

SEI AM3

ACTIVITY MODULE 3 – BREEDING AND STUD OPERATIONS

Module Introduction

1. Purpose and Application

AM3 – Breeding and Stud Operations establishes the requirements applicable to organisations undertaking horse breeding, reproductive management, stud services, foaling, rearing of foals and youngstock, or related breeding activities within the certification scope. AM3 is intended to apply across breeds, disciplines and breeding purposes and may include commercial studs, private breeding operations, sport-horse breeding, pedigree and studbook programmes and other organised equine breeding activities. The Module applies according to the breeding activities and responsibilities actually undertaken, regardless of whether mares, stallions, foals or young horses are owned by the organisation or by third parties.

2. Scope of Responsibility

Breeding creates responsibilities extending beyond the immediate care of the mare and stallion to the health, welfare and future of the offspring produced. The organisation shall clearly establish its responsibilities for reproductive decisions, veterinary management, breeding services, pregnancy, foaling, neonatal care, weaning, youngstock management, identification and transfer of horses. Where horses are owned by clients or breeding services are shared with veterinarians, laboratories, stallion owners, transporters, studbooks or other third parties, responsibilities shall be sufficiently defined to prevent gaps in welfare, health, biosecurity, traceability or emergency response.

3. Responsible Breeding and Horse Wellbeing

Breeding decisions shall place horse health and wellbeing ahead of purely commercial, aesthetic, sporting or pedigree objectives. The organisation shall consider whether the horses selected for breeding are physically, behaviourally and reproductively suitable and whether known hereditary, conformational, health or welfare characteristics may create avoidable suffering or significant disadvantage for the mare, stallion or resulting offspring. Reproductive methods shall respect the horse's physiology and welfare and shall be undertaken with appropriate professional and veterinary involvement.

4. Mare, Foal and Young Horse Protection

Pregnancy, foaling, neonatal development, weaning and early growth are particularly sensitive stages of the horse's life and require appropriate monitoring, competent supervision and timely professional intervention. The organisation shall ensure that mares and foals receive conditions, care, and management appropriate to their stages and that operational or commercial pressures do not compromise their health, behavioural development, or welfare.

5. Relationship with AM1 and Other Activity Modules

Where breeding and stud activities are undertaken within facilities assessed under AM1, equivalent requirements relating to accommodation, water, feed, biosecurity, infrastructure, manure, waste, environmental management, emergency arrangements and other common controls may be recognised without unnecessary duplication. AM3 focuses on the additional impacts and responsibilities arising specifically from breeding, reproduction, foaling and youngstock management. Where horse transport is incidental to breeding or stud operations, the breeding-specific requirements of AM3 shall apply. Where the organisation itself undertakes horse transport as a material, routine or separately certified activity, AM7 – Transport & Logistics shall additionally apply according to the defined certification scope. Where other Activity Modules also apply, equivalent evidence may be recognised according to the Standard's cross-module provisions.

6. Assessment Hierarchy

The AM3 criteria follow the sequence of responsible Breeding and Stud Operations

*AUTHORITY & BREEDING SCOPE → RESPONSIBLE BREEDING DECISION → GENETIC & HEALTH SUITABILITY →
REPRODUCTIVE MANAGEMENT → MARE & STALLION WELFARE → PREGNANCY → FOALING → NEONATAL
CARE → WEANING & YOUNGSTOCK → IDENTIFICATION & TRACEABILITY → BIOSECURITY → TRANSPORT &
TRANSFER → RESOURCE & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT → PEOPLE & COMPETENCE → ECONOMIC
RESPONSIBILITY → MEASURE → CORRECT → IMPROVE → COMMUNICATE*

The hierarchy is intentional. Breeding should begin only when the organisation can demonstrate that the breeding decision is responsible, the horses involved are suitable, appropriate professional controls are in place, and reasonable provision exists for the welfare and future management of the offspring.

Criterion AM3-1 – Legal Authority and Applicable Breeding Requirements

The organisation shall demonstrate that breeding and stud activities are lawfully undertaken and comply with applicable breeding, animal-health, veterinary, identification, movement, studbook and other mandatory requirements.

Compliance Requirements

AM3-1.1 Legal registrations, licences, approvals and other authorisations applicable to breeding and stud activities shall be identified and maintained.

AM3-1.2 Applicable animal-health, reproduction, identification, movement, veterinary and breeding requirements shall be identified and incorporated into operational controls.

AM3-1.3 Applicable mandatory requirements established by competent studbook, breed, racing or other governing authorities shall be identified where relevant to the activities undertaken.

AM3-1.4 Required notifications, registrations, testing, certificates or other formal breeding records shall be completed within applicable periods.

AM3-1.5 Changes in applicable requirements shall be identified and incorporated into affected breeding activities.

Indicators

- Applicable breeding and stud authorisations are identifiable and current.
- Relevant veterinary, animal-health and identification requirements are understood.
- Mandatory governing requirements are incorporated into operations.
- Required registrations and certificates are traceable.
- Changes in requirements result in updated controls.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification includes registrations, licences, breeding records, competent-authority documentation, studbook requirements, veterinary records and interviews.

Minor non-conformity: Arises where legal requirements are substantially controlled but isolated administrative, registration or updating deficiencies exist.

Major non-conformity: Arises where material breeding activities are undertaken without mandatory legal authority, required animal-health or breeding controls are knowingly disregarded, or significant legal requirements affecting horse welfare or traceability are systematically not implemented.

Criterion AM3-2 – Breeding Programme Scope and Operational Capacity

The organisation shall define the nature and scale of its breeding activities and maintain resources, infrastructure and professional support appropriate to the number and categories of horses involved.

