

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP) FOR OBTAINING RECOMMENDATION OF EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION OF INDIA (EFI) FOR IMPORT OF HORSES

INTRODUCTION

1. The Equestrian sports in India have not reached the desired level of excellence. The main reasons of this state has been non-availability of quality horses to the Indian riders. The indigenous breeds are not capable of winning medals for India in the EFI listed disciplines of the Sport at the International levels.
2. Hence, there is a requirement for importing of horses by individuals/Clubs to facilitate growth of sport and win laurels at the Olympics/Asian Games and related international events. The import of live stock is regulated by Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Government of India.
3. Government of India, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) vide their letter No01/53/8/AM19/O-5/IC (Trade Notice No 49/2015-2020) dated 15 March 2019 have directed that Equestrian Federation will issue recommendation for import of horses for sportsmen. As the onus for recommendation for import of Sporting Horses have been assigned by DGFT, it is incumbent on the part of EFI to lay down necessary protocols/procedures to be adopted before according recommendation for the intended import by concerned individual/club who are members of EFI.

PROPOSAL

4. To formulate a policy defining the formalities and procedures for issue of '**Recommendation**' of EFI for import of horses as stipulated in Govt of India, Directorate of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Para 5 of letter No 01/53/8/AM19/O-5/IC (Trade Notice No 49/2015-2020) dated 15 March 2019.

DETAILED JUSTIFICATION

5. Good quality horses are the lifeline for any equestrian sport. To ensure that the sport grows it is important that provision exist for import of horses for sporting purposes to facilitate growth of the sports in the country to enable the Indian team/athletes to win laurels at the International level. Government of India, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) have issued explicit guidelines (Schedule 1 – Import Policy of ITC (HS), 2017 refers) wherein a '**Recommendation**' of Govt of India Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries is required for import of Horses under live stock which is similar to their requirement for import of Horses for sportsmen.
6. **Criteria of Individual/Clubs for Import.** A member of EFI for three years prior to import and also should have participated in EFI events for the same duration. However, a waiver may be considered on case to case basis depending upon the performance of individual/club in equestrian competitions.

7. **Acquiring Horses Passport from EFI.** An EFI passport will be obtained within three month of import of Horse/Horses by the individual/Club.

8. **Maximum Limit per Individual/Club for Import of Horses.** As the onus for giving recommendation for import of sporting horses has been left to EFI by DGFT, it is incumbent for EFI to regulate the quantities of horses which can be imported by the individual/club. A maximum of 9 horses by an individual and 12 horses by a Club may be permitted in a cycle of 18 months.

9. The individual/club importing horse/horses have to adhere the following aspects to ensure that import of horses is only for Equestrian sports and not for any Business/commercial activity: -

- (a) Strict Vet Protocols as per GOI guidelines for import of Horses.
- (b) Specific documentation in r/o the Horses being imported with details like complete history sheet, etc.
- (c) Defining cities for quarantine area for horse imported on arrival in India.
- (d) Diagnostic/Vet tests of the horse/horses on arrival in India.
- (e) Management and up keep of data of all imported horses incl sale/purchase of the horses imported for the complete life span of horses.
- (f) Promoters to ensure no malpractices/business model runs though the practice of Import and it is strictly for development of the sport.
- (g) In case of any imported horses being found unfit for sporting purposes and the owner intends to utilize same for other purposes, the EFI should be informed within three months. Also, if the importer/horse owner decides to use such horse(s) for breeding, the same will be communicated to EFI and necessary approval as per policy existing, from Govt of India, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries should be obtained. Necessary approval for breeding in case of such horses if not obtained from Govt of India, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries within three months, the off springs of such horses which has been diverted for breeding purposes, will not be registered with EFI if not intimated to EFI in time stipulated.

PROCEDURE: RECOMMENDATION OF EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION OF INDIA (EFI) FOR IMPORT OF HORSES

Pre - Import

10. All individuals/Clubs desirous to import horses for sporting purpose for disciplines as stipulated by EFI will forward an affidavit on non judicial stamp paper of Rs 100/- to EFI mentioning intended disciplines for which they wish to import horse/horses.

11. The affidavit should cover data as given in **Appendix 'A'** as applicable (Individual/Club). The individuals/clubs should be a member of EFI and should be participating in any of the EFI approved events since last three years in both cases. They (Individual /club) will pay import duty, transportation charges, etc as applicable under extant law, rules and/or policies of the concerned Statutory Agencies.

12. An individual/club can import only Sport Horses as permitted in law by Government of India regulations revised from time to time and based on specification and details provided in the application, once, in a cycle of 18 months. If the individual/club seeks to apply for a fresh license and needs EFI's recommendations within the 18 months period of the earlier license, a further application setting out the justification for the same will be mandated.

13. Recommendation for import of horse/horses as per format attached as **Appendix 'B'** will be issued by EFI on receipt of affidavit and due deliberation.

