

PROTOCOL FOR THE IMPORTATION OF RACEHORSES

1. Introduction

This protocol outlines:

- a) The procedure prior to importing horses;
- b) The procedure for issuing an Importation Approval Letter by the Gambling Regulatory Authority (GRA) to the Principal Veterinary Officer, Livestock and Veterinary Division (LVD) of the Ministry of Agro-Industry upon request from an importer. The purpose of this letter is to confirm that the imported horses meet the requirements for racehorses under the applicable regulations; and
- c) The procedure post quarantine.

2. Objectives

The objectives of this protocol are to:

- a) Ensure compliance with the GRA Act (2007), specifically Section 15C(1)(k), which mandates that the GRA/HRID approves the importation of racehorses.
- b) Maintain transparency and consistency in the process of issuing the GRA Importation Approval Letter.
- c) Facilitate coordination between the GRA, the Ministry of Agro-Industry, and relevant stakeholders.

3. Protocol for Issuance of the GRA Importation Approval Letter

Step 1: Recommendation

Pre-purchase Veterinary Examination at time of purchase or a Pre-Import Veterinary Examination (within 90 days before importation)

The owner is recommended to submit a full veterinary examination to the GRA Regulatory Veterinarian.

The Veterinary Examination should consist of the following:

- a. Full history (including but not limited to): surgery (if any), incidents of epistaxis, cardiac abnormalities, any known vices.
- b. Complete examination of the horse at rest, during trot up and after any strenuous exercise as requested by the Examining Veterinary Surgeon and include the following:
 - i. A mandatory endoscopy;

Gambling Regulatory Authority

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- ii. X-rays of the legs (recommended); and
- iii. Blood screening for prohibited substance (strongly recommended)

Step 2: Submission of “Request for GRA Importation Approval Letter”

The owner or agent shall submit a request to the GRA via email to the HRID email address hrid@gra.mu for the importation of horses including the following details:

- a. List of horse names
- b. Breed and colour
- c. Trainer intended to be engaged
- d. Date of birth of the horse
- e. Microchip number
- f. Passport number
- g. Proof of purchase
- h. Passport Pages (Identification Page, Stall Certificate Page)

Step 2: Issuance of GRA Importation Approval Letter

The Stipendiary Stewards and the Regulatory Veterinarian shall check the relevant information concerning the horse (identity, Stall certificate, any notable veterinary issues) and, within 5 working days, a GRA Importation Approval Letter will be issued to the Livestock and Veterinary Division of the Ministry of Agro-Industry, with copies forwarded to:

- a) The importer and agent;
- b) The Head of Airport Cargo Operations Section, PATS

Step 3: Arrival of horses

At least 48 hours before the arrival of the importation consignment, the agent shall send a confirmation of the list of horses arriving and the date and time of arrival to the HRID email address hrid@gra.mu

The HRID officers will be present at the airport to identify the horses as per the list and in accordance with the GRA Act.

4. Registration of Racehorses

All horses shall be registered within 14 days of arrival in Mauritius.

5. Post quarantine

- a) The Livestock and Veterinary Division of the Ministry of Agro-Industry will advise the GRA of the status of the horses in quarantine and of the release of horses from quarantine.
- b) The GRA officers will collect the passports from the Livestock and Veterinary Division.
- c) Transport and release of horses will be the owner's responsibility.
- d) Only duly registered horses that have their ownership officially registered with the HRID are able to make use of the training tracks at the Champ de Mars, due to liability concerns.

HRID Regulatory Veterinarian