Compliance Requirements

AM3-2.1 The breeding activities undertaken shall be defined, including relevant use of mares, stallions, foals, youngstock and third-party horses.

AM3-2.2 Annual and seasonal breeding activity, including expected coverings or inseminations, pregnancies, foalings and youngstock numbers, shall be reliably known.

AM3-2.3 Facility, staffing, veterinary, land, isolation, foaling and youngstock capacity shall be evaluated against the scale of breeding operations.

AM3-2.4 Periods of increased demand, including breeding and foaling seasons, shall be considered in staffing, veterinary availability and operational planning.

AM3-2.5 Material changes in breeding numbers or services shall be evaluated to confirm that existing resources and controls remain adequate.

Indicators

- The breeding programme and services are clearly defined.
- Breeding and foaling numbers are reliably known.
- Resources correspond with the breeding scale.
- Seasonal peaks are appropriately planned.
- Expansion or change results in a capacity review.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification includes breeding records, horse numbers, foaling schedules, staffing, facilities, veterinary arrangements and operational planning.

Minor non-conformity: Arises where capacity is substantially appropriate but individual planning or quantitative information is incomplete.

Major non-conformity: Arises where breeding activity knowingly exceeds the organisation's capacity to provide appropriate horse care, veterinary support, foaling supervision or other essential welfare controls.

Criterion AM3-3 – Responsible Breeding Decision and Breeding Purpose

Breeding decisions shall be deliberate, responsible and supported by consideration of the health and well-being of the horses involved, the characteristics of the proposed offspring and the organisation's capacity to provide or secure appropriate future care.

Compliance Requirements

AM3-3.1 The organisation shall establish a clear breeding purpose or objective for planned matings.

AM3-3.2 Breeding decisions shall consider whether producing the proposed offspring is compatible with responsible horse welfare and management.

AM3-3.3 The organisation shall consider foreseeable welfare, health, behavioural and management implications associated with the intended breeding combination.

AM3-3.4 Commercial demand, pedigree value, appearance or performance potential shall not, by themselves, justify a breeding decision where significant foreseeable welfare concerns exist.

AM3-3.5 Breeding decisions and outcomes shall be periodically evaluated to determine whether selection objectives remain appropriate and responsible.

Indicators

- Breeding decisions have identifiable objectives.
- Welfare implications are considered before mating.
- Selection goes beyond commercial or aesthetic considerations.
- Significant concerns influence breeding decisions.
- Breeding outcomes inform subsequent decisions.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification includes breeding plans, selection records, veterinary or professional input, breeding outcomes and interviews.

Minor non-conformity: Arises where breeding decisions are generally responsible, but individual supporting evaluation or records are incomplete.

Major non-conformity: Arises where breeding knowingly proceeds despite significant foreseeable welfare consequences without reasonable veterinary or professional justification.

Criterion AM3-4 – Genetic, Hereditary and Health Suitability for Breeding

Horses selected for breeding shall be evaluated for known hereditary, congenital, health, conformational or behavioural characteristics capable of materially affecting their welfare or the welfare of their offspring.

Compliance Requirements

AM3-4.1 Relevant hereditary diseases, defects and breed-specific health risks shall be identified where recognised and applicable.

AM3-4.2 Available health, genetic, veterinary and breeding information shall be considered when determining suitability for breeding.

AM3-4.3 Horses known to possess hereditary, congenital or other characteristics likely to cause significant avoidable pain, suffering or serious functional impairment in offspring shall not knowingly be bred where the proposed mating presents a material foreseeable risk of producing those outcomes. Where breeding is proposed as part of a demonstrable strategy intended to reduce or eliminate an identified hereditary risk, the decision shall be supported by appropriate veterinary, genetic or scientifically established evidence.

AM3-4.4 Significant health or welfare concerns identified in offspring shall be recorded and considered in future breeding decisions involving related breeding animals.

AM3-4.5 Selection practices shall be periodically reviewed as relevant veterinary, genetic or scientific knowledge develops.

Indicators

- Material hereditary risks relevant to breeding horses are understood.
- Relevant health and genetic information informs selection.
- Significant detrimental traits affect breeding decisions.
- Offspring health outcomes feed back into breeding selection.
- New knowledge results in review.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification includes genetic or health testing (where applicable), veterinary information, studbook records, offspring outcomes, and breeding-selection evidence.

Minor non-conformity: Arises where suitability is substantially considered but individual health, genetic or follow-up information is incomplete.

Major non-conformity: Arises where horses are knowingly bred for or despite characteristics demonstrably associated with significant avoidable suffering or serious inherited welfare problems without appropriate justification.

Criterion AM3-5 – Mare Suitability and Reproductive Welfare

Mares used for breeding shall be physically and reproductively suitable, and breeding shall not proceed where pregnancy or foaling presents an unacceptable foreseeable welfare risk.

Compliance Requirements

AM3-5.1 Mare suitability shall be evaluated before breeding, considering health, maturity, reproductive history, body condition and other material factors.

AM3-5.2 Previous difficult pregnancies, foaling complications, reproductive disease or relevant abnormalities shall be considered before subsequent breeding.

AM3-5.3 Veterinary advice shall be obtained where age, health, reproductive history or other factors create reasonable uncertainty concerning breeding suitability.

AM3-5.4 Pregnancy shall be monitored at intervals appropriate to the mare and reproductive programme.

AM3-5.5 Breeding shall be reconsidered or discontinued where evidence indicates that continuation presents an unacceptable risk to the mare's wellbeing.

Indicators

- Mare suitability is evaluated before breeding.
- Reproductive history influences decisions.
- Veterinary input is obtained where needed.
- Pregnancy monitoring is appropriate.
- Welfare concerns can stop further breeding.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification includes mare records, reproductive history, veterinary evidence, breeding decisions and pregnancy information.

