

SEI AM7

ACTIVITY MODULE 7 – EQUESTRIAN TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS

Module Introduction

1. Purpose and Application

AM7 – Equestrian Transport & Logistics establishes the sustainability, horse wellbeing, safety and operational requirements applicable to organisations responsible for the transport and logistics of horses.

The Module recognises that transport represents a specific period of increased risk for horses. Changes in environment, confinement, movement, loading and unloading, unfamiliar horses, journey duration, temperature, ventilation, access to water and feed, handling and unexpected delays can individually or collectively affect horse wellbeing. AM7 therefore assesses not only whether transport is completed successfully, but whether the entire transport process is planned, controlled, monitored and continually improved to protect horses and the people involved.

2. Certification Scope

AM7 may be applied as a standalone SEI Activity Module to organisations that provide horse transport or logistics services, regardless of whether they own, keep, train, or otherwise operate horses themselves.

It may also be added to another SEI Activity Module where an organisation undertakes horse transport as a material part of its activities and wishes that activity to form part of its certified scope.

The certification scope shall clearly identify the transport activities controlled by the organisation and the applicable modes of transport.

3. Transport Modes

AM7 applies to horse transport by road, air, sea, and multimodal arrangements, depending on the activities included in the certification scope. The Module operates as one integrated standard. Requirements are applied according to relevance and risk rather than through separate certification standards for each transport mode. Where a requirement is considered not applicable to the assessed transport activity, the organisation shall provide documented justification. The justification shall be evaluated during assessment and remain subject to Certification Body review in accordance with the certification rules.

4. Responsibility and Control

Responsibility for horse wellbeing shall be clearly maintained throughout the transport process, including preparation, acceptance, loading, transit, temporary holding, transfers between transport modes, unloading and formal handover. The use of subcontractors, carriers, terminals, agents or other service providers does not remove responsibility for activities falling within the organisation's certified scope.

Particular attention shall be given to transfer points where responsibility could otherwise become unclear.

5. Relationship with the Core Mandatory Layer

The SEI Core Mandatory Layer applies fully to organisations certified against AM7.

AM7 does not repeat general SEI requirements already established through the CML concerning governance, legal compliance, organisational responsibilities, document control and other organisation-wide management requirements. AM7 establishes the additional operational controls specifically required for responsible horse transport and logistics.

6. Relationship with Other Activity Modules

AM7 may apply as a standalone Activity Module to organisations whose principal or material activity is the transport or logistics of live horses, including organisations that do not own, accommodate or otherwise manage horses outside the transport process. AM7 may also be added to another applicable SEI Activity Module where an organisation itself undertakes horse transport as a material, routine or separately certified activity. Other Activity Modules may contain limited transport requirements necessary to control activity-specific risks such as loading, unloading, arrival, departure, recovery or horse fitness. Such requirements do not duplicate AM7 and may be recognised as equivalent evidence where appropriate. AM7 assesses the complete transport and logistics

process from acceptance and preparation through journey management, transfer, arrival, unloading and formal handover.

7. Horse Wellbeing During Transport

Horse wellbeing is the primary operational consideration throughout AM7. Transport planning and commercial, sporting, logistical or scheduling objectives shall not override reasonable measures necessary to protect the physical and behavioural wellbeing of horses. Transport decisions shall consider the individual horse, journey characteristics, environmental conditions, transport configuration, previous transport experience, and any circumstances that could increase welfare risk. Scientific evidence shows that journey conditions, not simply elapsed journey times, can materially influence fatigue, dehydration, respiratory disorders and other welfare consequences.

8. Risk-Based Transport Management

The level of control shall be proportionate to the nature and complexity of the transport activity. Factors shall include journey duration, distance, number and characteristics of horses, mode of transport, transfers, environmental conditions, route, delays, competence requirements, horse condition, facilities, and emergency response capability. Higher-risk journeys shall require correspondingly stronger planning, monitoring and contingency arrangements.

9. Incidents, Transparency and Verified Communication

AM7 recognises that significant transport incidents may create concerns that extend beyond the immediate management of the horse or people affected. Where an incident is publicly witnessed, becomes publicly known or creates reasonable potential for material misinformation concerning horse or human wellbeing, the organisation shall manage communication responsibly. Information shall be factual, appropriately verified, and communicated by authorised persons, while respecting privacy, confidentiality, and restrictions on the release of medical or personal information.

