

## Horse transportation logistics

Martin H Atock

Managing Director, Peden Bloodstock, Schloss Leyenburg, 47509 Rheurdt, Germany

### Abstract

Beijing Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (BOCOG) have appointed Peden Bloodstock to prepare and oversee the transport logistics involved in the movement of all equine athletes, equipment and attendants to and from the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Some 300 horses from in excess of 40 nations accompanied by 140 attendants and 96,000 kg of equipment will travel to and from Hong Kong on an estimated 56 flights. Approximately 90 per cent of all participating horses will originate in Europe with the balance travelling primarily from Australasia and North America.

### Freight Manual

Peden Bloodstock have drafted a comprehensive *Equestrian Freight Manual* which is available on the websites of BOCOG<sup>1</sup>, the Equestrian Company and Peden Bloodstock outlining all transport and logistic requirements, arrangements and procedures for both the Olympic and Paralympic Games

### Health Requirements

All horses travelling to Hong Kong must have been resident in scheduled countries which include all 27 European Union (EU) member states, Norway, Switzerland, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA for a minimum of 60 days prior to entering a 7 day pre-export quarantine (PEQ) at an approved facility.

The movement of any horses that are due to travel to Hong Kong must be carefully documented during this 60 day period. When a horse moves from one scheduled country to another the health certification for that movement must be retained and shown to the certifying veterinarian at the time of the completion of the Hong Kong health certificate at the end of PEQ. Any British, French or Irish horses moving between these three countries must also obtain certification during these 60 days. This is outside the current tripartite agreement but must be adhered to. Horses must not travel to an unscheduled country during this period which would make them ineligible for export to Hong Kong.

Based on the current Agriculture, and Fisheries Conservation Department (AFCD) import requirements, within 14 days of export all horses must be tested as follows:

---

<sup>1</sup> See: <http://en.beijing2008.cn/news/official/bulletin/media/n214168070.shtml>

- Coggins test for equine infectious anaemia (EIA)
- Indirect Fluorescent Antibody Test (IFAT) for piroplasmosis (*Theileria equi* and *Babesia caballi*), if piroplasmosis has occurred in the country of export in the last 2 years
- Virus neutralisation test (VNT) for vesicular stomatitis (VS) if it has occurred in the country of export in the last 2 years
- ELISA test for African horse sickness (AHS) if the horse has been in a country during the last 60 days where AHS has occurred in the last 2 years
- Equine influenza vaccination must be given in accordance with FEI Rules<sup>2</sup>. The latest vaccination must be given between 90 and 14 days of export.

## Requirements for pre-export quarantine

Pre-export quarantine (PEQ) may be completed at private stables which must be approved by the responsible state veterinarian and which are subject to inspection and approval by the Hong Kong AFCD should they choose. Standards, Management, Testing schedules and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for pre-export quarantine may be obtained from the *Freight Manual*. The Manual provides full and detailed information with regards to standards, facilities and all SOPs for the PEQ.

If they have not already done so National Federations/National Paralympic Committees (NFs/NPCs) are requested to advise Peden Bloodstock as early as possible should they wish to establish a PEQ so the approval process can be started.

Additionally Peden Bloodstock have organised a pre-export quarantine at the Aachen showground prior to the Olympic and Paralympic Games which will be available to all NFs/NPCs with horses based in Central Europe. Details of this quarantine have already been sent to all Federations.

## Flights

The airports of Amsterdam, London Stanstead, New York, Los Angeles and Sydney have been designated by BOCOG as hub airports in the respective continents. Please refer to **Annex 1** (Flight timelines – Olympics) and **Annex 2** (Flight timelines – Paralympics) for flight scheduling. These timelines were established in conjunction with the participating NFs, the FEI and the Event Veterinarians and we are confident that these will satisfy the requirements of all competing NFs and NPCs. There are no facilities available in Hong Kong to receive horses outside the official arrival windows (Olympics, 26<sup>th</sup> July; Paralympics, 27<sup>th</sup> August).

We have endeavoured to accommodate all NF's flight requests within the constraints that we have with the aircraft available, accepting bookings on a first come/first served basis. Where NFs have been prepared to travel more horses

<sup>2</sup> See: <http://www.fei.org/Rules/Veterinary/Documents/Annex%20VII%20-%20Equine%20Influenza.pdf>

with fewer attendants on freighter aircraft we have accommodated them where we can.

