



WBFSH statement in support of UELN 2017

The UELN & the horse's passport, which should be a single lifetime document (zootechnical & genealogical information), are closely linked and vital in order to keep track of horses internationally in terms of breeding & sporting performances, in the interest of reducing fraud and also in terms of addressing the issues related to the growing horse meat industry. The WBFSH believes in the single lifetime horse identification document and who should be allowed to issue it, as stipulate in EU regulation 262/2015:

“The bodies issuing identification documents for registered equidae should be the organisations or associations which maintain or establish studbooks for registered equidae that are officially approved or recognised by the competent authority of a Member State in accordance with Decision 92/353/EEC, or an official agency of the Member State which manages the studbook in which the equine animal is entered or registered for breeding purposes in accordance with Decision 96/78/EC.”

Horse identification and traceability are of major importance during an age of globalisation where worldwide movement of horses for the purposes of sport & breeding as well as in the food industry is on the rise. In order to achieve an identification that can be traced worldwide, the WBFSH strongly believes in the UELN as THE unique identification number that a horse should be given. This UELN can trace a horse back to the original registration authority that first recorded the horse.

EU Regulation 262/2015 Article 2 - *Definitions*

(o) 'unique life number' means a unique 15-digit alpha-numeric code compiling information on the individual equine animal and the database and country where such information is first recorded in accordance with the coding system of the Universal Equine Life Number (UELN) and comprising:

- (i) a six-digit UELN-compatible identification code for the database referred to in Article 39; followed by
- (ii) a nine-digit individual identification number assigned to the equine animal

The UELN has been used & recognised for many years by many studbooks members of the WBFSH worldwide, as well as by equestrian umbrella organisations such as the FEI (Federation Equestrian International), EEF (European Equestrian Federation), Weatherbys, World Arabian Horse Organization (WAHO) to name a few.

According to EU Regulation 262/2015 (62):

“The UELN system is suitable for the registration of both registered equidae and equidae for breeding and production and allows computerised networks to be brought in gradually to ensure that the animals' identity can continue to be verified in accordance with Article 6 of Directive 90/427/EEC in the case of registered equidae.”

The WBFSH therefore appeals to the European Commission and Member States to maintain the Unique Equine Life Number (UELN) as the key element of identification and registration of equidae and the WBFSH advocates a reference to/definition of the UELN being reinstated in the Delegated Act 2016/1012.