Post-Import

14. An EFI passport will be obtained within three month of import of Horse/Horses by the individual/Club. The owner will provide the following information: -

(a) No of Horses imported vis-à-vis Recommendation of EFI obtained of number of Horses.

(b) Supporting documents of Horses imported: -

(i) Copy of Import Licence

(ii) Original Passport

(iii) Microchip Number

(iv) Quarantine Certificate at Export & Import locations

Responsibility of EFI

15. This National Federation will maintain a data bank which will be regularly updated of all imported Horses through EFI, their profile and sporting performance. In case of death/medical permanent unfitness of imported Horse for sporting purposes, the same will also be communicated to EFI by the Owner.

Change of Ownership

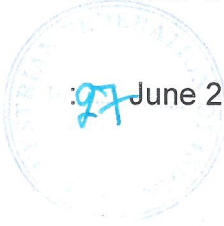
16. Change of ownership of such imported horse will be done by EFI on obtaining a written application for same by the registered owner. The owner (Individual/Clubs) cannot sell the horse/horses for a period of 24 months from the date of Horse/Horses arrival in India as per extant statutory guidelines since such horses category fall within the list of prohibited items of import. In case they do so, prior permission of EFI will be obtained with detailed reasoning. In case agreed by EFI, suitable amendments to new ownership will be endorsed by the EFI in the passport.

CONCLUSION

17. Every applicant will abide by the extant law applicable for import of horses in India and will ensure a vet check is carried out on arrival in India as per government orders on the subject.
18. These imported horses will not be used for commercial purposes but only for equestrian sports conducted under the aegis of EFI.
19. This policy may undergo revision/amendments subject to change/amendments in underlines of statutory polices.
20. Intent of this SOP is not restrictive but to ensure a sound methodology, upkeep of information and data base for the EFI.

File No : 070/IMPORT/HORSE/EFI/2020-21

Date : 27 June 2020




(Jaiveer Singh)
Col
Secretary General

AFFIDAVIT: RECOMMENDATION OF EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION OF INDIA (EFI)
FOR IMPORT OF HORSES

1. I/We, _____ son of /daughter of/club named _____, resident of / located at _____ (as per address proof mentioned in Aadhar card/ club registration certificate) having EFI Membership No _____, do hereby affirm that I/we am/are applying to the Director General of Foreign Trade, New Delhi for a license to Import _____ (Number of horse) Horse from _____ (Name of Country).
2. I/We, do hereby affirm that the _____ (Number of Horse) horses are being imported purely for equestrian sports purpose i.e. Dressage/Eventing/Jumping/Endurance.
3. My/Our Sporting achievements are as listed under:-
 - (a) _____
 - (b) _____
 - (c) _____
4. I/We do hereby affirm that I/We will provide all documents/original passport, copy of import licence, quarantine certificate of export & import location and intimate the grade of the horses to EFI.
5. On arrival I/We will get the horse/horses registered with EFI within three months and obtain an EFI Passport by depositing documents as per Para 4 above.
6. I/We do hereby affirm that I/We will not re-sell the sports horses or divert the horses for purposes other than sporting without prior permission from EFI.
7. I/We undertake that I/We will abide by the laid down rules of EFI vide their letter No 070/Import/Horse/EFI/2020-21 dated 27 June 2020 for "Recommendation of EFI for import of Horses". In case of default, the horse and owner will be banned from participating in any EFI/FEI events and import of horses till the above modalities have been cleared.
8. I/We will comply by all provisions of the "SOP for obtaining recommendation of EFI for import of horses" in letter and spirit.
9. In case of dispute I/We will approach the EFI and their decision will be binding on me/us

No.
Date

Sig of Indl/authorized person of the club

070/Import/Horse/EFI/2020-21

Dated

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade
Udyog Bhawan New Delhi

RECOMMENDATION OF EFI FOR IMPORT OF HORSE IN RESPECT OF
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Dear Sir/Madam,

1. EFI is the sole Governing body in India for Equestrian Sports and duly recognized by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt of India, Indian Olympics Association and Federation Equestre Internationale.
2. _____ is a member of EFI having Membership No/rider ID No _____. The _____ (Indl/Club) had applied to this National Federation for issuing of recommendation for import of horses vide application No. _____ dated _____ (copy enclosed).
3. EFI strongly recommends import of _____ (number) horses in respect _____ (Indl/Club) for sporting purposes from _____ (Country). This will facilitate in growth of sport in India and in improving standards to win medals at International levels.
4. You are requested to kindly issue the necessary Import License with suitable duty concessions to facilitate the import of these horses for Equestrian sports.
5. The Indl/Club will follow all statutory rules on the subject issued by Central/State govt. agencies.

With Warm Regards

Yours Sincerely,

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Secretary General

Copy to:-

The Joint Secretary (Sports)
please.
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi -110001

- For information and necessary action

The Commissioner
Department of Animal Husbandry,
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi

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