Horses will be consolidated on flights operated by KLM Cargo, Martinair Cargo, British Airways World Cargo, Cathay Pacific and Cargolux. B747 200/400 combi and freighter aircraft will be used and horses will be shipped in enclosed 'Jet stalls' with two horses per stall. Flight times to Hong Kong ex Europe will vary between 12 and 15 hours depending on aircraft and routing with some aircraft making technical stops in Dubai. Specific flight details and timings will be advised to all NFs in due course when their bookings are confirmed.

The temperature on the aircraft will be set at approximately 17 °C.

There will be a limited amount of space available for veterinary equipment on the cargo deck of the aircraft. Any veterinary trunks or veterinary supplies that need to be accessed during the flight must travel in the front of the jet stalls and be of a size that will fit through the groom's door of the jet stall.

*All horses temporarily imported into Hong Kong for the Olympic and Paralympic Games must be re-exported to their hub of origin directly after the event*

### **Movement of equipment/feed**

We have provisionally booked 320 kg of equipment per horse to travel with the horses on the aircraft to and from Hong Kong. NF's will be asked in our next and final questionnaire to confirm the exact quantity of equipment that they would like booked providing us with *accurate* equipment weights which will subsequently be booked with the respective airlines. It should be noted that any equipment in excess of the booked quantity may not travel on the horses' flight due to capacity restraints. We will, however, endeavour to move the equipment on the next available flight but with no guarantee of the airfreight rates, which would be outside our contracted capacity. All equipment will be weighed at the airport of departure and any excess charged to the National Olympic Committee (NOCs)/NFs accordingly. Please refer to the *Freight Manual* for current airfreight and handling rates in Hong Kong for horse feed and equipment.

All equipment to travel on horse flights will need to be delivered at the airport of departure a minimum of 5 hours prior to the flight departure. For NFs carrying out PEQ at Aachen, arrangements will be made for them.

Each NF/NOC/NPC should make arrangements to forward by sea all bulk items such as feed etc., well in advance of the Olympic Games. Please refer to the AFCD's website<sup>3</sup> for further advice on the import requirements into Hong Kong.

In addition, please refer to the AFCD website or the *Freight Manual* for the requirements for phytosanitary certificates and plant import licences.

---

<sup>3</sup> See: [www.afcd.gov.hk/english/equestrian/equestrian.html](http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/equestrian/equestrian.html)

Further details on equipment labelling and packaging will be forwarded to the NFs closer to the flight time.

### **Attendants**

Each shipment to and from Hong Kong will be accompanied by a Animal Transport Association/National Proficiency Test Council (AATA/NPTC) Peden Bloodstock professional flying groom. He is appointed as Peden Bloodstock's representative on the flight with the prime responsibility for both horses and attendants on the aircraft they travel on.

We have produced an '*Attendant Checklist*' (**Annex 3**) which will be sent out to each NF in advance and which each attendant must sign, date and return to the Peden representative at the airport of departure. It is imperative that this checklist is read and thoroughly understood by each attendant to avoid any possible confusion.

### **Procedure for attendants at export/re-import hub**

Many of the attendant's responsibilities and information about Customs and Immigration procedures can be found on the attendant checklist.

On arrival at the export hub, attendants must report to the Peden representative in charge of the shipment. Immigration and Customs formalities will be completed in the loading area/warehouse of the export hub so that attendants are not separated from their horses.

In addition, attendants will travel 'airside' through security with their horses in the front of the 'jet stalls'

A comprehensive procedural document will be issued both prior to departure from the hub airport and prior to departure from Hong Kong enabling all attendants to familiarise themselves with arrival and departure procedures.

### **Procedure on arrival in Hong Kong and transfer to Sha Tin**

The Good Luck Beijing - Hong Kong SAR 10th Anniversary Cup in August 2007 showed us how smoothly this important process can be accomplished. Based on our experiences last year and under normal conditions, we expect the horses to be in their stables within 1 hour 50 minutes of the aircraft arriving on stand at Hong Kong International Airport.