10. Assessment Hierarchy

AM7 follows the operational hierarchy:

TRANSPORT SCOPE → RESPONSIBILITY & CUSTODY → FITNESS TO TRAVEL → JOURNEY RISK → COMPETENCE → TRANSPORT MEANS → LOADING & UNLOADING → HANDLING → SPACE & POSITIONING → JOURNEY CONDITIONS → MICROCLIMATE → WATER, FEED & REST → MONITORING → HEALTH & WELLBEING → HYGIENE & BIOSECURITY → MULTIMODAL TRANSFERS → EMERGENCY RESPONSE → INCIDENT TRANSPARENCY → ARRIVAL & HANDOVER → PERFORMANCE → CORRECT → IMPROVE

The hierarchy is intentional. Transport and Logistics activities should only be undertaken responsibly when the organisation understands the horses being transported, the journey and transport conditions, the risks created or influenced at each stage, the people responsible, the transport means and transfer points involved, and the evidence required to demonstrate safe, traceable and responsible performance.

Criterion AM7-1 – Transport Scope, Responsibility and Chain of Custody

The organisation shall define the transport and logistics activities included within its certification scope and maintain clear operational responsibility for horses throughout every stage under its control. Responsibility shall remain traceable during acceptance, loading, transport, transfer, temporary holding, unloading and handover so that no gap in horse wellbeing, safety or accountability can arise.

Compliance Requirements

AM7-1.1 The organisation shall document the transport services, modes, locations and operational activities included within the certification scope, distinguishing directly controlled activities from those undertaken by subcontractors or other parties.

AM7-1.2 Responsibility for each horse shall be identifiable from acceptance through loading, transport, transfer, unloading and formal handover, with clear evidence of who holds operational responsibility at each stage.

AM7-1.3 Interfaces involving owners, handlers, carriers, terminals, agents, subcontractors or receiving organisations shall define responsibilities sufficiently to prevent gaps in horse care, welfare monitoring or transport control.

AM7-1.4 Journey and custody records shall provide traceability of the horse, transport means, responsible personnel, relevant handovers and other information necessary to reconstruct the transport process where required.

AM7-1.5 Material changes affecting transport scope, subcontracting, routes, transport modes or operational responsibilities shall be evaluated and incorporated into relevant controls.

Indicators

- Certified transport scope is clearly defined.
- Responsibility remains traceable throughout the journey.
- Third-party interfaces have defined responsibilities.
- Journey and custody records are available.
- Material operational changes are appropriately controlled.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification shall consider certification scope records, journey documentation, transport agreements, custody records, handover arrangements, subcontractor interfaces and interviews with responsible personnel.

Minor Non-Conformity: Isolated deficiencies in responsibility or custody records where accountability remains substantially clear and no significant horse-wellbeing risk is identified.

Major Non-Conformity: Material loss of responsibility, custody control or traceability creates a significant horse-wellbeing, safety or certification-integrity risk.

Criterion AM7-2 – Transport Risk Assessment and Journey Planning

Each journey shall be planned according to the characteristics of the horses, transport mode, route, duration, environmental conditions and foreseeable operational risks. Planning shall be sufficiently detailed to prevent avoidable delays, unsafe conditions or circumstances capable of compromising horse wellbeing, journey continuity or effective emergency response.

Compliance Requirements

AM7-2.1 Journey planning shall consider route, distance, duration, transport mode, transfers, horse characteristics, environmental conditions, destination arrangements and other factors capable of materially affecting transport welfare or safety.

AM7-2.2 Foreseeable delays, congestion, weather conditions, infrastructure constraints, transfer points and other operational restrictions shall be considered before departure and reflected in journey planning where material.

AM7-2.3 Journeys presenting higher welfare, operational or logistical risk shall receive proportionately stronger planning, supervision, monitoring, recovery and contingency arrangements.

AM7-2.4 Commercial deadlines, competitive schedules, customer expectations or economic pressure shall not justify transport arrangements that knowingly create avoidable or disproportionate horse-wellbeing or safety risks.

AM7-2.5 Significant changes occurring before departure or during transport shall trigger reassessment of the journey and appropriate modification where original arrangements are no longer suitable.

Indicators

- Journey-specific planning is available.
- Material risks are identified before departure.
- Higher-risk journeys receive enhanced controls.
- Scheduling does not override horse wellbeing.
- Changed conditions trigger reassessment.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification shall include journey plans, route information, risk assessments, transport schedules, environmental considerations, contingency arrangements and evidence of journey modifications.

Minor Non-Conformity: Isolated planning deficiencies where material risks remain identified and adequately controlled.

Major Non-Conformity: Transport proceeds despite a known significant risk without appropriate assessment, control or modification.

Criterion AM7-3 – Fitness to Travel

Only horses considered physically and behaviourally fit for the intended journey shall be accepted for transport. Fitness shall be evaluated in relation to the individual horse and actual journey conditions, recognising that a horse considered generally healthy may still be unsuitable for a particular duration, environment or transport configuration.

Compliance Requirements

AM7-3.1 Fitness shall be assessed before transport by a person competent to recognise physical, behavioural or other conditions capable of affecting the horse's ability to travel safely and without avoidable suffering.

