



## Sanitary controls

# Identification and sanitary requirement inspections

## THE INSPECTOR'S MISSION

The Ministry of Agriculture delegated to the I.F.C.E. (French Institute for Horse and Equitation) the power to carry out inspections of the places keeping equine animals in France. This official inspections started in 2016 following the publication of a new law at the end of 2014.

Agents of the IFCE carry out these inspections throughout France. Their role is to check that the sanitary obligations are fulfilled by the horse keepers and that all the horses they keep are properly identified. If not, the inspectors note the breaches and help the horse keepers to rectify the situation in order to comply with the regulations.

## THE PURPOSE OF THE INSPECTION

The aims are :

- to ensure effective enforcement of regulatory requirements,
- to ensure reliable sanitary management and effective traceability with the registration of all horses and all places keeping equine animals in the French database, named S.I.R.E. (Equidae-Related Information System).

Another purpose is to help combat horse thefts and illegal trafficking.

## FOR STRONGER TRACEABILITY AND SECURITY

To succeed in sanitary security management, and horse origin traceability, all the persons, places and animals involved have to be known, registered and reachable. The more complete and up-to-date the SIRE database, the better new sanitary crises can be managed by the official organizations. When a crisis occurs, the authorities need to effectively locate, inform and act.

## THE ITEMS INSPECTED

When a horse keeper is visited by an I.F.C.E. officer, he/she must present:

- the equine animals kept at the place to let the officer read their microchip and check their identity,
- their identification documents (passports),
- the horse keeper's register in which the movements of all horses to and from the place should be recorded,
- the designation of the sanitary veterinarian which should be declared the DD(CS)PP of the departement (as soon as more than 2 equines are held).

Following the inspection, the officer will send a report to the keeper to the horse keeper to summarize the inspection and list the points may have to be rectified. Penalties could be applied if the horse keeper doesn't comply the requirements.

## CURRENT REQUIREMENTS FOR KEEPING EQUINE ANIMALS

### Identification of animals

To be able to recognize any horse in any place is essential to ensure effective traceability.

A properly identified horse has :

- a readable implanted microchip,
- an identification document (passport) including a unique life number,
- his microchip number and identification details registered in the SIRE database.

### Registration of places

Every place that keeps (one or more) equine animals must be declared by the horse keeper in the SIRE database.

An effective registration of the animals provides useful tools to the authorities when a crisis occurs. They can manage reactive communication and protection.

### Horse keeper's register

A register must be kept on site by the horse keeper (a notebook or a file).

The information he/she should record in it includes :

- a description of the place
- contact information
- a list of the animals kept
- their movements to and from the place
- the treatments and care they receive.

### Déclaration of sanitary veterinarian

This declaration is compulsory for every place that keeps more than 2 equine animals. The keeper has to choose a sanitary veterinarian and to declare his choice to the DD(CS)PP of the departement.

The sanitary veterinarian is a go-between who eases the communication and authorities' interventions. His role is very important in sanitary security management.