

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### **Registration of Equine Establishments (obtaining an Equine Establishment Number (EEN))**

#### **How do I apply or register?**

Registration is simple and free. Registration is available online on the DAERA Website - [Click here to register](#).

#### **Why do I have to register my equine establishment?**

As of 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026, If you own or have day to day responsibility for any establishment (land and/or buildings) where equines are kept, you are legally<sup>1</sup> required to register the establishment with DAERA. When you register, DAERA will issue you with a registration number known as Equine Establishment Number (EEN).

The benefits of registering include:

- ✓ Enhanced equine traceability
- ✓ Disease control and prevention
- ✓ Fraud and theft prevention
- ✓ Enhanced equine health and welfare protection
- ✓ Access to advice and guidance

You need to provide the EEN and postcode for the establishment where your equine is kept, when applying for a horse passport. It is also be required to make changes to, or update a horse passport, such as a change of ownership, owner address, food chain status or when applying for a replacement/duplicate passport.

#### **Why should I register?**

An EEN is required when you apply for a horse passport, apply to update an existing horse passport, or apply for a replacement/duplicate horse passport. You should therefore ensure that you register your equine establishment.

It is a legal requirement to hold a valid, up to date passport for your equine. You may be unable to sell, buy, move, transport or export your equine if you cannot provide a valid EEN and keep your passport up to date.

Moving your equine to Great Britain, Ireland or other countries for competitions, shows or other activities requires an up-to-date passport and possibly an export health certificate (subject to export destination), which requires an EEN.

### **What is the definition of “equine”?**

The term equine includes horses, ponies, donkeys, zebras and crosses of those species. If you keep any of these species, you must register your establishment with DAERA.

### **What is an equine establishment?**

An equine establishment is any place or premises (with or without land) where equine(s) are kept, either on a permanent or temporary basis. This can include, though is not limited to;

- farms
- private land or private dwelling houses
- competition venues
- show venues
- sales venues
- racecourses
- hunt yards
- farriers' yards
- rescue/rehoming centres
- studs
- fairs

### **I am not a business, but a private equine owner. Does this apply to me?**

Yes. Under EU Animal Health Law this applies to anyone who has responsibility for an establishment where equines are kept, even a private owner of a single equine kept at their own home, must register.

### **What is an Equine Establishment Number?**

This is a unique number issued to the operator of an establishment where equine animals are kept. It is a six-digit number which DAERA will provide to you when you register your establishment.

### **Does it cost to register my establishment?**

No. There is no cost to register your equine establishment and obtain an EEN.

### **My equine is kept in livery (or on someone else's land). Do I need to register that establishment?**

It is the responsibility of the operator of the establishment where equines are kept to register that establishment. That means the person who has day to day responsibility for managing the establishment (land and holdings).

Livery yard owners/operators (i.e. the person who manages the establishment) are required to register their establishments. When you apply to an equine Passport Issuing Organisation for a horse passport or passport update, you will need to provide the EEN and postcode of the establishment where your equine is kept.

If you rent land and have responsibility for operating/maintaining it, you must register it, however if someone else, whether or not this is the owner, maintains and operates the land, they should register.

**I have already registered for an equine premise number . Do I need to register again?**

No. If you are already registered for an equine premise number you do not have to do anything further at this time. Equine Establishment is the new term for equine premise number.

**I already have an equine herd number/ equine animal group number. Do I need to apply for an EEN?**

No, you can use the pre-existing equine herd number/equine animal group number as the EEN.

**I do not know if the livery yard where I keep my equine is registered, what can I do?**

You should check with the owner/operator of the livery yard. It is a legal obligation for the livery yard owner/operator to register the establishment.

**I operate a registered equine establishment and have liveries. Do I need to provide my EEN to my liveries?**

Yes. They will need your EEN alongside the postcode of your establishment to apply to Passport Issuing Organisations for horse passports or passport updates.