AM7-3.2 Assessment shall consider injury, illness, mobility, fatigue, hydration, behaviour, pregnancy or recent foaling where relevant, and other conditions materially affecting suitability for the planned journey.

AM7-3.3 Where material doubt exists concerning fitness, appropriate competent or veterinary assessment shall be obtained before transport proceeds and any restrictions or special conditions followed.

AM7-3.4 A horse becoming injured, ill, exhausted or otherwise unfit during transport shall receive appropriate care and shall not continue until suitability for further transport has been reassessed.

AM7-3.5 Significant fitness decisions, restrictions, veterinary advice or special transport arrangements shall be documented and communicated to personnel responsible for subsequent journey stages.

Indicators

- Pre-transport fitness assessment occurs.
- Individual horse condition is considered.
- Doubt triggers competent assessment.
- Deterioration triggers intervention.
- Material fitness decisions are documented.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification shall consider fitness assessments, veterinary records where relevant, journey records, handover information, observed horse condition and personnel competence.

Minor Non-Conformity: Isolated deficiencies in fitness records where the horse's suitability was otherwise appropriately evaluated.

Major Non-Conformity: A horse known or reasonably suspected to be unfit is transported without appropriate assessment, protection or intervention.

Criterion AM7-4 – Personnel Competence and Responsibilities

Persons whose activities can materially affect horse wellbeing during transport shall be competent for their assigned responsibilities. Competence shall extend beyond vehicle operation and include recognition of horse behaviour, welfare deterioration, handling risks and appropriate emergency actions.

Compliance Requirements

AM7-4.1 Drivers, handlers, attendants and other relevant personnel shall demonstrate competence appropriate to their assigned transport responsibilities and the transport activities undertaken.

AM7-4.2 Competence shall include horse behaviour, safe handling, welfare indicators, loading, unloading and recognition of distress, illness, injury or abnormal transport conditions.

AM7-4.3 Relevant personnel shall understand emergency and contingency arrangements applicable to their duties and know when escalation or specialist assistance is required.

AM7-4.4 Specialist transport activities shall be undertaken or supervised by persons with appropriate additional technical or professional competence.

AM7-4.5 Identified competence deficiencies shall result in appropriate training, supervision, reassignment or other corrective action before personnel undertake higher-risk duties independently.

Indicators

- Competence requirements are defined.
- Personnel demonstrate horse-handling competence.
- Emergency responsibilities are understood.
- Specialist activities have competent personnel.
- Competence deficiencies trigger corrective action.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification shall include qualifications, training, experience, competence assessments, interviews, professional authorisations where relevant and observation of personnel where practicable.

Minor Non-Conformity: Isolated competence records are incomplete where practical capability remains demonstrable.

Major Non-Conformity: Personnel lacking necessary competence perform activities that create significant horse-wellbeing or safety risk.

Criterion AM7-5 – Transport Means, Equipment and Maintenance

Vehicles, trailers, containers and associated transport equipment shall be suitable for the horses transported and maintained in a condition that protects horse wellbeing, safety and journey reliability. Design and maintenance shall reduce foreseeable risks of injury, entrapment, slipping, escape or environmental exposure.

Compliance Requirements

AM7-5.1 Transport means shall be appropriate to horse size, number, condition, journey characteristics and transport mode and shall provide suitable accommodation for the intended journey.

AM7-5.2 Floors, partitions, doors, ramps, barriers, fixtures and fittings shall minimise slipping, injury, entrapment, harmful contact and unintended escape.

AM7-5.3 Transport equipment shall permit safe inspection and appropriate access to horses during the journey where required for monitoring, care or emergency response.

AM7-5.4 Preventive inspection and maintenance shall identify deterioration or defects capable of affecting horse wellbeing, safety or transport reliability.

AM7-5.5 Equipment presenting a material safety or welfare defect shall be removed from service until the defect has been satisfactorily corrected.

Indicators

- Transport means are fit for purpose.
- Safety-critical components are suitable.
- Horses can be appropriately inspected.
- Preventive maintenance is documented.

- Unsafe equipment is removed from service.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification shall include vehicle or container inspections, maintenance records, defect reports, equipment specifications and direct observation where applicable.

Minor Non-Conformity: Isolated maintenance or equipment deficiencies without significant horse-wellbeing or safety implications.

Major Non-Conformity: Transport means with a known serious defect are used where the defect creates significant foreseeable horse-wellbeing or safety risk.

Criterion AM7-6 – Loading and Unloading

Loading and unloading shall be planned and conducted to minimise fear, stress, injury and unnecessary delay. Facilities, equipment and handling methods shall reflect horse behaviour and provide sufficient time for horses to move safely without inappropriate pressure or force.

Compliance Requirements

AM7-6.1 Loading and unloading areas shall provide suitable footing, space, lighting, access and environmental conditions appropriate to the horses and transport means involved.

