

When travelling abroad with your horses...

Travelling abroad can be stressful at the best of times, but adding your own horses into the mix adds a whole new set of complexities. Here is some essential information to help you on your way.

As an owner you are always striving to try and do the right thing for your horses to ensure they arrive at the competition in peak condition and ready to take on any challenge. Here at Sovereign Equestrian we have extensive experience in travelling internationally, with our most recent destination being Jardy in France for a 3 day show jumping competition. As with anything, it gets a lot easier the more travelling you do but here are a few helpful tips that should help make your travels less stressful and more fun...

Travelling abroad requires a lot of organisation, here at Sovereign Equestrian we use Shelley Ashman International Shipping to help organise the horses, the route and all associated paperwork to ensure you can solely focus on getting the best performance out of your horses.

THE RIDER:

You will also need to become an FEI rider, again the application form for this is located on the FEI website.

THE HORSE:

When you decide to go to an International show your horse will need an Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) passport. You will find the application form on the FEI website. A



requirement for competing in FEI shows is for your horse to have its flu booster jab within 6 months of the competition date.

THE TRANSPORT (LORRY):

When packing your lorry, it is important to remember to leave room to get to your horses from the living door. When you drive onto the ship you have a short amount of time to park, check your horses are okay and go upstairs onto the passenger levels. We recommend having a full water container and a bucket in the living area so you can quickly give your horses a drink before the sea crossing. Also, it is important to

have a spare haynet ready as leaving them with food ensures happy horses. Usually, horseboxes are parked near the bottom of the ship therefore it gets very warm for the horses, so dependent on your horse you may need to remove their rugs.

THE ROUTE:

If you are only travelling within France then you do not need health papers for your horse. However, if you are travelling anywhere else you will need them. Health papers that are produced by Shelley Ashman require a vet to visit your yard within 48 hours of your departure to check that your horses are fit to travel.

If you are travelling in Belgium you will need an On Board Unit (OBU), this is a little black box that tracks your lorry and charges you per kilometre at the rate applicable by the lorry weight and type of engine accordingly (Effectively a toll charge).

Other countries have similar OBU's or another road pricing mechanism imposed onto HGV's, check before you travel.

The route is important if driving a large HGV horsebox, the agents will give you route maps and recommendations to get to your competition destination avoiding low bridges and villages.



HELPFUL LINKS AND INFORMATION

TRAVELLING CHECKLIST:

A good check list to have before travelling abroad:

- Keep all documents in a strong clear PVC wallet
- FEI Passport for each horse
- Human passport for each person travelling
- Driving licence for all drivers
- Health papers signed by your vet up to 48hrs before you travel
- Ferry booking reference number and confirmation document
- Export declaration - issued by Shelley Ashman
- Animal transport certificate - issued by Shelley Ashman
- Insurance documents for horsebox
- The original vehicle registration V5C document for the horsebox
- A GB plate must be affixed to the rear of the horsebox
- European horsebox breakdown cover is recommended.

VOSA REGULATIONS

You must comply with a list of regulations set out by VOSA, find 'a guide for horsebox and trailer owners' at website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-horsebox-and-trailer-owners>

VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS:

FEI vaccination requirements can be found at www.fei.org website

We would like to wish you a hand safe journey to your first international horse show.

We have recommended Shelley Ashman as providers, but there are other companies available. Please remember to only use reputable and verified firms for this work.



About Sovereign Equestrian

At Sovereign Equestrian, we train, maintain, and care for our horses so that they become exceptional performers across all disciplines. We know that a fit and healthy horse is a happy horse, and a happy horse is a successful horse. We want to share some of our techniques with you because, with the right care your horse can reach its true potential.

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