

## FEI Passports

**DEFRA's guidelines on Section IX's** (from 'Livestock movements, identification and tracing' section of DEFRA website):

### **What is the purpose of the section IX in the passport?**

Section IX is for the owner to declare whether or not the horse is ultimately intended for human consumption. In England, the declaration does not need to be signed upon issue of the passport. However the declaration must be signed before:

- any medication containing a substance specified in Annex IV of Council Regulation 2377/90 is administered (in this case the declaration must be signed as 'not intended for human consumption'). Additionally, Bute (phenylbutazone) cannot be administered to a horse intended for the food chain. The Section IX declaration must be signed as 'not intended for human consumption' if administered.
- the horse is consigned for slaughter for human consumption (declaration must be signed as 'intended for human consumption')
- the horse is sent outside the UK (The declaration can be signed either way but must also be countersigned by either the Passport Issuing Organisation or a Vet)

The owner can at any time prior to one of the above events choose to sign the declaration. It must be remembered that once the declaration has been signed as 'not intended for human consumption', this can never be changed in order to protect the human food chain. Signing the 'not intended' declaration removes any option of slaughtering the animal for food at a later point in its life. Offering horse owners this new flexibility may help prevent potential welfare problems associated with animals nearing the end of their lives which previously could not be sent to an abattoir. However, one consequence of this greater flexibility is that people administering medicines may need to record their use in the passport.

If the declaration that the horse is ultimately intended for human consumption is signed, the date that certain veterinary medicines are administered to the horse must be recorded on the relevant pages. Before administering any medication, which contains a substance listed in Annex IV of Council Regulation 2377/90 a vet or other person administering the medicine will need to see the passport to ensure that the declaration has been signed as 'not intended for human consumption'. This is because by law no medicines not approved for food animals must be given to horses declared as intended for the human food chain. An 'intended for human consumption' declaration can be reversed.

### **Do I need to sign the Declaration when I export my horse?**

Yes. The Section IX Declaration must be signed before the horse is exported. The Passport Issuing Organisation or Local Veterinary Inspector (LVI) must also countersign it.