AM7-6.2 Horses shall be handled calmly using methods appropriate to their behaviour, experience, condition and individual response to loading or unloading.

AM7-6.3 Force, intimidation or handling practices likely to cause avoidable fear, pain, distress or injury shall not be accepted.

AM7-6.4 Horses showing significant resistance, fear or distress shall be reassessed and the loading or unloading approach modified where necessary.

AM7-6.5 Loading and unloading incidents shall be recorded, evaluated and used to identify preventive or corrective improvements.

Indicators

- Loading facilities are suitable.
- Handling is calm and controlled.
- Harmful handling practices are absent.
- Distress triggers reassessment.
- Incidents lead to corrective action.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification shall include loading procedures, facilities, incident records, training, direct observation where practicable and interviews with personnel.

Minor Non-Conformity: Isolated deficiencies where loading and unloading remain substantially safe and controlled.

Major Non-Conformity: Handling or facilities expose horses to significant avoidable fear, pain, injury or distress.

Criterion AM7-7 – Horse Handling and Behavioural Management

Horse behaviour, temperament and previous transport experience shall be considered throughout the journey. Handling and restraint arrangements shall reduce avoidable stress while maintaining safe control of both horses and personnel.

Compliance Requirements

AM7-7.1 Handling methods shall reflect the horse's behaviour, temperament, previous transport experience and observable welfare state.

AM7-7.2 Horses showing fear, aggression, instability or abnormal behaviour shall receive appropriate additional control, time or competent support.

AM7-7.3 Social compatibility and separation requirements shall be considered when deciding whether horses are transported together, adjacent or separately.

AM7-7.4 Restraint shall be proportionate to safety needs and shall not unnecessarily restrict natural posture or create avoidable risk of pain or injury.

AM7-7.5 Recurrent behavioural difficulties associated with transport shall be evaluated and preventive measures established before future journeys where practicable.

Indicators

- Individual behaviour is considered.
- Distress receives an appropriate response.
- Horse compatibility is assessed.
- Restraint is proportionate.
- Recurrent difficulties trigger preventive action.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification shall consider handling procedures, journey records, incident records, horse-placement arrangements and direct observation where possible.

Minor Non-Conformity: Isolated handling deficiencies without significant horse-wellbeing consequences.

Major Non-Conformity: Handling or restraint practices knowingly create significant avoidable welfare or safety risk.

Criterion AM7-8 – Space, Positioning and Physical Protection

Horses shall be provided with sufficient space and appropriate positioning to maintain balance, posture and physical safety during transport. Space shall be considered in relation to horse size, transport configuration, journey conditions and the ability to adjust posture naturally.

Compliance Requirements

AM7-8.1 Space allocation shall reflect horse size, number, transport configuration, journey characteristics and individual welfare needs.

AM7-8.2 Horses shall have sufficient freedom to maintain a safe standing position and make necessary postural adjustments during transport.

AM7-8.3 Head and neck positioning shall not be unnecessarily restricted where such restriction could compromise comfort, respiratory function or recovery.

AM7-8.4 Partitions and positioning arrangements shall minimise harmful contact, falls, entrapment, instability and inappropriate interaction between horses.

AM7-8.5 Material space or positioning deficiencies shall be corrected before the journey continues where reasonably practicable.

Indicators

- Space is appropriate to horse size and journey.
- Horses can maintain balance.
- Head and neck movement is considered.
- Partitions provide effective protection.
- Material deficiencies trigger correction.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification shall include transport configuration, horse numbers, partition arrangements, loading records and direct observation where practicable.

Minor Non-Conformity: Isolated space or positioning deficiencies without significant welfare implications.

Major Non-Conformity: Overcrowding or unsuitable positioning creates significant foreseeable injury, respiratory or welfare risk.

Criterion AM7-9 – Driving, Movement and Journey Quality

Transport movement shall be managed to minimise avoidable instability, fatigue, stress and injury. Driving, routing and operational decisions shall recognise that horses continuously adjust posture and balance in response to acceleration, braking, turning and other transport movements.

Compliance Requirements

AM7-9.1 Driving shall minimise unnecessary acceleration, harsh braking, excessive cornering and other movements capable of destabilising horses.

AM7-9.2 Route selection shall consider road quality, gradients, expected congestion and other conditions capable of materially affecting journey quality.

AM7-9.3 Journey schedules shall provide reasonable operating time and shall not create pressure for unsafe driving, loading or handling.

AM7-9.4 Abnormal movement conditions, turbulence, rough crossings or equivalent circumstances shall trigger increased welfare monitoring where appropriate.

AM7-9.5 Journey-quality concerns and recurring transport-related problems shall be evaluated and corrective measures established.