**Do I need a business ID?**

Anyone who interacts with DAERA for keeping livestock, equines and certain other species of animal, must have a unique registration number in order to interact with DAERA and to help us protect your personal information under Data Protection rules. This is called a "Business ID" and there are different categories depending on the activities you carry out. **You do not have to be a business to have a Business ID.** If you already have a Business ID for the establishment where you intend to keep

equines, you should provide it on the form. DAERA will add equines to the list of species that you keep at that establishment. If you do not have a Business ID, and you intend to keep equines for leisure purposes or commercial enterprise, you will NOT need to provide a Business ID on the form. You will automatically be assigned a category 5 Business ID. More information on DAERA Business IDs can be found [here](#).

### **Do I have to be a business or a farmer to register an equine premises?**

No. Anyone keeping equines on any establishment, including private individuals and private dwellings, is required to register. There are no financial implications of registering.

### **I have an existing Cat 1 Farm Business. Will adding my equines affect my farm sustainability payment? (or other payment)?**

No. Under the Farm Sustainability Payment, “land grazed by equines” is eligible land. Areas used for equestrian sport, however, such as a manége or racetrack, remain ineligible.

### **I have an existing cattle herd number can this be used as the equine establishment number?**

No. You cannot use an existing number for another non-equine species. You will need to apply for an equine establishment number.

### **Is financial assistance available?**

No. Registration is simple and free of charge. You cannot apply for any subsidies under a Category 5 business ID.

### **What information do I need to provide?**

Information requirements are set out in the registration form. This requires name, address, contact information, description of the establishment, numbers and types of animals kept

### **What do I do if I stop keeping equines?**

There is a legal obligation for anyone keeping equines on their premises to keep their information up to date. You must advise DAERA if you stop keeping equines so the register can be updated.

### **If I move my equine, should I check that the place I move it to is registered and has an EEN?**

Yes, it is a legal obligation for all establishments keeping equines to be registered.

**I only keep a single equine for leisure purposes at my home. Do I need to register?**

Yes, all establishments where equines are kept must be registered, including domestic dwellings and private land.

**How long does it take to obtain an EEN?**

DAERA will endeavour to process your registration as quickly as possible, but you should allow 21 working days to obtain your EEN. You should not delay applying, as failing to provide your EEN will cause delays when applying to obtain or update a horse passport.

**How will DAERA protect my personal information?**

DAERA takes data protection, freedom of information and environmental information issues seriously. It takes care to ensure that any personal information is protected in accordance with the requirements of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR 2016) and the Data Protection Act 2018. Further information and privacy statement is available [DAERA Privacy Statement | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs](#)

The Establishment registration process is designed to capture only essential information required to identify the location where equines are kept. This information is held securely and used solely for animal health and traceability purposes. It is not published or shared publicly.

**DAERA have contacted me regarding Equine Establishment Registration, How did they obtain my name and address?**

You received the letter informing you of the need to register for an equine establishment because, at some point, you applied for an equine passport. These details are held on a Central Equine Database (CED). This could be the UK CED or the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) CED, dependent on the Passport Issuing Organisation that you registered your equine(s) with.

Under the Equine Identification Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 (as amended in 2022), DAERA is designated as the competent authority for equine identification and passporting in Northern Ireland. Passport Issuing Organisations (PIOs) act as delegated bodies authorised by DAERA to issue passports and manage data on its behalf, but DAERA remains the competent authority accountable for compliance, oversight, and governance of this data.

If you believe you have never applied for an equine passport please contact DAERA at [EquineID.policy@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:EquineID.policy@daera-ni.gov.uk)

## **What are the implications of registering an equine establishment?**

Establishment registration is simply an administrative step to provide you with an Equine Establishment Number (EEN). There is no requirement for the department to inspect premises before issuing an EEN. It does not change your ownership rights, impose additional costs, or affect how you manage your horses. Its purpose is to improve disease control and traceability, helping protect the health and welfare of horses across Northern Ireland.

### **Footnotes:**

1. Before keeping an equine animal, the operator of the establishment where equines will be kept must be registered with the competent authority (in Northern Ireland, this is DAERA). This legal obligation applies in accordance with Article 84 of [Regulation \(EU\) 2016/429 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health \(the 'Animal Health Law'\)](#).