



30 January 2023

**COMMUNICATION: AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS VACCINE/EQUINE INFLUENZA VACCINE
AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS VACCINE:**

The SAEF is aware that the availability of AHS vaccine this year has been very erratic. There are still Veterinarians waiting for orders to be filled, in order to vaccinate their client's horses. There is no pattern to the delivery, and despite numerous attempts by various organizations to engage with OBP, little or no information is forthcoming.

The SAEF have therefore decided to further extend the dispensation on AHS to the **31st of October 2023**. This means that for competition purposes horses must have received one AHS 1 and one AHS 2 between **1st June 2021 and 31st October 2023**.

This dispensation **DOES NOT APPLY TO** horses residing in the Controlled Area of the Western Cape.

Vaccination outside of the 1 June to 31 October window in all areas of the country outside of the AHS controlled area remains a recommendation rather than law for the AHS infected area of RSA. While this recommendation should be taken seriously vaccination outside of this recommended window, especially in the face of shortages can still be done, but should be done with advice and recommendation from your veterinarian and extra precautions to ensure protection from biting midges should be applied. The window for AHS vaccination in the Controlled Area expired on the 31st October, and NO extension will be allowed. Vaccination before 1 June 2023 will not be permitted within the AHS controlled area.

The SAEF is also aware of a number of passports presented at events where the AHS vaccine has been administered within 20 days. Both vaccines automatically are invalidated. The SAEF would like to urge competitors and veterinarian to ensure correct vaccination this year and in future to avoid becoming ineligible to compete. It is the responsibility of the competitor and horse owner to ensure that they know the rules as well as the administering veterinarian.

The SAEF reminds its members that no horse may compete for 7 days following any vaccination. In our earlier Communique there appears to have been some confusion with regards to Endurance Riding members. ERASA, has a specific rule that no horse may compete within 21 days of an African Horse Sickness Vaccine. The 21 day rule, applies to members of ERASA, and has good scientific evidence as well as the Welfare of the Horse behind its application. The SAEF have always supported and upheld ERASA's rule with respect to AHS vaccine.

EQUINE INFLUENZA:

There is currently no Equine Influenza vaccine available in Europe, who predominantly use the Boehringer Ingelheim Protec Influenza vaccine. However, we are assured by the other Equine Influenza manufacturer (MSD), that there is no shortage of their product, Prequenza. The SAEF have decided after consultation, that we will not follow the Global Derogation announced by the FEI of annual vaccination for competition purposes from 1st October 2022 to 1 April 2023. Therefore, for competition purposes at SAEF events, horses will still be required to have an Equine Influenza vaccine within 6 months and 21 days of competition.

Please be reminded that no vaccine may be administered within 7 days prior to competition.

Regards

The SAEF Veterinary Committee