Indicators

- Driving supports horse stability.
- Route conditions are considered.
- Scheduling avoids unreasonable pressure.
- Abnormal movement triggers monitoring.
- Recurring journey issues are addressed.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification shall include journey records, driver instructions, incident data, complaints, route records and monitoring evidence.

Minor Non-Conformity: Isolated journey-quality deficiencies without significant horse-wellbeing consequences.

Major Non-Conformity: Deliberate or repeated unsafe transport practices materially compromise horse wellbeing or safety.

Criterion AM7-10 – Ventilation, Temperature and Transport Environment

Environmental conditions within horse-occupied transport areas shall be managed to protect respiratory health, thermal comfort and general wellbeing. Controls shall consider ventilation, temperature, humidity, airborne contaminants and conditions arising during both movement and stationary periods.

Compliance Requirements

AM7-10.1 Ventilation shall provide appropriate air exchange throughout transport, including stationary periods, transfers and foreseeable delays.

AM7-10.2 Temperature and humidity risks shall be assessed and controlled according to journey conditions, transport configuration and horse needs.

AM7-10.3 Accumulation of exhaust gases, ammonia, dust and other harmful airborne contaminants shall be prevented or minimised.

AM7-10.4 Environmental conditions shall be monitored at a frequency and level proportionate to transport duration, mode and risk.

AM7-10.5 Abnormal environmental conditions shall trigger timely intervention and, where necessary, activation of contingency arrangements.

Indicators

- Ventilation is effective.
- Thermal conditions are controlled.
- Air contamination is minimised.
- Environmental conditions are monitored.
- Abnormal conditions trigger intervention.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification shall include ventilation systems, temperature or environmental records, journey records, maintenance information and contingency procedures.

Minor Non-Conformity: Isolated monitoring or environmental-control deficiencies where horse wellbeing remains substantially protected.

Major Non-Conformity: Horses remain exposed to known dangerous environmental conditions without appropriate intervention.

Criterion AM7-11 – Water, Feed, Rest and Journey Duration

Journey management shall provide appropriate water, feed and recovery opportunities according to horse needs, journey duration and transport conditions. Time, commercial scheduling or logistical convenience shall not justify prolonged deprivation or inadequate recovery arrangements.

Compliance Requirements

AM7-11.1 Water requirements shall be planned before departure and reassessed during the journey according to duration, environmental conditions and individual horse needs.

AM7-11.2 Feed provision shall consider journey duration, horse condition, normal feeding patterns and digestive welfare.

AM7-11.3 Rest arrangements shall provide meaningful recovery and shall not be treated merely as administrative interruptions within the journey.

AM7-11.4 Journey duration shall be minimised where reasonably practicable and unnecessary waiting with horses loaded shall be avoided.

AM7-11.5 Refusal of water or feed, dehydration, fatigue or other abnormal responses shall trigger assessment and appropriate intervention.

Indicators

- Water provision is planned.
- Feed needs are addressed.
- Rest supports meaningful recovery.
- Unnecessary journey time is minimised.
- Abnormal responses trigger action.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification shall include journey plans, feeding and watering records, rest arrangements, welfare observations and incident records.

Minor Non-Conformity: Isolated record or implementation deficiencies without material horse-wellbeing impact.

Major Non-Conformity: Horses are knowingly deprived of necessary water, feed or recovery to an extent materially compromising wellbeing.

Criterion AM7-12 – Horse Welfare Monitoring During Transport

Horse wellbeing shall be monitored throughout transport using methods and intervals proportionate to journey risk. Monitoring shall enable early detection of distress, injury, illness, dehydration, fatigue or other changes requiring intervention.

Compliance Requirements

AM7-12.1 Monitoring shall consider behaviour, posture, balance, respiration, sweating, hydration and other relevant welfare indicators where observable.

AM7-12.2 Monitoring frequency shall reflect journey duration, horse condition, environmental conditions, transport configuration and mode.

AM7-12.3 Monitoring arrangements shall allow abnormalities to be detected sufficiently early for appropriate intervention.

AM7-12.4 Significant welfare observations, treatments and interventions shall be recorded and communicated at relevant transfer or handover points.

AM7-12.5 Deterioration in horse condition shall trigger assessment, intervention and escalation according to severity.

Indicators

- Welfare monitoring occurs.
- Monitoring frequency reflects journey risk.
- Abnormal conditions can be detected.
- Significant observations are recorded.
- Deterioration triggers intervention.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification shall consider monitoring procedures, journey logs, welfare records, treatment records, handover documentation and interviews.

Minor Non-Conformity: Isolated monitoring-record deficiencies where effective welfare observation remains demonstrable.

Major Non-Conformity: Lack of monitoring prevents detection or appropriate response to a significant horse-wellbeing problem.

