

On 1 July 2009 new passport and micro-chipping legislation came into effect – Commission Regulation EC 504/2008 and, in England, The Horse Passports Regulations 2009

- This requires that horses not issued with a passport by 1 July 2009, or born after 1 July 2009, must have an electronic microchip implanted by a qualified veterinary surgeon when being first identified for a passport. Owners may be fined up to £5,000 if found guilty of failing to correctly identify their horses with a passport.
- For foals, the passport needs to be issued by 31 December of the year of birth. If it is not, then the Society as the Passport Issuing Organisation (PIO) is required to sign the relevant section which excludes the animal from the human food chain.
- Adult horses that had not been issued with a passport under the previous legislation are now required to have a microchip implanted when first issued with a passport. Additionally, they will be signed as 'not for human consumption' by the Society as the PIO on issue of the passport, which excludes the horse from entry into the human food chain.

Effective 1st January 2016 – Regulation European Commission EU 2015/262

Silhouette and markings must be completed and signed by a Vet.

Other Key Changes

- Horses are to be accompanied by the passport at all times, and may not be moved without being accompanied by its passport. The exception to this rule is when a horse is being moved on foot and the passport can be made available within 3 hours. Keepers with primary responsibility for the care of the horse (e.g. keepers of horses on loan, full livery yards, and transporters) will need to make suitable arrangements with the owner in order to ensure that the passport can be made readily available without delay.
- It is an offence to keep a horse without a passport – this applies to keepers with primary responsibility for the care of the horse.
- Vets are required to see the passport before the administration of veterinary medicines and there are tightened requirements that the passport must be updated at the time of any administration of veterinary products including vaccinations.