

DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE

Provincial Government of the Western Cape

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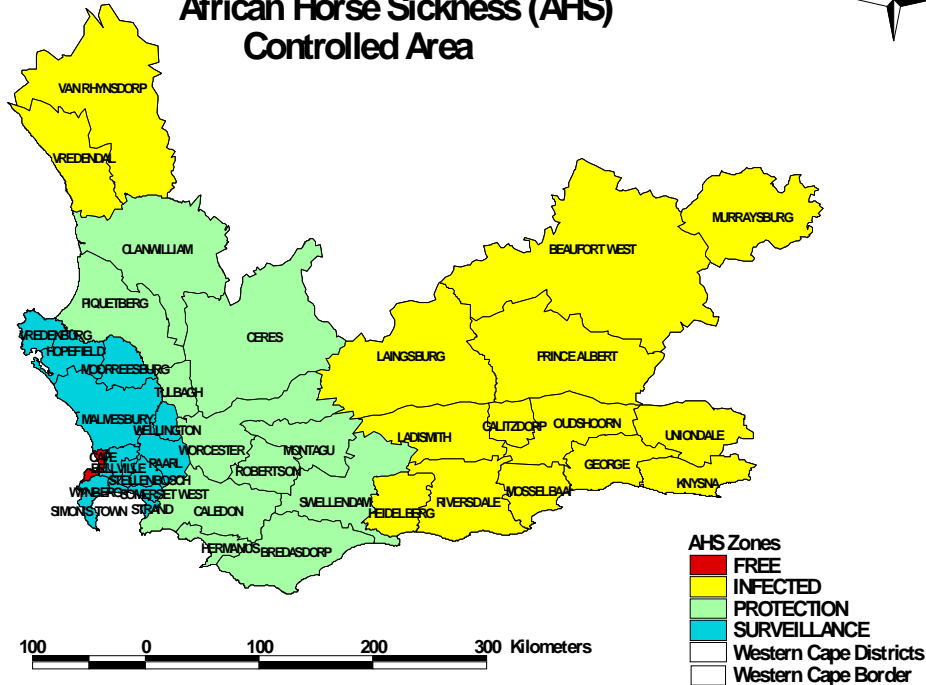
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NB : Please direct enquiries to the relevant persons as listed on the letterhead.

South Africa African Horse Sickness (AHS) Controlled Area



African Horse Sickness (AHS) Control Policy

The policy regulating AHS control and control over the movement of equines (horses, donkeys and mules as per definition) and zebra into and within the **AHS Controlled Area** of the **Western Cape Province (WCP)**, is summarized and simplified below for easy usage and understanding by veterinarians, horse owners, trainer, couriers, and any other persons with an interest in the horse industry / community who wish to move horses correctly and legally within South Africa's borders. This document is based on the guidelines given in the **OIE International Animal Health Code**, as well as South African and European (EU) legislation.

A. Vaccination protocol :

1. All registered equines in the Republic of South Africa wanting to enter the AHS Control Area must be vaccinated by a **Veterinarian** or
2. a specifically authorized **Animal Health Technician (AHT)** in the employ of the Veterinary Authority, under direct supervision of the **State Veterinarian** concerned.
3. Vaccination must be done **at least every 2 years** with **AHS I** and **AHS II** vaccine, according to the manufacturers recommendations.
4. There must be a minimum of **3 weeks** between AHS I and II and the horse may **not** move into the AHS Control Area **less than 60 days** after either vaccination.
5. All horses must be registered and identified by means of a **passport**. If not a competing horse, then a Certificate of Identification acceptable to the State Veterinarian Boland may be considered, following consultation with this office.

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B. The requirements for moving equines are:-

1. **Health Certification** by a Veterinarian within 48 hours of movement (in passport or separate certificate) and,
2. **Pre-notification** of the movement to State Veterinarian Boland **within 48 hours** prior to the movement;
3. In addition to the above, the owner/conveyor must obtain an **official SV Movement Permit** from the local State Veterinarian (SV) in the area of origin;
4. The SV will only issue such a permit if the **risk** is deemed by him/her to be **acceptable**, taking into consideration the prevalence and incidence of AHS in the area, the locality, density and composition of the equine and zebra populations, the time of year, present weather conditions, midge numbers, etc.
5. As a general guideline we will not allow movement of a horse/s from an area if there have been any outbreaks or suspect cases of AHS within a radius of **30 km of the place of origin within the last 30 days**.
6. This **SV permit** is **valid for 14 days**, and can be recalled at any stage should there be a change in the AHS disease status in the area of origin.
7. The **SV Movement Permit** will **only be valid if accompanied by** a valid AHS **Health Certificate** (in Passport or separate) issued by a Veterinarian **within 48 hours** preceding a movement to the AHS Control Area.
8. Faxed copies of the SV Movement Permit, showing the SV office's fax number, would be acceptable.
9. **Please Note** : a total embargo is usually placed on all horse movements into the **AHS Control area** from as early as **February through until the end of June every year** due to the high incidence of AHS throughout the infected zone (rest of SA) and the **risk** it poses to maintaining our **AHS free status** for export purposes .
10. **Please make allowance for this when planning movements, exports, shows, etc.** as it usually entails a minimum of **3 weeks quarantine** somewhere outside the AHS Control area eg. Beaufort West

C. Boundaries of zones :

1. The following magisterial districts of the WCP are **excluded from the AHS Control Area**, thus allowing free movement of equines to and from these districts and the rest of the RSA (Infected Zone): Vanrhynsdorp; Vredendal; Heidelberg; Riversdale; Calitzdorp; Mossel Bay; George; Knysna; Uniondale; Oudtshoorn; Laingsburg; Ladismith; Beaufort West; Prince Albert; Murraysburg. The above districts are thus part of the **Infected Zone**.
2. The **AHS Protection Zone**, comprises the following magisterial districts: Clanwilliam; Piketberg; Ceres; Tulbagh; Worcester; Robertson; Montagu; Caledon; Hermanus; Bredasdorp and Swellendam. This corresponds to the jurisdictional areas of the Overberg and Boland District Municipalities and the Clanwilliam and Piketberg districts of the West Coast District Municipality.

The **entry/exit points** on the main routes are:

N7	Between Clanwilliam and Klawer at Trawal
N1	Between Touwsriver and Matjiesfontein
N2	Between Swellendam and Heidelberg
R62	Between Barrydale and Ladismith

All of the following movements of equines and zebra are subject to movement control: Infected Zone --> Protection , Surveillance or Free
 Protection Zone --> Surveillance or Free Zones
 Surveillance Zone --> Free Zone

NB: Zebra may only move during the months of July, August and September, and then only with prior permission from the SV Boland and Cape Nature Conservation. They must also however, undergo a "quarantine" period and compulsory negative serological/antigen testing for AHS before the movement will be permitted.

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