

The Committee are now discussing the impact of the new legislation on clubs operating procedures for the 2022 season and future racing. It is likely that members will need to provide a copy of their vaccination certificates to the BBC prior to the race season, individual veterinary certificates will NOT be required.

Marking will probably take more time with the extra paperwork required so any help at the marking stations would be very much appreciated.

## **RPRA update – channel racing**

**January 2022: Implementing Regulation 2022/37 is published and adopted.**

Regulation 2022/37 published last month provided the paperwork required for entering the EU. you can imagine that we were all surprised to see the inclusion of a health certificate (Annex 34A) of the regulation. Although this health certificate did not require a period of quarantine or the laboratory tests, it did require lofts to be approved rather than registered and also the signature of an official veterinarian.

In addition, the health certificates is written in a way that pigeons from a different lofts could not be moved on the same vehicle.

The requirement for a health certificates and premises approval was surprising to me and Defra when considering that regulation 2022/37 states that it is based on the derogation published in regulation 2021/1705

### **Developments**

Since publication of regulation 2022/37 the following actions and progress has been achieved.

1. I met with Defra officials to discuss the content of regulation 2022/37 and the impact this would have to the prospect of racing from the continent in 2022. By the time we met Defra had already met with EU officers to raise awareness of the issues
2. There have been number of communications direct with the DG Sante (EU Department of Health) facilitated through a number of European friends/organisations to raise these issues directly between the RPRA and the EU.
3. A meeting with a UK official veteran veterinarian has taken place to discuss processes and amendments required to facilitate racing.

### **The outcomes are as follows**

it seems that the health certificate is here to stay. However the indications from the EU (including written communications direct with the RPRA) are as follows.

1. The requirements will revert to a registration process for loft's as opposed to the onerous approval process.

2. The certificate will be amended to allow pigeons from multiple lofts to be transported on the same vehicle.
3. The health certificates will be required for each convoy rather than each loft.

Assuming the above amendments are agreed then I am confident we can put these in place process is that will enable racing to take place from the continent in 2022.

These processes will require a health certificate for the convoy. As a result we have procured an official veterinarian to advise us on processes and paperwork required and also to identify suitable veterinarians from all parts of the UK. It is envisaged that the health certificate difficult could be signed at the final pick-up point/marketing station in the meantime we will start work on guidance protocols in terms of the process is paperwork required (much of which you would already have been implementing in previous years.) this MAY include but MAY not be limited to

- a record of all birds on the vehicle race entry sheets vaccination declarations evidence
- record of all baskets on scene numbers including a record of the birds within each basket create
- additional paperwork may include a record of last registration with Defra

The cost of a veterinary certificate will vary, however based on the conversation with the official veterinarian this is likely to be between 300 and 500 pounds per convoy

### **Time scales**

The EU has indicated that amendments will be published in weeks. Although this is positive we must consider that Defra will not be able to publish documents for premises/loft registration until these amendments have been published. Therefore, to manage expectations we must consider the workload that Defra will have to deal with assuming there will be thousands of lofts requiring registration we must assume that this work will not be completed in a short period, but hopefully in advance of the start of the channel season.

I hope you will appreciate and recognised what a difficult task this has been and therefore remain patient in the knowledge that everything that can be done will be done. It has never been as straight forward as 'will they' let us in France etc. The French for example have always been willing to provide a liberation permit to the UK organisations. It has been a requirement of entry that has prevented racing.

Clearly there will be changes to the processes and paperwork required to achieve racing from the continent however without providing any guarantees I am confident we will get there. There is light at the end of the tunnel as soon as there are any developments, we will publish an update.

Ian Evans CEO

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