

**SASKATCHEWAN HORSE FEDERATION**

**PHASE 2 OF**

**EIA AWARENESS AND RISK MANAGEMENT - 2017**

**INFORMATION PACKAGE**



**Saskatchewan**  
Horse Federation

# Saskatchewan Horse Federation announces

## Phase 2 of EIA Awareness and Risk Management - 2017

- November 28, 2016

### What is EIA?

Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) is a contagious disease of equids that has no cure or preventative vaccine.

### Why is the SHF concerned with EIA?

Because of its prevalence in Saskatchewan, the Federation's concern with EIA dates back **many** years. Dr. Byrnie Rothwell (past Chair of the Equine Health and Welfare Committee) worked closely with EC (Equine Canada), CFIA (Canadian Food Inspection Agency), and the SVMA (Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association) to provide the membership and Board of Directors with ongoing information about the presence, the threat and the need for risk management of EIA.

### What has the SHF done to address these concerns?

Since Dr. Rothwell's passing, the SHF's Industry and Health and Welfare Committees continued to work with our industry partners, and in 2015, put together a comprehensive program to bring EIA awareness to all horse owners in the province. Government funding was secured to help encourage testing and to support the CFIA with disease surveillance. The announcement of this program was unveiled in March 2016 at the annual general meeting (AGM) of the SHF.

### Was the motion passed at the 2016 AGM part of this plan?

No. The motion that directed the SHF to require negative EIA tests for all horses attending 2017 sanctioned events came directly from members in attendance at the AGM. This directive brought immediate backlash from other members who resented the 'mandatory' testing designation and the implications it brought with it.

### Has the SHF listened to members' concerns?

Yes. Following the AGM, the SHF continued with the original program, running education seminars in locations throughout the province. These sessions were attended by all factions of members – those who were supportive of testing requirements, those undecided, and those that were adamantly opposed.

Through the spring, we continued with the subsidized testing sites and in the fall, stakeholder sessions were hosted to get feedback from our Corporate Club members. The controversy continued throughout these sessions, clearly demonstrating a divided membership.



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## What was learned?

Member feedback was collected and summarized and we know:

- 1 That more EIA education and awareness is wanted.
- 2 That many support a program that asks for negative EIA tests.
- 3 That many do not support a program that asks for negative EIA tests and are willing to leave the Federation because of this initiative.
- 4 That some still sit in a “undecided” position regarding EIA testing.
- 5 That the cause of the most resistance is the term “mandatory”.

## What is the plan for 2017?

**Phase 2 is a voluntary tiered program that will take effect on May 1, 2017.**

**Phase 2 enables event organizers to self declare the EIA designation of their event as A,B,C or D, and gives event organizers the freedom to determine the best fit for their host facility and client base. It also provides horse owners with the information they need to personalize their EIA risk management strategies.**

**Please see attached charts.**

## Do I have to choose an EIA designation for my event?

No. If you choose to not rate your event, it will be considered “unrated” and given a “D” designation. Because it is a **voluntary program**, the SHF encourages event organizers to participate and will list EIA designations on appropriate promotional; material, but will not monitor participation nor police compliance.

## Is my event still sanctioned if I do not ask participants for a negative EIA test?

Yes, provided other permits and fees are in order.

## How can I minimize the risk of my horse contracting EIA?

During the peak transmission months of the summer, you can minimize your risk by only attending events with A or B designation.

***The Board of Directors would like to thank all members who provided feed back that enabled us to produce a program that reflects the needs of our diverse membership.***

***We remain committed to our strategic objectives of Equine Health and Welfare and will continue to persue programs that educate horse owners and help control the spread of EIA in Saskatchewan.***

*Your Board of Directors of the Saskatchewan Horse Federation.*



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## PHASE 2 EVENT DESIGNATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Phase 2 is **VOLUNTARY** and allows events to self-declare the EIA designation of their event. Event organizers determine the best fit for their host facility and client base and can advertise their event status to encourage participation. Phase 2 provides horse owners with the information they need to personalize their EIA risk management strategies.

Event Designation	Risk	Requirements	Applications
<b>A</b>	<b>Minimal</b>	All horses coming onto the premises for <b>any event</b> must have a current* negative test for EIA. This includes, but is not limited to competitions, lessons, clinics, breeding, training. <b>All horses residing on the premises</b> must have a current* negative test for EIA.	Any event that takes place on a facility that routinely tests all animals that reside at their facility and requires that <b>only</b> negative tested animals come on to the premises.
<b>B</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>All horses coming onto the premises for the SHF permitted event</b> must have a current* negative test for EIA.  Horses residing or coming onto the premises for other events are not required to have a current* negative test for EIA.	Events that take place on Exhibition grounds or facilities where boarded horses are not required to be tested and where both SHF permitted and non-permitted events occur.  If an event chooses to let any one untested group onto the grounds at <b>the same time</b> as a tested group, they will follow regulations as to their proximity rules**. If these rules cannot be followed, the event will move to a 'C' designation.
<b>C</b>	<b>Unknown**</b>	Events operating under a 'C' designation will have <b>no requirements</b> for negative EIA tests on horses coming onto the premises or those that are permanently residing there.	This would include fairs, exhibitions and any event that allows for comingling of horses where a negative test is not required.
<b>D</b>	<b>Unknown***</b>	Events choosing to not participate in the voluntary designation process will automatically be assigned a 'D' rating.	Category D recognizes that participation in this plan is voluntary, and that these events have declined to participate.