Criterion AM7-13 – Hygiene, Health Protection and Biosecurity

Transport activities shall minimise avoidable health and biosecurity risks to horses, personnel and subsequent transport operations. Cleaning, disinfection and management of contaminated materials shall be proportionate to the nature and risk of the transport activity.

Compliance Requirements

AM7-13.1 Horse-occupied areas and relevant transport equipment shall be maintained in hygienic condition appropriate to the activity and horses transported.

AM7-13.2 Cleaning and, where necessary, disinfection shall use methods and products appropriate to identified health and biosecurity risks.

AM7-13.3 Infectious-disease risks and horses displaying relevant symptoms shall be appropriately managed before or during transport.

AM7-13.4 Bedding, feed, water, manure, waste and contaminated materials shall be managed to prevent avoidable health or environmental risks.

AM7-13.5 Biosecurity incidents or identified deficiencies shall be recorded and followed by appropriate corrective action.

Indicators

- Transport areas are hygienically maintained.
- Cleaning controls are effective.
- Health risks are appropriately managed.
- Contaminated materials are controlled.
- Biosecurity deficiencies trigger action.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification shall include cleaning and disinfection records, product information, health records, waste arrangements and direct observation where applicable.

Minor Non-Conformity: Isolated deficiencies in hygiene controls without significant health or biosecurity risk.

Major Non-Conformity: A known significant biosecurity or health risk is ignored or inadequately controlled.

Criterion AM7-14 – Air Transport

Where horses are transported by air, additional controls shall address the specific welfare, handling, environmental and operational risks associated with aviation. Planning shall recognise that ground operations, containerisation, transfers, take-off, turbulence, landing and delays can materially affect horse wellbeing.

Compliance Requirements

AM7-14.1 Horse containers, stalls and associated equipment shall provide suitable space, strength, ventilation, access and physical protection.

AM7-14.2 Competent personnel shall be available to monitor and respond to horse-wellbeing needs throughout the stages under organisational control.

AM7-14.3 Loading, ground holding, transfer, take-off, flight, landing and unloading risks shall be considered within journey planning.

AM7-14.4 Delays, temperature changes, ventilation limitations, turbulence and other foreseeable aviation risks shall have defined response arrangements.

AM7-14.5 Relevant welfare, health and journey information shall accompany the horse through transfers and final handover.

Indicators

- Air-transport accommodation is suitable.
- Competent horse supervision is available.
- Flight-stage risks are assessed.
- Aviation contingencies are established.
- Welfare information follows the horse.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification shall include container specifications, journey documentation, monitoring records, competence evidence, transfer arrangements and contingency procedures.

Minor Non-Conformity: Isolated deficiencies where essential air-transport welfare controls remain effective.

Major Non-Conformity: Air transport proceeds without controls necessary to manage a known significant horse-wellbeing or safety risk.

Criterion AM7-15 – Sea and Ferry Transport

Where journeys include sea transport, additional controls shall address vessel conditions, movement, ventilation, access, extended journey duration and continuity of horse care. Responsibility shall remain clear throughout embarkation, crossing and disembarkation.

Compliance Requirements

AM7-15.1 Journey planning shall consider crossing duration, vessel conditions, horse location, access, environmental conditions and onward transport arrangements.

AM7-15.2 Horse transport units shall be positioned and secured to minimise harmful movement and maintain appropriate ventilation and access.

AM7-15.3 Arrangements shall permit appropriate welfare inspection and response throughout the crossing where operationally possible.

AM7-15.4 Extended crossings shall provide suitable arrangements for water, feed, waste management and foreseeable welfare needs.

AM7-15.5 Delays, adverse conditions, ventilation failure or inability to continue the journey shall be addressed through appropriate contingency arrangements.

Indicators

- Sea-journey risks are assessed.
- Transport units are safely positioned.
- Welfare monitoring is arranged.
- Extended-journey needs are controlled.
- Sea-transport contingencies are available.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification shall include journey plans, securing arrangements, welfare monitoring, environmental controls, feed/water records and contingency arrangements.

Minor Non-Conformity: Isolated deficiencies where material sea-transport risks remain adequately controlled.

Major Non-Conformity: Horses are exposed to significant foreseeable sea-transport risk without adequate protection or contingency arrangements.

Criterion AM7-16 – Multimodal Transport, Transfers and Temporary Holding

Transfers between vehicles, carriers, transport modes or temporary holding facilities shall maintain continuous horse-wellbeing responsibility and traceability. Changes of custody or transport mode shall not create gaps in supervision, information or care.

Compliance Requirements

AM7-16.1 Multimodal journeys shall identify each transport stage, transfer point, responsible party and material transfer risk.

AM7-16.2 Transfer and temporary holding facilities shall be suitable for safe horse handling, supervision, rest and relevant welfare needs.