Minor non-conformity: Arises where mare management is substantially appropriate but individual evaluations, monitoring or records are incomplete.

Major non-conformity: Arises where a mare is knowingly bred despite significant foreseeable reproductive or health risk without appropriate veterinary justification.

Criterion AM3-6 – Stallion Suitability, Management and Welfare

Stallions used for breeding shall be suitable for the intended breeding activity and managed in a manner that protects their physical and behavioural well-being and the safety of horses and people.

Compliance Requirements

AM3-6.1 Stallion breeding suitability shall consider relevant health, hereditary, reproductive, behavioural and physical characteristics.

AM3-6.2 Stallion accommodation, handling and exercise arrangements shall reflect individual behavioural and welfare needs.

AM3-6.3 Breeding frequency and reproductive workload shall be managed to avoid unreasonable physical or behavioural stress.

AM3-6.4 Persons handling stallions shall have competence appropriate to the risks and behaviour of the individual horse.

AM3-6.5 Incidents, fertility concerns, injuries or behavioural deterioration shall result in a review of stallion management and breeding use.

Indicators

- Stallion suitability is appropriately assessed.
- Management reflects individual needs.
- Breeding workload is controlled.
- Stallion handlers are competent.
- Adverse trends result in review.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification includes stallion records, handling arrangements, breeding-use information, observations, incidents and veterinary evidence.

Minor non-conformity: Arises where stallion management is generally appropriate but individual monitoring or record deficiencies exist.

Major non-conformity: Arises where breeding or handling practices expose the stallion, other horses or people to significant avoidable welfare or safety risk.

Criterion AM3-7 – Reproductive Methods and Veterinary Oversight

Natural breeding, artificial insemination, embryo transfer and other reproductive procedures shall be undertaken using methods that respect horse physiology, health and wellbeing and comply with applicable veterinary requirements.

Compliance Requirements

AM3-7.1 Reproductive methods used by the organisation shall be identified, and appropriate professional responsibilities established.

AM3-7.2 Veterinary procedures shall be undertaken by appropriately authorised and competent professionals where required.

AM3-7.3 Restraint, examination and reproductive procedures shall minimise avoidable pain, fear, injury and distress.

AM3-7.4 Medication and veterinary substances associated with reproduction shall be used under appropriate professional control and recorded as required.

AM3-7.5 Complications, adverse responses or recurring reproductive problems shall be reviewed and used to modify future management where necessary.

Indicators

- Reproductive methods and responsibilities are defined.
- Appropriate veterinary professionals are involved.
- Procedures are performed humanely.
- Medication and treatments are controlled.
- Complications inform subsequent management.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification includes reproductive records, veterinary documentation, procedure arrangements, medicine information and incident evidence.

Minor non-conformity: Arises where reproductive management is substantially appropriate but individual documentation or review deficiencies exist.

Major non-conformity: Arises where unauthorised procedures are undertaken, reproductive methods cause significant avoidable suffering, or required veterinary oversight is knowingly bypassed.

Criterion AM3-8 – Pregnancy Management and Broodmare Care

Pregnant mares shall receive nutrition, exercise, healthcare, accommodation and monitoring appropriate to the stage of pregnancy and individual needs.

Compliance Requirements

AM3-8.1 Pregnant mares shall receive appropriate nutritional management and body-condition monitoring.

AM3-8.2 Exercise, turnout and social arrangements shall support physical and behavioural wellbeing unless veterinary considerations require modification.

AM3-8.3 Preventive health, vaccination and parasite-control arrangements shall reflect veterinary advice and applicable requirements.

AM3-8.4 Relevant changes in behaviour, condition or health during pregnancy shall be monitored and appropriately escalated.

AM3-8.5 Management shall be adjusted as pregnancy progresses and according to individual mare needs.

Indicators

- Pregnancy nutrition and condition are appropriately managed.
- Exercise and turnout arrangements are suitable.
- Preventive healthcare is maintained.
- Abnormal conditions result in action.
- Management changes with pregnancy stage.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification includes mare observation, nutrition, veterinary information, health records and management arrangements.

Minor non-conformity: Arises where broodmare care is generally appropriate but individual monitoring or records are incomplete.

Major non-conformity: Arises where pregnant mares are knowingly subjected to conditions or management creating significant avoidable welfare risk.

Criterion AM3-9 – Foaling Preparation and Monitoring

The organisation shall maintain suitable facilities, competent supervision and emergency arrangements for foaling proportionate to the expected number of mares and associated risks.

Compliance Requirements

AM3-9.1 Foaling areas shall be suitable, clean, safe and appropriately prepared for the mare and newborn foal.

AM3-9.2 Expected foaling dates and relevant mare risk factors shall be monitored sufficiently to support timely supervision.

AM3-9.3 Persons responsible for foaling supervision shall be competent to recognise normal progression and signs requiring veterinary intervention.

AM3-9.4 Veterinary assistance shall be accessible without undue delay where complications or abnormal progression occur.

AM3-9.5 Foaling outcomes and complications shall be recorded and reviewed to identify improvements in future preparation and management.

Indicators

- Foaling facilities are suitable.
- Expected foalings are actively monitored.
- Supervisors recognise abnormal progression.
- Veterinary escalation is available.
- Outcomes and complications inform improvement.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification includes foaling areas, monitoring arrangements, personnel competence, veterinary access and foaling records.

Minor non-conformity: Arises where foaling controls are substantially effective but individual preparation, monitoring, or documentation deficiencies exist.