On arrival in Hong Kong, the horses will be inspected briefly before being offloaded from the aircraft. All relevant documents will be collected by AFCD officers. The horses and attendants will be transferred from the aircraft which will be parked at the freighter terminal in the immediate vicinity of the unloading area via the apron and a transfer ramp onto the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC) vehicles.

Once the horses are safely in the controlled environment of the air conditioned vehicles, customs and immigration formalities will be completed.

All horses will be transferred in forward facing wide stalls in horseboxes owned and maintained by the Hong Kong Jockey Club, each stall being 1.12 m wide. Each lorry will carry a maximum of six horses and attendants will travel with their horses to the core venue at Sha Tin in the grooms' compartment in front of their horses. Each lorry is air conditioned to an ambient temperature of 20-22 °C and the transit time is in the region of 40 minutes.

On arrival at the core venue, the horses will be off-loaded and transferred immediately to the air conditioned stables. Attendants will be issued with day passes at the airport so they can take their own horses into the stables and accreditation will be arranged at the core venue.

*It should be noted that the operational area at the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) is a secure and restricted area and will not be accessible to any team officials with the exception of those accompanying their horses on the flights.*

Team officials awaiting the arrival of their horses should wait at the unloading area at the Sha Tin venue where they will be kept informed of the anticipated arrival time of the convoy from the airport. Their assistance would be appreciated to lead the horses to the stables once they have been unloaded from the HKJC vehicles.

### **Movement of Event horses and equipment to and from Beas River**

Event horses and their equipment will be moved from Sha Tin to Beas River on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August and will return after the cross country on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August.

As it is vital to ensure a smooth, efficient and fluent movement between the two venues all teams are requested to adhere strictly to loading times which will be provided by Peden Bloodstock and venue logistics for both equipment and horses.

Any delay caused by teams not having their equipment ready for collection or horses not ready for loading will cause avoidable stress on those horses that have already been loaded and will delay the whole operation.

All horse equipment and overnight bags for those team members who will sleep at Beas River must be available for collection by venue logistics at the designated time which will be prior to the departure of the horses. Each individual item must be labelled with stickers which will be provided with the country code, horse name and stable number in English and Cantonese. The equipment will be collected directly from and delivered to the stables at each venue and this will need to be overseen by a NF representative at both venues.

Only one piece of hand luggage per horse and a small team veterinarian trunk, if required, should travel with the horses on the HKJC vehicles.

Horses will be split into two movements between the venues with the first 54 horses, based on competition draw order, travelling to Beas River on the first movement and the balance travelling on the second movement which will be approximately 2.5 hours later.

NFs will be advised of the number of the vehicle and in which loading bay their horses will travel (stickers with the NF 3 letter code and horses names will be attached to the side of each vehicle). One attendant may travel with each horse in the groom's compartment and a bus provided by the Equestrian Company will travel in the convoy for team officials that must accompany the transfer.

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August the first movement will depart Beas River 2 hours after completion of the cross country and the second movement approximately 2.5 hours later.

### **Development of computer software for NF's**

We are in the process of developing a computer program with Hippodata to assist NFs with providing information on horses and attendants to Pedens. Once this has been completed, information will be sent to NFs on how to access the program. This will include providing details on horses, vaccination and blood test history, details of attendants accompanying horses to and from Hong Kong and scanning facilities for human and equine passports.

### **Important deadlines prior to shipment**

- BY 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2008. Peden Bloodstock will forward a second questionnaire to each National Federation asking for firm bookings and confirmation of horse numbers and reserves plus the weight of tack and equipment each NF will send to Hong Kong.
- BY 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2008. The questionnaire MUST be returned to Peden Bloodstock to ensure eligibility for the freight grant.