AM7-16.3 Relevant horse, health, welfare and journey information shall accompany each transfer of operational responsibility.

AM7-16.4 Delays or failed connections shall not leave horses without defined supervision, care or contingency arrangements.

AM7-16.5 Transfer failures, custody gaps or recurring logistical deficiencies shall result in investigation and corrective action.

Indicators

- Journey stages are identifiable.
- Transfer facilities are suitable.
- Relevant information follows the horse.
- Delays maintain welfare responsibility.
- Transfer failures trigger corrective action.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification shall include transfer records, custody documentation, holding arrangements, journey records and incident reports.

Minor Non-Conformity: Isolated transfer or documentation deficiencies where horse-wellbeing responsibility remains effective.

Major Non-Conformity: A transfer creates an uncontrolled gap in responsibility resulting in significant horse-wellbeing or safety risk.

Criterion AM7-17 – Emergency Preparedness and Transport Incidents

Transport operations shall maintain effective arrangements for foreseeable emergencies capable of affecting horses, personnel or journey continuity. Emergency arrangements shall be practical, accessible and capable of rapid activation under realistic transport conditions, with significant incidents subsequently reviewed and escalated to appropriate communication controls where public information may be required.

Compliance Requirements

AM7-17.1 Journey-specific emergency arrangements shall address relevant scenarios including breakdown, accident, fire, severe weather, delay and transport-system failure.

AM7-17.2 Arrangements shall address horse injury, illness, escape, entrapment, distress and inability to continue transport.

AM7-17.3 Personnel shall know how to obtain veterinary, emergency, alternative transport and other necessary assistance.

AM7-17.4 Emergency equipment and essential contact information shall be accessible and appropriate to the journey and transport mode.

AM7-17.5 Significant emergencies shall be documented, investigated and used to improve future transport controls. Where an incident is publicly witnessed, becomes publicly known or is reasonably likely to generate material concern regarding horse or human wellbeing, it shall also be referred to the communication requirements established under AM7-18 and CML-18.

Indicators

- Relevant emergencies are anticipated.
- Horse-specific scenarios are included.
- Necessary assistance can be obtained.
- Emergency resources are accessible.
- Significant incidents result in review, improvement and appropriate communication escalation.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification shall include contingency plans, emergency contact information, equipment, personnel responsibilities, incident records, investigations and resulting corrective actions. Where significant publicly relevant incidents have occurred, verification shall additionally confirm appropriate escalation to the communication controls established under AM7-18 and CML-18.

Minor Non-Conformity: Isolated weaknesses in emergency documentation or preparedness without significant immediate risk.

Major Non-Conformity: Absence or failure of foreseeable emergency arrangements exposes horses or people to significant avoidable harm.

Criterion AM7-18 – Incident Transparency, Verified Information and Responsible Communication

Significant transport incidents shall be communicated responsibly where public concern or material misinformation concerning horse or human wellbeing may reasonably arise. This Criterion applies the universal transparency and communication requirements of CML-18 specifically to incidents occurring during transport, loading, unloading, temporary holding, transfer or handover. Communication shall support factual transparency without compromising veterinary integrity, personal privacy, confidentiality or ongoing emergency response.

Compliance Requirements

AM7-18.1 Significant incidents that are publicly witnessed, become publicly known or are reasonably likely to generate material concern regarding horse or human wellbeing shall trigger an appropriate authorised communication assessment and response.

AM7-18.2 Information concerning a horse's condition, treatment or outcome shall be factual and appropriately verified by a competent or authorised person before public release.

AM7-18.3 Information concerning injured drivers, handlers, grooms, staff or other persons shall respect privacy, consent, confidentiality and applicable restrictions on personal information.

AM7-18.4 Where verified information is not yet available, communication shall distinguish confirmed facts from information awaiting assessment and provide further updates where appropriate.

AM7-18.5 Materially inaccurate public information concerning a significant incident shall be appropriately corrected where the organisation possesses verified information capable of clarifying the situation. The organisation shall not be required to respond to every individual comment or speculation, but material misinformation capable of significantly misrepresenting the incident or horse outcome shall receive proportionate consideration.

Indicators

- Significant incidents trigger communication assessment.
- Horse-wellbeing information is appropriately verified.
- Human privacy and confidentiality are protected.
- Confirmed information is distinguished from information still under assessment.
- Material misinformation is appropriately corrected where verified evidence is available.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification shall include incident records, authorised public statements, websites or social-media communications where applicable, veterinary or other competent confirmation, subsequent factual updates and evidence that privacy, consent and confidentiality were appropriately maintained. Verification shall determine whether communication was proportionate to the significance, public visibility and information risk associated with the incident and consistent with CML-18.

Minor Non-Conformity: Arises where incident communication is substantially factual and responsible but isolated verification, authorisation, updating or record deficiencies exist without creating a materially misleading public representation.

