done in the UK using the IFAT or cELISA (APHA Weybridge) and use the results to help make the decision whether to risk sending the horse (this would not be an official test and purely for an exporters own information).

## Further Information

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