Major non-conformity: Arises where foaling occurs without reasonable supervision or emergency veterinary provision, and this creates a significant foreseeable welfare risk.

Criterion AM3-10 – Neonatal Foal Care and Colostrum Management

Newborn foals shall receive timely observation and care necessary to support survival, health and early development.

Compliance Requirements

AM3-10.1 Foals shall be monitored following birth for normal breathing, movement, nursing behaviour and other relevant indicators of neonatal wellbeing.

AM3-10.2 Appropriate intake of colostrum shall be confirmed or otherwise evaluated within a timeframe consistent with veterinary guidance.

AM3-10.3 Where adequate colostrum intake is uncertain or not possible, veterinary advice or appropriate alternative management shall be obtained without undue delay.

AM3-10.4 Mare–foal bonding and normal maternal interaction shall be supported unless veterinary or welfare considerations require intervention.

AM3-10.5 Neonatal illness, developmental abnormalities or recurring foaling outcomes shall be recorded and evaluated.

Indicators

- Newborn foals receive timely observation.
- Colostrum intake is appropriately addressed.
- Failure of nursing triggers a professional response.
- Mare–foal interaction is protected.
- Neonatal outcomes inform breeding management.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification includes foaling and neonatal records, veterinary information, mare and foal observation and emergency arrangements.

Minor non-conformity: Arises where neonatal care is substantially appropriate but individual recording or monitoring deficiencies exist.

Major non-conformity: Arises where failure of nursing, serious neonatal illness or another significant condition is knowingly left without a timely, appropriate response.

Criterion AM3-11 – Foal Development, Movement and Socialisation

Foals shall be provided with conditions that support healthy physical development, movement, social interaction, and progressive adaptation to normal handling and environments.

Compliance Requirements

AM3-11.1 Foals shall have appropriate opportunities for movement and turnout according to health, weather and facility conditions.

AM3-11.2 Foal areas and fencing shall be suitable for the size, behaviour and developmental stage of young horses.

AM3-11.3 Foals shall have appropriate social contact with the mare and other compatible horses.

AM3-11.4 Human handling and familiarisation shall be progressive, calm and appropriate to the foal's age and behaviour.

AM3-11.5 Development, injury, behaviour and adaptation shall be monitored and management adjusted where necessary.

Indicators

- Foals have appropriate movement opportunities.
- Infrastructure is safe for young horses.
- Social interaction is available.
- Early handling is humane and progressive.
- Developmental concerns result in action.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification includes observation of foals, paddocks, fencing, handling practices, developmental records and incidents.

Minor non-conformity: Arises where foal management is generally appropriate, but isolated deficiencies in facility, monitoring, or socialisation exist.

Major non-conformity: Arises where foals are systematically maintained in materially unsuitable conditions that significantly compromise development, safety or wellbeing.

Criterion AM3-12 – Weaning Management

Weaning shall be planned and undertaken using methods intended to minimise avoidable stress and protect the physical and behavioural wellbeing of both mare and foal.

Compliance Requirements

AM3-12.1 Weaning timing shall consider foal age, development, health, nutrition, social circumstances and professional advice where necessary.

AM3-12.2 Weaning methods shall minimise abrupt and unnecessary physical or psychological stress where practicable.

AM3-12.3 Foals shall maintain appropriate social contact with compatible horses during and following weaning.

AM3-12.4 Feed, water, health and behavioural condition shall be monitored during the transition.

AM3-12.5 Significant stress, weight loss, illness, injury or behavioural deterioration associated with weaning shall result in review and corrective action.

Indicators

- Weaning decisions reflect individual foal development.
- Methods seek to minimise stress.
- Social contact is maintained.
- Health and behaviour are monitored.
- Adverse outcomes result in review.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification includes weaning plans, foal observations, health and weight information where relevant and management records.

Minor non-conformity: Arises where weaning is substantially appropriate but individual monitoring or planning evidence is incomplete.

Major non-conformity: Arises where weaning practices knowingly cause severe avoidable distress or material welfare compromise without an appropriate management response.

Criterion AM3-13 – Youngstock Management and Development

Young horses shall be managed to support appropriate physical, behavioural, and social development, without excessive pressure for early commercial presentation, training, or performance.

Compliance Requirements

AM3-13.1 Youngstock shall receive nutrition, health management and living conditions appropriate to their developmental stage.

AM3-13.2 Suitable opportunities for movement, social interaction and normal developmental behaviour shall be provided.

AM3-13.3 Handling and education shall progress according to the horse's physical and behavioural maturity. Methods shall be proportionate and progressive and shall avoid unnecessary fear, pain, distress or coercion.

AM3-13.4 Commercial preparation, sale, showing or training shall not impose unreasonable workload or stress on immature horses.

AM3-13.5 Growth, condition, behaviour and health shall be monitored and management adapted where necessary.

Indicators

- Youngstock management reflects developmental needs.
- Movement and social opportunities are appropriate.
- Handling progresses gradually.
- Commercial pressures do not override maturity.
- Developmental evidence informs management.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification includes observation, feeding and health information, handling practices, sales or preparation activities and youngstock records.

Minor non-conformity: Arises where youngstock management is substantially appropriate but individual monitoring or planning deficiencies exist.

Major non-conformity: Arises where immature horses are knowingly subjected to materially excessive workload, restriction or other practices creating significant developmental or welfare risk.

Criterion AM3-14 – Identification, Parentage and Breeding Traceability

Breeding records shall provide reliable traceability of breeding animals and offspring and support applicable identification, parentage, health and studbook requirements.

Compliance Requirements

AM3-14.1 Mares, stallions and offspring shall be identifiable according to applicable requirements.

