



May 15, 2020

Racing Queensland thoroughbred movement protocols

Transport of horses between regions

- Horses will be permitted to travel to licensed racing/training venues across regions, however, licensed personnel are not permitted to travel across regions with such horses;
- Horses are permitted to travel with 'Approved Float Company'. An "Approved Float Company" is any float company which is registered as a transport company, and which has sought and been granted approval by Racing Queensland to transport racing thoroughbred horses within Queensland.
- The horses' trainer must make arrangements (notified and approved by the QRIC stewards) through deployment of approved staff or a designated caretaker trainer within the receiving region;
- Trainers will be required to notify the QRIC Stewards of arrangements for travel and care of horses prior to horses' departure;
- Horses moving to another region for the purposes of racing must have completed their journey no later than 5pm on the day prior to race day;
- Transport drivers (freight drivers) are to make prior arrangements with drop-off points and are not to access licensed premises when delivering horses. A designated receiving stable staff member must be on hand to take delivery of the horse being transported;
- Prior to, and upon completion of the journey, the float driver must ensure the vehicle is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected to minimise any risk of COVID-19 being spread on future journeys; and
- Upon arrival, the designated staff member must ensure that any gear attached to the horse is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected to minimise any risk of COVID-19 being spread within the stable environment.

Transport other than by Approved Float Company

- Horses will be permitted to travel between racing/training regions within Queensland, however if the transport is other than with an Approved Float Company, the person transporting that horse (and any persons who come into close contact with that person) will not be permitted access to any licensed racing or training facility in Queensland for a period of at least 14 days;
- Transport drivers are to make prior arrangements with drop-off points and are not to access licensed premises when delivering horses. A designated receiving stable staff member must be on hand to take delivery of the horse being transported;
- Prior to, and upon completion of the journey, the float driver must ensure the vehicle is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected to minimise any risk of COVID-19 being spread on future journeys; and
- Upon arrival, the designated staff member must ensure that any gear attached to the horse is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected to minimise any risk of COVID-19 being spread within the stable environment.

Inter-state transport of horses by Approved Float Companies

- Where Government regulations allow, horses will be permitted to travel to Queensland, however any licensed or registered personnel, or essential personnel (being those currently approved for access to race meetings and training centres) are not permitted to travel with such horses, other than employees of the Approved Float Company;
- An “Approved Float Company” is any float company which is registered as a transport company, and which has sought and been granted approval by Racing Queensland to transport racing thoroughbred horses to Queensland from inter-state;
- The horses’ trainer must make arrangements (notified and approved by the QRIC stewards) through deployment of approved staff or a designated caretaker trainer within the receiving region;
- Trainers will be required to notify the QRIC stewards of arrangements for travel and care of horses prior to horses departure;
- Transport drivers (freight drivers) are to make prior arrangements with drop-off points and are not to access licensed premises when delivering horses (unless otherwise approved by QRIC stewards). They must remain within their cabin and a designated Queensland staff member of the horse’s trainer/ or caretaker trainer must be on hand to take delivery of the horse being transported;
- Horses transported from inter-state for the purposes of racing must have completed their journey no later than 9am on the day prior to race day;
- Upon arrival, the designated staff member must ensure that any gear attached to the horse is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected to minimise any risk of COVID-19 being spread within the stable environment;
- Prior to, and upon completion of the journey, the float company must ensure the vehicle is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected to minimise any risk of COVID-19 being spread on future journeys; and
- Any transport driver undertaking inter-state travel must not enter licensed premises or act in another industry capacity (e.g. strapper or stablehand) whereby they enter a racing or training complex in that capacity for a period of 14 days from the date they last entered Queensland from inter-state.

Inter-state transport other than by Approved Float Company

- Where Government regulations allow, horses will be permitted to travel from inter-state to Queensland, however if the transport is other than with an Approved Float Company, the person transporting that horse (and any persons who come into close contact with that person) will not be permitted access to any licensed racing or training facility in Queensland for a period of at least 14 days;
- Transport drivers are to make prior arrangements with drop-off points and are not to access licensed premises when delivering horses (unless otherwise approved by QRIC stewards). They must remain within their cabin and a designated Queensland staff member of the horse’s trainer/ or caretaker trainer must be on hand to take delivery of the horse being transported;
- Upon arrival the designated staff member must ensure that any gear attached to the horse is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected to minimise any risk of COVID-19 being spread within the stable environment;
- Prior to, and upon completion of the journey, the float driver must ensure the vehicle is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected to minimise any risk of COVID-19 being spread on future journeys; and

- Any transport driver undertaking inter-state travel must not enter licensed premises or act in another industry capacity (e.g. strapper or stablehand) whereby they enter a racing or training complex in that capacity for a period of 14 days from the date they last entered Queensland from inter-state.

Recommended protocols for transport of racehorses between racing regions

Racing in Queensland is currently being conducted in a restricted format to minimise the risk of spread of human COVID-19 amongst racing participants and the general public.

As horses are not the primary species involved in spread of coronavirus infection, a decision has recently been made to allow movement of horses between racing zones to enable better matching of horses with racing opportunities.

As any movement of a horse necessarily also involves movement of people who are directly involved in the horse's transport, it is vital that protocols are in place to prevent unnecessary contact between the people involved in the horse's transport at either end of the journey.

In order to achieve the desired outcome, horse transport should involve the minimum staff necessary at all stages of the journey (pick-up, transport and drop-off). Attention must also be drawn towards the potential for gear and other objects (including the animal) that come into contact with a potentially infected person to spread the infection to another person.

Accordingly, the following protocol has been developed by Racing Queensland in conjunction with QRIC.

Horse pick-up

- Prior to arrival at pick-up location, the horse transporter should be showered and wearing a clean set of clothing. Hand hygiene should be performed just prior to arrival;
- Prior communication with pick-up location should occur to facilitate efficient pick-up of horse;
- The transporter should be met by one allocated person at the pick-up location who has undergone the same level of personal hygiene and hand sanitisation;
- The truck should be made ready to receive the horse (ramps down, dividers open etc); and
- There shall be an allocated person at the pick-up location to open the horse's stable (while maintaining social distancing from transporter) allowing the transporter to catch the horse with their own head collar and lead and place it in the transport bay on their truck, secure the gate and drive to the destination.

Transport

- Stops en-route should be kept to a bare minimum (fuel stop, toilet stop etc) with close attention paid to social distancing and regular hand hygiene;
- Travel should be planned to follow the most direct route to minimise travel time; and
- For longer journeys the legislative requirements for rest and watering stops for land transport of the horse will need to be adhered to, ensuring the horse's welfare during the journey.

Horse drop-off

- Prior communication with the drop-off location is necessary to ensure the efficient drop-off of the horse at destination;
- The transporter is to be met by a single allocated person at the drop-off destination, who has undergone personal and hand hygiene procedures as previously detailed (shower, clean clothes and hand hygiene);

- The transporter is to provide access to the horse in the transport bay to the allocated drop-off person while maintaining social distancing;
- The allocated drop-off person is to undo the transporter's head collar and replace it with their own head collar and lead prior to leading the horse off the truck and into the stable complex;
- The horse is to be shampooed in horse wash/detergent before drying off and being placed in its allocated stable;
- All head collars and leads (transporter's and drop-off recipient's) are to be disinfected prior to next use; and
- The transporter and drop-off recipient are to undergo hand hygiene.