The entire Peden Bloodstock team wish you a safe, pleasant and successful trip to Hong Kong. If there is anything further we can do to assist please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Annex 1 Flight timelines – Olympic Games**

1	Thursday	17th July	<b>Eventers &amp; Dressage arrive Aachen PEQ</b>	
2	Friday	18th July	PEQ 1	
3	Saturday	19th July	PEQ 2	
4	Sunday	20th July	PEQ 3	
5	Monday	21st July	PEQ 4	
6	Tuesday	22nd July	PEQ 5	
7	Wednesday	23rd July	PEQ 6	
8	Thursday	24th July	PEQ 7	
9	<b>Friday</b>	<b>25th July</b>	<b>Fly to HKG (ETA 26th July)</b>	
10	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>26th July</b>	<b>Fly to HKG (ETA 27th July)</b>	<b>Jumpers Arrive Aachen PEQ</b>
11	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>27th July</b>	<b>Fly to HKG (ETA 28th July)</b>	PEQ 1
12	<b>Monday</b>	<b>28th July</b>	<b>Fly to HKG (ETA 29th July)</b>	PEQ 2
13	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>29th July</b>	<b>Fly to HKG (ETA 30th July)</b>	PEQ 3
14	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>30th July</b>	<b>Fly to HKG (ETA 31st July)</b>	PEQ 4
15	Thursday	31st July	PEQ 5	
16	Friday	1st August	PEQ 6	
17	Saturday	2nd August	PEQ 7	
18	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3rd August</b>	<b>Fly to HKG (ETA 4th August)</b>	
19	<b>Monday</b>	<b>4th August</b>	<b>Fly to HKG (ETA 5th August)</b>	
20	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>5th August</b>	<b>Fly to HKG (ETA 6th August)</b>	
21	Wednesday	6th August		
22	Thursday	7th August		<b>Eventing</b>
23	Friday	8th August	<b>OC</b>	75 horses
24	Saturday	9th August	<b>OG</b>	<b>D</b>
25	Sunday	10th August	<b>OG</b>	<b>D</b>

**Jumping**

26	Monday	11th August	OG	XC	Dressage	90 horses
27	Tuesday	12th August	OG	SJ F	60 horses	TS
28	Wednesday	13th August	OG	EXTRA	T	
29	Thursday	14th August	OG	EXTRA	T	
30	<b>Friday</b>	<b>15th August</b>	OG	<i>Fly ex HKG</i>	REST	1st Q
31	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>16th August</b>	OG	<i>Fly ex HKG</i>	GPS	REST
32	Sunday	17th August	OG		REST	T
33	Monday	18th August	OG		REST	T
34	Tuesday	19th August	OG		IF	REST
35	Wednesday	20th August	OG		EXTRA	EXTRA
36	Thursday	21st August	OG		EXTRA	SJF
37	<b>Friday</b>	<b>22nd August</b>	OG		<i>Fly ex HKG</i>	EXTRA
38	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>23rd August</b>	OG		<i>Fly ex HKG</i>	EXTRA
39	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>24th August</b>	CC			<i>Fly ex HKG</i>
40	<b>Monday</b>	<b>25th August</b>				<i>Fly ex HKG</i>
41	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>26th August</b>				<i>Fly ex HKG</i>

**Annex 2 Flight timelines – Paralympic Games**

1	Monday	18th August	<b>OG</b>	<b>Arrive Aachen PEQ</b>
2	Tuesday	19th August	<b>OG</b>	PEQ 1
3	Wednesday	20th August	<b>OG</b>	PEQ 2
4	Thursday	21st August	<b>OG</b>	PEQ 3
5	Friday	22nd August	<b>OG</b>	PEQ 4
6	Saturday	23rd August	<b>OG</b>	PEQ 5
7	Sunday	24th August	<b>CC</b>	PEQ 6
8	Monday	25th August		PEQ 7
9	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>26th August</b>		<b>Fly to HKG (ETA 27th)</b>
10	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>27th August</b>		<b>Fly to HKG (ETA 28th)</b>
11	Thursday	28th August		
12	Friday	29th August		
13	Saturday	30th August		
14	Sunday	31st August		
15	Monday	1st Sept		
16	Tuesday	2nd Sept		
17	Wednesday	3rd Sept		
18	Thursday	4th Sept		
19	Friday	5th Sept		
20	Saturday	6th Sept	<b>OC</b>	