AM3-14.2 Breeding records shall identify relevant sire, dam, mating or insemination information and resulting offspring.

AM3-14.3 Parentage testing or verification shall be undertaken where required by applicable authorities or breeding programmes.

AM3-14.4 Transfers, registrations and other required breeding information shall be completed accurately and within relevant periods.

AM3-14.5 Material inconsistencies in identity or parentage shall be investigated and corrected through appropriate channels.

Indicators

- Breeding horses and offspring are reliably identifiable.
- Parentage and mating records are traceable.
- Required testing is completed.
- Registrations and transfers are accurate.
- Discrepancies result in an investigation.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification includes passports, microchip information, breeding registers, covering certificates, DNA or parentage records and studbook documentation.

Minor non-conformity: Arises where traceability is substantially reliable but isolated administrative or record deficiencies exist.

Major non-conformity: Arises where identity or parentage is knowingly falsified, materially unreliable, deliberately concealed or systematically untraceable.

Criterion AM3-15 – Biosecurity and Reproductive Disease Control

Breeding and stud operations shall maintain biosecurity controls appropriate to the increased risks associated with horse movement, reproductive activity, pregnant mares, foals and youngstock.

Compliance Requirements

AM3-15.1 Material infectious and reproductive disease risks relevant to breeding activities shall be identified.

AM3-15.2 Appropriate controls shall apply to arriving horses, visiting mares or stallions, reproductive materials, shared equipment and relevant personnel.

AM3-15.3 Vaccination, testing, isolation or health-certification requirements shall be implemented where applicable.

AM3-15.4 Suspected or confirmed infectious or reproductive disease shall result in appropriate separation, veterinary response, communication and reporting.

AM3-15.5 Disease incidents and changing epidemiological conditions shall result in a review of biosecurity controls.

Indicators

- Breeding-specific disease risks are understood.
- Arriving horses and reproductive activities are appropriately controlled.
- Required testing and vaccination are traceable.
- Disease concerns trigger professional response.
- Biosecurity adapts to changing risk.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification includes veterinary records, health certificates, movement records, isolation arrangements, testing and biosecurity procedures.

Minor non-conformity: Arises where biosecurity is substantially effective but individual records or controls are incomplete.

Major non-conformity: Arises where known material disease risks are knowingly uncontrolled or mandatory testing, isolation or reporting is deliberately disregarded.

Criterion AM3-16 – Transport and Movement of Breeding Horses

Transport associated with breeding, veterinary procedures, sale or transfer shall be planned so that the condition and particular vulnerability of breeding horses are appropriately considered. This Criterion addresses breeding-specific transport responsibilities and does not replace AM7 – Transport & Logistics where horse transport is a material, routine or separately certified activity of the organisation.

Compliance Requirements

AM3-16.1 Horses shall be considered fit for transport before undertaking breeding-related journeys.

AM3-16.2 Journey arrangements shall consider the horse's reproductive status, journey purpose and any breeding-specific health or welfare factors capable of affecting suitability for transport.

AM3-16.3 Pregnant mares, mares with foals, and young horses shall receive additional consideration according to their condition and journey.

AM3-16.4 Loading and unloading shall be undertaken by competent people using appropriate handling methods.

AM3-16.5 Transport-related incidents, injuries or welfare concerns shall be evaluated and used to improve future arrangements. Where the organisation routinely or materially undertakes horse transport beyond incidental breeding-related movement, the applicability of AM7 – Transport & Logistics shall be determined.

Indicators

- Fitness for transport is considered.
- Transport arrangements meet applicable requirements.
- Vulnerable horses receive appropriate additional control.
- Loading and unloading are competently managed.
- Incidents inform future arrangements.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification includes movement documentation, transport arrangements, fitness information, reproductive status where relevant, loading and unloading practices, personnel competence and transport-related incident records. Where the organisation itself routinely or materially undertakes horse transport, verification shall confirm that the applicability of AM7 – Transport & Logistics has been appropriately determined.

Minor non-conformity: Arises where transport controls are substantially appropriate but isolated records or planning deficiencies exist.

Major non-conformity: Arises where an unfit horse is knowingly transported, mandatory welfare controls are materially disregarded, or transport practices create significant avoidable suffering.

Criterion AM3-17 – Sale, Transfer and Responsible Placement of Horses

Where foals or breeding horses are sold, transferred or rehomed, the organisation shall communicate material information necessary to support responsible ownership and continuity of care.

Compliance Requirements

AM3-17.1 Horses offered for sale or transfer shall be accurately identified.

AM3-17.2 Material known health, veterinary, reproductive or welfare information relevant to responsible future care shall not be deliberately concealed.

AM3-17.3 Representations concerning pedigree, breeding potential, health or performance shall be accurate and supportable.

AM3-17.4 The organisation shall provide relevant care, management or transition information proportionate to the horse and purchaser where necessary.

AM3-17.5 Significant recurring post-transfer concerns relevant to breeding, health or welfare shall be evaluated for implications for future breeding or sales practices.

Indicators

- Horses transferred are correctly identified.
- Material information accompanies transfer where relevant.
- Sales representations are evidence-based.
- Transition information supports responsible care.
- Recurring post-transfer concerns inform improvement.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification includes sales records, horse identification, health disclosures, communications, complaints and transfer documentation.

Minor non-conformity: Arises where transfer controls are substantially appropriate but isolated communication or documentation is incomplete.

Major non-conformity: Arises where material pedigree, identity, health or welfare information is deliberately falsified or concealed in a manner capable of materially misleading the recipient or compromising horse welfare.

Criterion AM3-18 – End-of-Life and Long-Term Breeding Responsibility

Breeding operations shall recognise that producing a horse creates a long-term welfare responsibility and shall not treat ageing, infertile, unsuccessful or commercially undesirable horses as disposable assets.

