

STATE OF MINNESOTA
BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH

In the Matter of Proposed Amendment
of the Rule Governing Importation of
Horses, Parts 1700.3200; 1700.2400

STATEMENT OF NEED AND REASONABLENESS

The Board of Animal Health proposes to amend parts 1700.2300 and 1700.2400 governing Importation of Horses. The proposed amendment requires a negative Coggins test within 12 months rather than the present six months. The Coggins test is used to detect exposure to Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA).


The proposed change will reduce the costs of laboratory and veterinary fees. There should be no increased potential exposure to EIA. In the last ten years other states moved away from the six month limit. Twenty-one of the 39 states that require a Coggins test have set the time at 12 months.

Nationally as well as in Minnesota the ratio of positives to negatives among tested equines decreased over the last ten years. The industry at this time does not feel that the change from six months to twelve months will significantly increase the risk to Minnesota equines. The Minnesota Racing Commission is in the process of promulgating rules for the operation of horse race tracks in Minnesota. The Commission proposes a 12 month Coggins test requirement.

The Board proposes to allow importation of horses by permit where a blood sample has been drawn and submitted to an approved laboratory. A permit would be issued by the Board to the veterinarian issuing the health certificate when there is insufficient time to complete the laboratory procedure. At this time persons importing horses often ignore the health certificate and test requirements because of the time constraints at the laboratory.

The proposed changes do not have significant economic impact on the horse industry of Minnesota and should reduce the costs of tests required. The Board believes that this will not increase the risk of EIA.

The amendments proposed are believed on all available evidence to be in the best interests of the horse owners of Minnesota.



J. G. Flint, D.V.M.
Secretary and Executive Officer