\*The SHF will recognize as 'current', any negative test for EIA that is done within the calendar year. \*\* Regulations for proximity require that a minimum distance of 200 meters be maintained between groups of horses during the event.

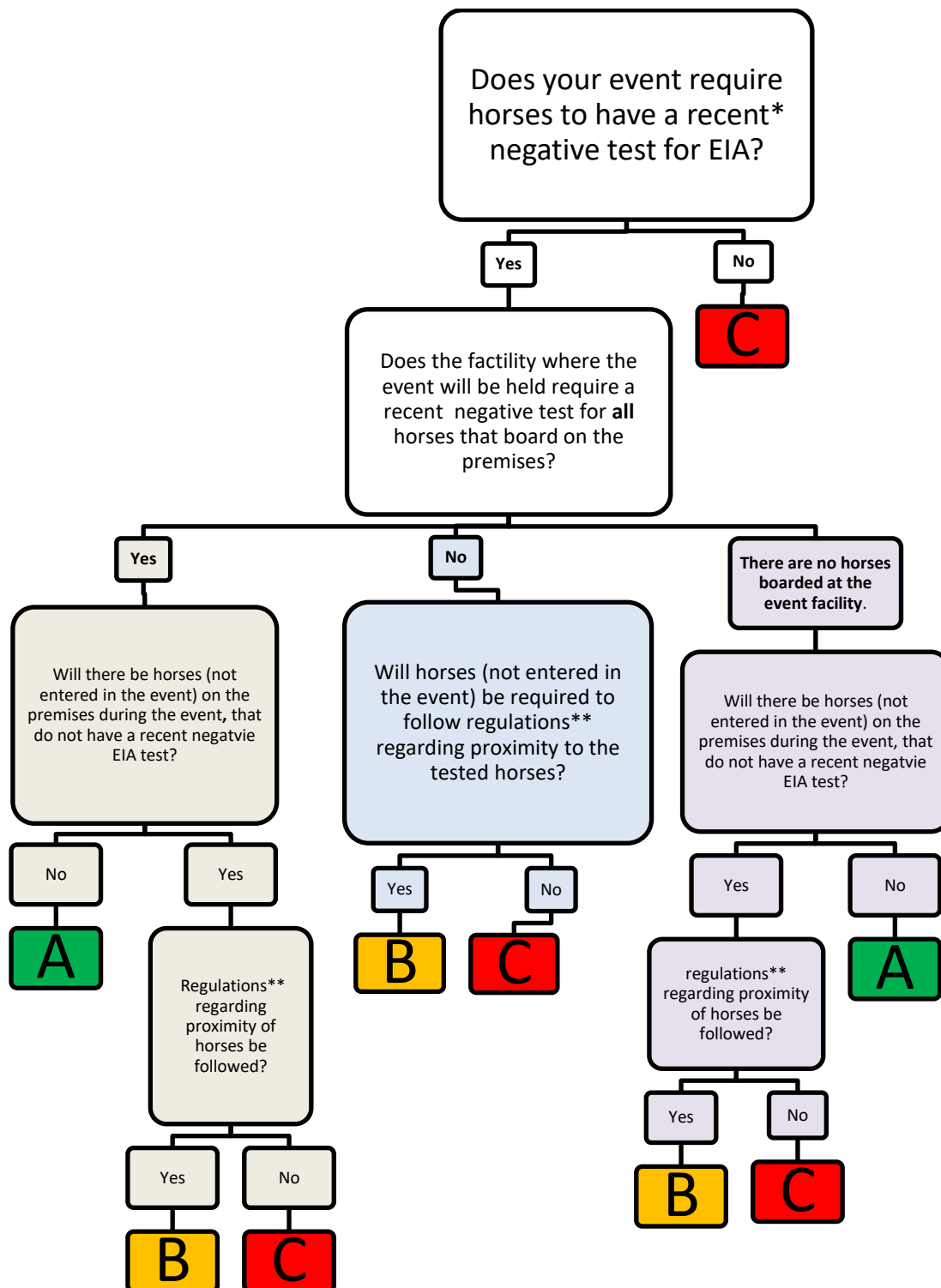
## PHASE 2 EVENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Event organizers will answer the questions in the flow chart to determine their EIA designation and will check a box on forms that applies to them.
2. Events choosing to participate may display their appropriate EIA designation on their prize lists, permit forms and any other promotional material associated with the event.
3. Events choosing to ask for a negative EIA test assume all responsibility for policing test requirements.
4. Horse owners assume all responsibility for authenticity and accuracy of paperwork stating proof of negative status of an animal.

2017 plans will include continuing education and awareness on all topics related to equine health and welfare, with continued focus on EIA.

# FLOW CHART TO DETERMINE EVENT EIA DESIGNATION

Determine your event's EIA designation by answering the questions below, and then check the appropriate box on the Sanction form.



**D** Any event that does not choose an EIA designation will automatically become 'unrated' and be given a 'D' designation

\*The SHF will recognize as 'current', any negative test for EIA that is done within the calendar year.

\*\*Regulations for proximity require that a minimum distance of 200 meters be maintained between groups of horses during the event. There will be a minimum elapsed time of 24 hours between events.