Compliance Requirements

AM3-18.1 Horses no longer used for breeding shall continue to receive appropriate care and welfare management.

AM3-18.2 Decisions concerning retirement, rehoming or end of life shall prioritise horse welfare.

AM3-18.3 Veterinary advice shall be sought where quality of life, chronic pain or end-of-life decisions require professional assessment.

AM3-18.4 Euthanasia, where necessary, shall be undertaken by appropriately competent and authorised people using accepted humane methods.

AM3-18.5 Breeding planning shall consider reasonable long-term responsibility for horses produced or retained by the organisation.

Indicators

- Retired breeding horses continue to receive appropriate care.
- Welfare informs retirement and end-of-life decisions.
- Veterinary input is used appropriately.
- Humane methods are used where euthanasia occurs.
- Long-term consequences are considered in breeding planning.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification includes retired-horse management, veterinary information, rehoming or end-of-life records and management interviews.

Minor non-conformity: Arises where arrangements are substantially responsible, but individual documentation or planning is incomplete.

Major non-conformity: Arises where horses are neglected, abandoned or subjected to prolonged significant suffering because they no longer have breeding or commercial value.

Criterion AM3-19 – Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas Performance

Material energy use and greenhouse gas emissions associated specifically with breeding and stud operations shall be measured and managed proportionately to the nature and scale of activities.

Compliance Requirements

AM3-19.1 Material energy-consuming breeding activities and direct emission sources shall be identified.

AM3-19.2 Relevant energy and fuel consumption shall be measured or reliably determined.

AM3-19.3 Material greenhouse gas emissions shall be quantified through the applicable BENCHMARKING methodology.

AM3-19.4 Opportunities to reduce avoidable consumption or emissions shall be evaluated without compromising horse health, foaling, lighting, ventilation or other essential requirements.

AM3-19.5 Performance shall be periodically reviewed against appropriate baselines and operational measures.

Indicators

- Material breeding-related energy sources are known.
- Quantitative energy information is available.
- GHG data link to BENCHMARKING.
- Reduction actions protect horse welfare.
- Baseline and trends are evaluated.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification includes energy and fuel information, BENCHMARKING data, baselines and improvement measures.

Minor non-conformity: Arises where performance is substantially measured, but individual data or analysis is incomplete.

Major non-conformity: Arises where material information is deliberately misrepresented, or significant energy/emission controls are systematically absent.

Criterion AM3-20 – Water Use, Wastewater and Water Protection

Water used in breeding and stud operations shall be managed efficiently while maintaining essential horse-health and hygiene requirements, and wastewater or contaminated runoff shall be controlled to prevent pollution.

Compliance Requirements

AM3-20.1 Material water uses associated with breeding, foaling, washing, cleaning, pasture and other relevant activities shall be identified.

AM3-20.2 Water consumption shall be measured or reliably determined.

AM3-20.3 Water-efficiency opportunities shall be evaluated without compromising drinking water, hygiene, foaling, veterinary or biosecurity requirements.

AM3-20.4 Wastewater, manure-contaminated runoff and other relevant pollution pathways shall be appropriately controlled.

AM3-20.5 Water performance, leaks, abnormal consumption and pollution incidents shall be periodically reviewed.

Indicators

- Significant water uses are understood.
- Quantitative water data are available.
- Efficiency protects essential horse requirements.
- Pollution pathways are controlled.
- Trends and incidents result in action.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification includes meter or consumption data, drainage, cleaning arrangements, runoff controls and BENCHMARKING information.

Minor non-conformity: Arises where controls are generally effective but isolated measurement, leak or wastewater deficiencies exist.

Major non-conformity: Arises where significant water pollution remains knowingly uncontrolled, unlawful discharge occurs or water-saving measures materially compromise horse welfare.

Criterion AM3-21 – Manure, Bedding, Waste and Circular Resource Management

Material organic and solid waste generated by breeding and stud operations shall be managed to protect horse hygiene, environmental quality and resource efficiency.

Compliance Requirements

AM3-21.1 Material manure, bedding and other waste streams shall be identified and appropriately managed.

AM3-21.2 Quantities of significant waste streams shall be measured or reliably estimated where practicable.

AM3-21.3 Storage shall prevent material runoff, contamination, fire, pest or hygiene risks.

AM3-21.4 Prevention, reuse, composting, recycling and beneficial recovery shall be considered before disposal where appropriate.

AM3-21.5 Waste performance, costs and incidents shall be periodically evaluated and improvement opportunities identified.

Indicators

- Material waste streams are understood.
- Quantitative information is available.
- Storage protects horses and environment.
- Circular options are considered.
- Performance informs improvement.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification includes waste and manure storage, quantitative records, contractor information, recovery arrangements and BENCHMARKING evidence.

Minor non-conformity: Arises where waste is substantially controlled but isolated measurement or management weaknesses exist.

Major non-conformity: Arises when waste or manure management practices create significant, uncontrolled environmental or welfare risks.

Criterion AM3-22 – Veterinary Products, Reproductive Substances and Environmentally Harmful Materials

Medicines, reproductive products, chemicals and other potentially harmful substances shall be stored, used and disposed of in a manner that protects horses, people and the environment.

Compliance Requirements

AM3-22.1 Material medicines, hormones, reproductive products, disinfectants, chemicals and other relevant substances shall be identified.

AM3-22.2 Storage, labelling, security and temperature control shall reflect product requirements and associated risks.

AM3-22.3 Veterinary and reproductive substances shall be administered only by appropriately authorised people where required.

