

Equestrian Australia Hendra Vaccination By-Law

General FAQs

Why is Equestrian Australia implementing a Hendra By-Law?

EA has a responsibility to its members, horses, event organising committees and venues to take reasonable steps to protect equine and human health.

EA recognises the potentially serious impacts of Hendra virus and accepts the advice of relevant government agencies that vaccination is the single most effective way of reducing the risk of Hendra virus infection in horses and people.

When does the By-Law come into effect?

The By-Law is being released on 1 July 2014 for implementation on 1 October 2014, however events being held during the month of October and had published their schedule prior to 1 July 2014 will also be exempt.

Who does the By-Law apply to?

Riders/Owners and Event Organisers

What are the requirements for Event Organisers?

*During the initial planning stages Event Organisers will be required to self-assess the biosecurity risk of a Hendra virus incident at their event by using the **EQUESTRIAN COMPETITION HENDRA BIOSECURITY CHECKLIST**.*

Depending on the results of this checklist event organisers may be required to classify their event as a HVE. For more information please refer to FAQ's for Events [HERE](#).

What are the requirements for Riders/Owners?

Event Organisers will notify riders at the time of entry if an event you are attending is classified as a HVE. All Riders/Owners must not enter/attend a HVE in the Endemic Region without their attending horses being fully vaccinated for HEV. For more information please refer to FAQ's for Riders/Owners [HERE](#).

Why are there different requirements for different states?

To date, Hendra incidents have only occurred within the states of New South Wales and Queensland. While this does not mean that a Hendra incident could not occur in another state in the future, the likelihood of a Hendra incident occurring at an EA event is higher in New South Wales and Queensland.

For this reason all horses attending a HVE within NSW or Qld, regardless of their origin will require Hendra Vaccination.

What would happen if a Hendra Incident were to occur in Western Australia or another Non Endemic state?

The national board has indicated that the by-law will be reviewed as required. It is important that there is flexibility to update the by-law and checklist as new information comes to hand.

Is EA monitoring all the side effects and reactions that horses are experiencing from Hendra vaccine?

Biosecurity QLD and the NSW Department of Primary Industries advise that vaccination is the single most effective way of reducing the risk of Hendra virus infection in horses.

Are overseas horses exempt from this By-Law?

Yes – Visiting international horses (eg, New Zealand) are exempt from the Hendra Vaccination unless they are attending a HVE and have been residing in Australia for a period of more than 6 continuous weeks duration.

Does the grace period offered mean that riders can compete up to 1 October unvaccinated and after such date vaccination will be required?

Not necessarily, the three month grace period applies only to events. This means event organisers running events during the period 1 July 2014 and 1 October 2014 may choose to classify their event as a HVE and if this is the case then riders must abide by the event's conditions of entry.

Will there be any levies imposed on members to have vets and other officials to attend events and monitor compliance?

No levies will be introduced of this nature. Random checks will be conducted by EA and if a rider/owner of a horse is selected to participate in this audit the rider/owner will need to provide a Hendra Vaccination Certificate from Zoetis of any HEV vaccinations and/or demonstrate the vaccination status of their horse via the Zoetis Hendra Vaccination Registry.