Major Non-Conformity: Arises where deliberately false, materially misleading or knowingly unsupported information is communicated concerning a significant horse-wellbeing or human-safety incident, where verified facts are deliberately misrepresented, or where communication knowingly presents speculation as established fact.

Criterion AM7-19 – Arrival, Unloading, Handover and Post-Transport Recovery

Transport responsibility shall continue through safe arrival, unloading and formal handover. The horse's post-transport condition shall be considered before further transport, training, competition or other demanding activity where the journey may have materially affected wellbeing.

Compliance Requirements

AM7-19.1 Destination arrangements shall be confirmed before arrival where necessary to ensure safe unloading, reception and continuity of horse care.

AM7-19.2 Horses shall be observed during and following unloading for injury, fatigue, distress, illness, dehydration or other abnormal conditions.

AM7-19.3 Significant transport observations, treatments, incidents or special requirements shall be communicated to the receiving responsible person.

AM7-19.4 Horses requiring recovery, veterinary attention or additional observation shall receive appropriate arrangements before further activity or onward transport.

AM7-19.5 Formal handover shall clearly establish the point at which transport responsibility transfers to the receiving party.

Indicators

- Destination arrangements are suitable.
- Post-journey condition is observed.
- Material information is handed over.
- Recovery requirements are addressed.
- Responsibility transfer is identifiable.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification shall include arrival and handover records, welfare observations, veterinary information where applicable and onward-activity arrangements.

Minor Non-Conformity: Isolated handover or post-transport record deficiencies where horse care remains effectively managed.

Major Non-Conformity: A horse showing significant post-transport welfare concerns is handed over, transported onward or returned to demanding activity without appropriate action.

Criterion AM7-20 – Environmental Performance and Resource Efficiency

Transport operations shall seek measurable improvement in resource efficiency and environmental performance without compromising horse wellbeing, safety or journey quality. Environmental optimisation shall therefore support, rather than conflict with, responsible transport management.

Compliance Requirements

AM7-20.1 Transport planning shall consider opportunities to reduce unnecessary distance, empty movements, excessive waiting and inefficient routing.

AM7-20.2 Energy and fuel consumption associated with transport activities shall be measured where operationally controlled and materially relevant.

AM7-20.3 Fleet, equipment and logistics decisions shall consider efficiency and lower-impact alternatives where technically and operationally appropriate.

AM7-20.4 Environmental improvements shall not compromise ventilation, journey conditions, emergency capability, vehicle suitability or horse-wellbeing requirements.

AM7-20.5 Material environmental performance trends shall be reviewed and used to identify realistic improvement opportunities.

Indicators

- Logistics efficiency is considered.
- Energy or fuel consumption is measured.
- Lower-impact alternatives are evaluated.
- Horse wellbeing takes precedence over optimisation.
- Environmental trends support improvement.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification shall include fuel and energy records, vehicle information, route planning, fleet decisions and environmental improvement actions.

Minor Non-Conformity: Isolated deficiencies in environmental measurement or improvement records where material impacts remain understood.

Major Non-Conformity: Environmental or efficiency measures knowingly create significant horse-wellbeing or safety risk, or material performance data are deliberately falsified.

Criterion AM7-21 – Transport Performance, Incidents and Continual Improvement

The organisation shall evaluate transport performance and use welfare observations, incidents, complaints, operational data and audit findings to improve effectiveness. Continual improvement shall focus on preventing recurrence, strengthening journey quality and demonstrating progressively more responsible transport performance.

Compliance Requirements

AM7-21.1 Relevant transport performance shall be evaluated using indicators appropriate to the organisation's activities, scale, transport modes and risk profile.

AM7-21.2 Welfare incidents, injuries, transport disruptions, complaints and significant deviations shall be analysed for patterns, trends and underlying causes.

AM7-21.3 Corrective actions shall address identified causes and be proportionate to the significance, frequency and potential consequences of the issue.

AM7-21.4 Changes arising from incidents, operational experience or performance analysis shall be reviewed to confirm that intended improvements are effective.

AM7-21.5 Lessons learned shall be incorporated into journey planning, competence, equipment, procedures, risk assessment or other relevant operational controls.

Indicators

- Transport performance is evaluated.
- Incidents and complaints are analysed.
- Corrective actions address underlying causes.
- Improvements are reviewed for effectiveness.
- Lessons learned strengthen operations.

Verification and Non-Conformity Conditions

Verification shall include performance records, incident analysis, complaints, corrective actions, trend information, management review and evidence of implemented improvement.

Minor Non-Conformity: Isolated deficiencies in analysis, documentation or follow-up where continual-improvement processes remain substantially effective.

Major Non-Conformity: Recurrent significant transport-welfare failures remain unaddressed despite evidence that existing controls are ineffective.