AM3-22.4 Sharps, pharmaceutical waste, contaminated materials and associated packaging shall be disposed of through appropriate routes.

AM3-22.5 Use and wastage shall be periodically reviewed to identify safer or more efficient practices where compatible with veterinary requirements.

Indicators

- Relevant substances are controlled.
- Storage requirements are maintained.
- Administration responsibility is appropriate.
- Pharmaceutical waste is safely managed.
- Use and waste are reviewed.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification includes storage inspection, veterinary records, inventories, waste arrangements and interviews.

Minor non-conformity: Arises when controls are substantially effective, but isolated deficiencies exist in storage, record-keeping, or disposal.

Major non-conformity: Arises where medicines or reproductive substances are unlawfully or seriously misused, or their management creates significant horse, human or environmental risk.

Criterion AM3-23 – Pasture, Land, Soil and Biodiversity Management

Land supporting broodmares, foals and youngstock shall be managed to maintain horse welfare, productive capacity, soil condition and ecological value.

Compliance Requirements

AM3-23.1 Material pasture, land, soil, habitat and water features affected by stud operations shall be identified.

AM3-23.2 Stocking density, grazing and movement shall be managed to minimise overgrazing, erosion, compaction and avoidable land degradation.

AM3-23.3 Manure application, fertilisation, pesticides and other land inputs shall be managed to protect soil and water quality.

AM3-23.4 Sensitive habitats and biodiversity features shall be protected, and opportunities for ecological enhancement considered.

AM3-23.5 Land and pasture condition shall be periodically evaluated, and restorative action undertaken where material degradation is identified.

Indicators

- Land and pasture conditions are understood.

- Grazing pressure is appropriately controlled.
- Inputs protect soil and water.
- Biodiversity considerations are integrated.
- Degradation results in action.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification includes land inspection, grazing plans, stocking information, fertiliser or pesticide records and environmental evidence.

Minor non-conformity: Arises where land management is substantially responsible, but individual monitoring or improvement measures are incomplete.

Major non-conformity: Arises where breeding operations knowingly cause significant avoidable or unlawful land, soil, watercourse or habitat degradation.

Criterion AM3-24 – Competence, Workforce Safety and Breeding-Specific Training

People who undertake breeding, foaling, youngstock, reproductive or stallion-management activities shall have competence appropriate to their responsibilities and associated risks.

Compliance Requirements

AM3-24.1 Competence requirements shall be defined for material breeding and stud roles.

AM3-24.2 Persons shall receive appropriate instruction, supervision or practical training before independently undertaking higher-risk breeding activities.

AM3-24.3 Foaling supervisors shall understand signs requiring veterinary escalation.

AM3-24.4 Persons handling stallions, mares with foals and youngstock shall have competence appropriate to the relevant behavioural and safety risks.

AM3-24.5 Incidents, errors, changes in technology or new professional knowledge shall inform refresher training and development.

Indicators

- Breeding-specific competence requirements are identified.
- Higher-risk activities are undertaken by competent people.
- Foaling personnel understand escalation.
- Horse handling reflects relevant risks.
- Learning follows incidents and changes.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification includes qualifications, training, interviews, observation, incidents and professional development evidence.

Minor non-conformity: Arises where competence is generally effective but individual records or refresher evidence are incomplete.

Major non-conformity: Arises where material breeding activities are undertaken without necessary competence and create significant foreseeable risk to horses or people.

Criterion AM3-25 – Social and Cultural Responsibility in Breeding Operations

Breeding operations shall respect people, communities and legitimate equestrian and breeding traditions while ensuring that tradition does not justify practices incompatible with horse wellbeing or applicable requirements.

Compliance Requirements

AM3-25.1 Employees and relevant workers shall receive fair and lawful treatment.

AM3-25.2 Seasonal and specialised breeding labour shall be appropriately managed and supported.

AM3-25.3 Legitimate breed heritage, bloodlines and equestrian cultural traditions may be supported where compatible with responsible breeding and horse wellbeing.

AM3-25.4 Local communities and neighbouring land users shall have appropriate channels for raising material concerns arising from stud operations.

AM3-25.5 Social, cultural or traditional practices shall be reviewed where evidence indicates conflict with legal requirements, horse wellbeing or other material sustainability responsibilities.

Indicators

- Workforce arrangements are responsible.
- Seasonal labour is appropriately controlled.
- Heritage is supported without compromising welfare.
- Community concerns can be raised.
- Conflicting practices result in review.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification includes employment information, interviews, community concerns, breeding traditions and operational practice.

Minor non-conformity: Arises where social controls are substantially effective but individual communication or review deficiencies exist.

Major non-conformity: Arises where unlawful labour practices or significant horse-welfare harm are knowingly justified through tradition or commercial custom.

Criterion AM3-26 – Economic Responsibility and Long-Term Breeding Resilience

Breeding and stud operations shall be economically managed so that breeding decisions and commercial pressures do not compromise horse care, veterinary support, responsible foal production or long-term welfare.

Compliance Requirements

AM3-26.1 Material breeding costs and resource requirements shall be understood.

AM3-26.2 Breeding decisions shall consider the realistic resources required for pregnancy, foaling, neonatal care, youngstock and horses retained longer than anticipated.

AM3-26.3 Commercial pressure shall not justify excessive breeding, inadequate veterinary care or premature transfer of horses.

AM3-26.4 Appropriate resources shall be maintained for essential horse care, competent personnel, preventive health, emergencies and infrastructure.

AM3-26.5 Breeding outcomes, market conditions, costs and resource trends shall periodically inform future breeding plans.

