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Notification of DEFRA Minimum Operating Standards for UK approved passport issuing organisations.

Please be advised of the following, effective 1st February 2014, to which all PIOs must adhere:

Organisations are expected to report any offence under or breach of the Regulations cited to the horse passports enforcement authority for the area that the organisation is based so that they can decide whether enforcement action is needed. This includes where an organisation has received information suggesting that any of the following may have occurred:

- i) Where a passport is applied for outside of the statutory time limit (6 months of birth or before 31 December in the year of birth, whichever is the later). This is with the exception of rescued equines and those who have purchased a horse without a passport.
- ii) Where a passport is applied for when one already exists for that animal.
- iii) Failure of a new owner to update owner details within 30 days. This applies regardless of the length of time the person was in possession of the equine. This includes notification of loan/lease or similar (be reminded that a passport is NOT a deed of ownership), and notification of death of the animal.
- iv) Failure of an owner to return a passport for updating within 6 weeks of notification that the passport does not meet the current legal requirements.
- v) Signs of unofficial changes to passport details, tampering or fraud should be discussed with the enforcement authority for that territory.

Any CHAPS issued passports that do not contain Section IX should be returned to CHAPS(UK) Admin office as soon as possible: without this update the passport is no longer valid. Fee for this update is £15.00 which includes VAT and recorded delivery return. All such passports will be returned with Section IX signed and stamped to declare the equine is not intended for human consumption.

All Duplicate and Replacement passports will have Section IX signed and stamped as the equine not intended for human consumption, as will all passports where a loss of ownership history is apparent.

In all cases where a passport is updated or issued for an equine whose original transponder (applicable to equidae identified after 30.6.2009) has failed will be signed and stamped in Section IX by the organisation to declare the equine as not intended for human consumption.