21	Sunday	7th Sept	PG	Compete
22	Monday	8th Sept	PG	Compete
23	Tuesday	9th Sept	PG	Compete
24	Wednesday	10th Sept	PG	Compete
25	Thursday	11th Sept	PG	Compete
26	Friday	12th Sept	PG	<b>EXTRA</b>
27	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>13th Sept</b>	PG	<i>Fly ex HKG</i>
28	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>14th Sept</b>	PG	<i>Fly ex HKG</i>
29	Monday	15th Sept	PG	
30	Tuesday	16th Sept	PG	
31	Wednesday	17th Sept	<b>CC</b>	

### Annex 3 Responsibilities of attendants on aircraft

#### A. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- All attendants shall be aged 18 years or over
- All attendants on aircraft must have a good command of the English language
- Hi-visibility jackets (Hi-Vis) which will be provided by Peden Bloodstock must be worn at all times in the warehouse, on the ramp and at any time near the aircraft
- All horses shall be on and offloaded with a chifney and/or bridle
- There is to be no smoking at any time whilst in the loading/unloading areas, airside, on the ramp or at any time on the aircraft
- No alcohol will be consumed for at least 8 hours prior to flight time or at any time on the aircraft
- All attendants shall follow the directions of the Peden professional groom and/or Peden staff at all times whilst on the ramp and on the aircraft.
- All attendants shall follow the required safety briefings by the crew without interruption and shall act on these accordingly.
- Any communication with the Crew or cockpit shall be made through a Peden professional groom
- For attendants on 'combi' flights, access to the rear (cargo) compartment of the aircraft shall be authorised firstly by the Peden groom or a member of the Cabin crew. For attendants on all-Cargo flights, access to the main deck of the aircraft shall be authorised only after prior consultation with the Peden groom.
- Attendants shall wear appropriate clothing and footwear on the aircraft and whilst loading. Attendants shall make every effort to ensure they are as clean as possible prior to returning from any horse compartment to a passenger seating area
- NO medication is to be administered in flight to ANY horse without prior consultation with a veterinary surgeon and/or Peden groom
- For attendants on all-Cargo flights, Oxygen bottles shall be carried as per the Crew's direction.
- There is to be no tampering with oxygen bottles, jet stalls or any other aircraft equipment.

**B. CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION**

- Each attendant must have a valid passport and VISA for Hong Kong if required. Attendants not in possession of the correct documentation will not be accepted for passage. Up to date information on visa requirements for Hong Kong is available on the immigration department's website<sup>4</sup>.
- Hong Kong Customs import and export regulations shall be strictly adhered to. No more than 1 litre of alcohol, 60 cigarettes or 15 cigars shall be imported into Hong Kong. No more than 200 cigarettes or 1 litre of alcohol shall be re-imported into the EU or USA. No dangerous goods, drugs, ammunition, fireworks, strategic commodities, game, meat or poultry shall be imported into Hong Kong. Please note that further details can be found at the Customs' website<sup>5</sup>.
- Hand baggage: Please note that there will be a strict limit of ONE item of hand baggage per attendant on the aircraft.
- Liquids: All liquids must be in individual containers not greater than 100 ml capacity and all containers must be placed in one transparent, re-sealable transparent bag, no larger than 20 cm x 20 cm. The containers must fit comfortably inside the bag so it can be fastened closed. Only one bag per passenger is allowed and that bag must be clear and re-sealable. Liquids in containers of more than 100 ml capacity must be packed into checked-in baggage.
- Essential medicines may be permitted over the 100 ml limit subject to authentication.
- No fake goods are to be brought back from Hong Kong. Please note that Customs in Amsterdam and the EU will thoroughly inspect all persons luggage on return from Hong Kong looking for undeclared goods

**Peden Bloodstock reserves the right to refuse any attendant travel on the aircraft or remove any attendant from the aircraft who does not comply with the above regulations on the ground. Furthermore, Peden Bloodstock is obliged to report any attendant that does not comply with the above regulations in-flight which may prevent the attendant travelling on any further horse flights.**

I have read and understood the above document.

Signed.....

Print name.....

Federation.....

Date.....

<sup>4</sup> See: [www.immd.gov.hk/ehhtml/hkvisas\\_4.htm](http://www.immd.gov.hk/ehhtml/hkvisas_4.htm).

<sup>5</sup> See: [www.customs.gov.hk/eng/advice](http://www.customs.gov.hk/eng/advice)