Indicators

- Material breeding costs are understood.
- Foal-production consequences are considered.
- Commercial pressure does not override welfare.
- Essential care remains resourced.
- Economic information informs breeding plans.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification includes breeding plans, horse numbers, resource allocation, cost information where appropriate and management interviews.

Minor non-conformity: Arises where economic management is generally responsible, but individual planning or trend evidence is incomplete.

Major non-conformity: Arises where financial or commercial decisions knowingly create a significant horse-welfare compromise or result in breeding beyond the organisation's capacity to provide responsible care.

Criterion AM3-27 – Performance Measurement and Benchmarking

The organisation shall measure material breeding and stud performance using reliable quantitative and qualitative information that supports BENCHMARKING benchmarking, management review, and continual improvement.

Compliance Requirements

AM3-27.1 Material breeding and stud performance indicators shall be identified.

AM3-27.2 Relevant quantitative information shall include suitable operational measures such as breeding mares, coverings or inseminations, pregnancies, foalings, live foals, foal losses, youngstock numbers or other appropriate indicators.

AM3-27.3 Material horse-welfare, reproductive-health, veterinary, resource and environmental indicators shall be included where measurable and relevant.

AM3-27.4 Data shall be traceable to reliable source information and compatible with applicable BENCHMARKING reporting requirements. Material estimates, conversions, normalisation methods and assumptions shall be identifiable and reproducible where applicable.

AM3-27.5 Trends, abnormal outcomes and material deviations shall be evaluated and used to establish improvement priorities.

Indicators

- Material breeding indicators are defined.
- Reproductive and foaling performance is quantitatively understood.
- Welfare and resource indicators are represented.
- Data is traceable to BENCHMARKING.
- Trends influence management decisions.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification includes breeding registers, veterinary records, foaling outcomes, resource information, calculations and BENCHMARKING data.

Minor non-conformity: Arises where performance is substantially measured, but individual indicators, traceability or analysis are incomplete.

Major non-conformity: Arises where material performance information is systematically absent, materially unreliable or deliberately misrepresented.

Criterion AM3-28 – Corrective Action and Continual Improvement

The organisation shall use breeding outcomes, welfare observations, veterinary information, incident reports, environmental performance data, and other evidence to address deficiencies and improve breeding and stud operations.

Compliance Requirements

AM3-28.1 Significant breeding, foaling, health, welfare, biosecurity, environmental or operational deficiencies shall be recorded and evaluated.

AM3-28.2 Immediate action shall be taken where necessary to protect horses or control existing risks.

AM3-28.3 Significant or recurring adverse outcomes shall be investigated to identify underlying causes.

AM3-28.4 Corrective and improvement actions shall have responsibilities, priorities and target dates.

AM3-28.5 Effectiveness shall be evaluated, and unsuccessful or recurring actions shall result in further review.

Indicators

- Significant deficiencies are identified.
- Immediate welfare risks are controlled.
- Recurring outcomes receive cause analysis.
- Actions are assigned and monitored.
- Effectiveness is evaluated.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification includes veterinary concerns, foaling outcomes, incidents, performance trends, corrective actions, and evidence of effectiveness.

Minor non-conformity: Arises where corrective action is substantially effective but individual analysis or follow-up evidence is incomplete.

Major non-conformity: Arises where significant or recurring breeding or welfare failures remain knowingly unresolved, or where ineffective corrective action exposes horses to continuing significant risk.

Criterion AM3-29 – Communication, Transparency and Responsible Breeding Claims

Information communicated concerning breeding horses, offspring, pedigrees, health, welfare, breeding methods and sustainability performance shall accurately reflect objective evidence and actual practice. Where a significant incident becomes publicly relevant, communication shall be factual, appropriately verified and managed in accordance with CML-18.

Compliance Requirements

AM3-29.1 Breeding services, stud activities and relevant responsibilities shall be described accurately.

AM3-29.2 Claims concerning pedigree, parentage, health, genetic characteristics, breeding potential or performance shall be supportable by appropriate evidence.

AM3-29.3 Known material health or welfare information shall not be deliberately concealed in communications relating to breeding or sale. Where a significant incident involving a breeding horse or offspring becomes publicly relevant, factual information concerning the horse's condition, treatment or outcome shall be appropriately verified before release.

AM3-29.4 Sustainability, horse-wellbeing and quantitative performance claims shall correspond with verified operational and BENCHMARKING evidence. Significant incident communications shall distinguish verified facts from information still under assessment and shall respect applicable privacy, consent and confidentiality concerning people.

AM3-29.5 Inaccurate, outdated, unsupported or materially misleading information shall be corrected without undue delay when identified. Where material misinformation concerning a significant incident is publicly circulating, and verified information is available, an appropriate factual correction or update shall be considered in accordance with CML-18.

Indicators

- Breeding services are accurately represented.
- Pedigree and breeding claims are traceable.
- Material welfare and significant incident information is appropriately verified and responsibly communicated.
- Sustainability claims are evidence-based.
- Incorrect information is corrected.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification includes websites, breeding and sales information, pedigree and parentage records, health and welfare communications, sustainability claims, applicable BENCHMARKING evidence and other relevant public information. Where significant publicly relevant incidents have occurred, verification shall additionally include authorised communications, veterinary or other competent verification, subsequent factual updates and evidence that privacy, consent and confidentiality were appropriately maintained.

Minor non-conformity: Arises where communications are substantially accurate and responsible but isolated information is outdated, incomplete or insufficiently supported, including an incomplete incident update that does not create a materially misleading representation.

Major non-conformity: Arises where material breeding, pedigree, health, horse-wellbeing, sustainability or incident information is deliberately false, materially misleading, knowingly unsupported or deliberately concealed in a manner capable of materially misrepresenting the condition, welfare or outcome of a horse.