



# CANADIAN EQUINE IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM: PHASE 1 OVERVIEW

The Canadian Equine Identification Program (CEIP), administered by Equestrian Canada (EC), is an industry-led initiative to develop an equine identification system that will lead to a full-scale traceability system. The CEIP is the first stage of a program and platform with the capacity to address equine owner concerns about equine health, disease control, verifiable identification documents, proof of ownership, ease of compliance with federal regulations and lifetime security.

EC has acknowledged the importance of universal identification for equines in Canada in its [Strategic Initiatives Plan 2018-2022](#). Lack of verified identification and traceability of equines in Canada has many potential negative implications, including: misrepresentation; lack of proof of ownership; lack of ability to trace an animal's owner during an emergency or natural disaster; limitation of disease control and prevention; loss of pedigree; and much more.

Though full-scale functioning traceability is not practical for the Canadian equine sector as of yet, it is important that the industry begins to implement identification for all equines for the greater good of the national herd's health and welfare, the growth and development of the various equine industries in Canada, and the security and accountability for an owner's individual animal, as well as to prepare for compliance with any future federal regulations.

The CEIP introduces a new document for equine identification called an EquineRecord. The sole function of an EquineRecord is to act as a verified identification document (similar to a passport), and it will serve as registration to the CEIP. All new EquineRecords will require equines to be properly identified with a verified microchip by a set future date. Additionally, all foal registrations with any CEIP participating breed registries will automatically be issued an EC EquineRecord and be enrolled in the CEIP. The EquineRecord will not be eligible for use in competition until the animal owner upgrades the EC EquineRecord to "active in sport".

## *What are the benefits of the CEIP?*

- Verifiable means of permanent identification for equines.
- Proof of ownership.
- Established right of buy back from situations of non-ownership.
- Notification, identification and traceability capacity in the event of an infectious or contagious disease outbreak and during CFIA-led trace-back exercises for diseases such as Equine Infectious Anemia.
- Global recognition and growth of Canadian breeders and trainers through true, unified and verified identification.
- Promotion of pedigree.
- Ease of compliance with United States Equestrian Federation (USEF), Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) and European Union (EU) identification requirements.



- Creation of a microchip look-up tool to search for an animal with their identification number.

### *What is required to participate in the CEIP?*

- Registration of a foal with a participating EC breed registry or passport issuing organization, and receipt of an EC EquineRecord with registration.
- If your breed organization is not affiliated with EC, you can independently apply for an EquineRecord. You will need to supply foal registration information.
- Not affiliated with a breed registry? Don't know your horse's history? Get an EC non-pedigree EquineRecord (this requires having a veterinarian complete identification documents, implant a microchip and submit verification paperwork to EC).
- Implantation of a microchip provided by EC (or a recognized distributor) and submission of microchip registration form to EC.
- Informing EC of any transfer of ownership, if the equine's main residence changes, or of the death of the equine.

### *What information is the EquineRecord required to provide the CEIP?*

- Animal ID#
  - There will need to be a grandfather period for previously microchipped equines with the intention that all new equines registered in the program after a pre-determined date set by the industry will need to have a 15-digit ISO standard microchip number beginning with Canadian country code 124 (using ISO 3166-numeric standard).
- Equine's main residency (Premise Identification Number)
  - Name and contact information (e-mail address, phone numbers, etc.) of the equine's custodian/person responsible.
  - Address

### *Who can access this information?*

All collected information is protected under the Privacy Act, meaning it cannot be disclosed outside of the EC database without the owner's consent.

However, by providing your consent when registering the animal to CEIP, you will ensure you or the equine's custodian can and will be contacted in the event of or preparation for potential disease outbreak, disease surveillance, disease trace-back, for right of buy back or to reconnect with your equine in the event of an emergency, natural disaster, loss or theft.

EC will provide owner/operators of feedlots, abattoirs, auctions and other specified food chain stakeholders with the contact information for the person responsible in a right of buy back situation by request or on case-by-case basis.

### *How and when will your information be used?*

How and when your contact information will be used depends on what consent you provide. At the basic level, only the equine's identification information will be available: microchip number, breed registry affiliate (if applicable), and status (alive/deceased).



If you wish, you may provide consent for your equine's information to be shared for the purposes of biosecurity, emergency and disease response, food chain and food chain status, right of buy back, and for other national and provincial livestock programs. Your equine's information will be provided to regulatory bodies from the EC office during Phase 1 for right of buy back, or loss and theft on an as-needed basis.

Depending on your level of consent, your equine's microchip number can be searchable on the CEIP website and display information including registry information, results, pedigree, etc.

### *What are the terms of right of buy back?*

Right of buy back refers to the ability of an equine's previous owner to have the opportunity to purchase the equine back from its current owner under certain conditions. Once established, it will stay with the equine for life unless removed and can be transferred to a new owner if agreed upon by the party who originally applied the right of buy back with proof of transfer.

Right of buy back is only applicable when an equine is entering the food chain, or during rescue/abuse seizure. This means the equine is in a feedlot or abattoir, auction or rescue situation, but does not apply if the equine is sold to another owner to your dismay. The party that holds or owns the equine, as established by proof of legal ownership, is responsible for setting the monetary amount of the buy back. It is the responsibility of those parties and not EC to ensure you are contacted in these situations.

EC is not responsible or liable for either the outcomes, negotiations or tribulations of the right of buy back process, or the state or health of the equine, and does not have any legal or other authority over any other party or owner.

EC will work to ensure right of buy back information is accessible by all parties in a timely, accurate and efficient manner. It is important that the party with right of buy back reports any changes in contact information to EC, and provides contact information that is the most appropriate and up-to-date.

EC is also working to develop a data sharing platform that will further authenticate equine identification/traceability participation and compliance and ensure information sharing is efficient for the entire equine sector.

It is important to remember that by selling an animal, you take the risk that it can be sold to or utilized in a sector that is not to your preference. There are many considerations to be made before breeding, selling or purchasing an animal. Once an equine legally leaves your chain of custody, you no longer have authority over its path, use, ownership or end of life plan.

By placing a right of buy back, you should consider and anticipate that in order to return the equine to your care and custody, you will be required to purchase that equine and be responsible for all other costs (transportation, etc.) associated with the transaction. The only way to ensure an equine that has been in your care and custody remains in situations or under ownership to your preference is to not sell that equine.

### *What will be the costs associated with the CEIP?*

If an equine's EquineRecord is submitted and completed with an EC affiliated breed registry, the cost of



enrollment is included in the registration of the foal.

For equines of non-pedigree or associated with a breed registry that is not EC affiliated, the cost is TBD per foal under the age of one (1) year old and per equine over one (1) year of age. The cost of an EquineRecord for an equine who is active in sport is TBD, as well as the cost to upgrade a previous EquineRecord.

Changes to the EquineRecord, such as change in ownership or main residency, will be charged either through an unlimited subscription for equine owners, or as a pay-per-change rate. If no changes are made, there are no further costs to being enrolled in the program.

Placing right of buy back cost per equine at the time of registration is also TBD.

EC will work to continuously develop the CEIP to ensure the program structure and value-added options address the needs and concerns of the entire sector.

### *What is Phase 2 of the CEIP?*

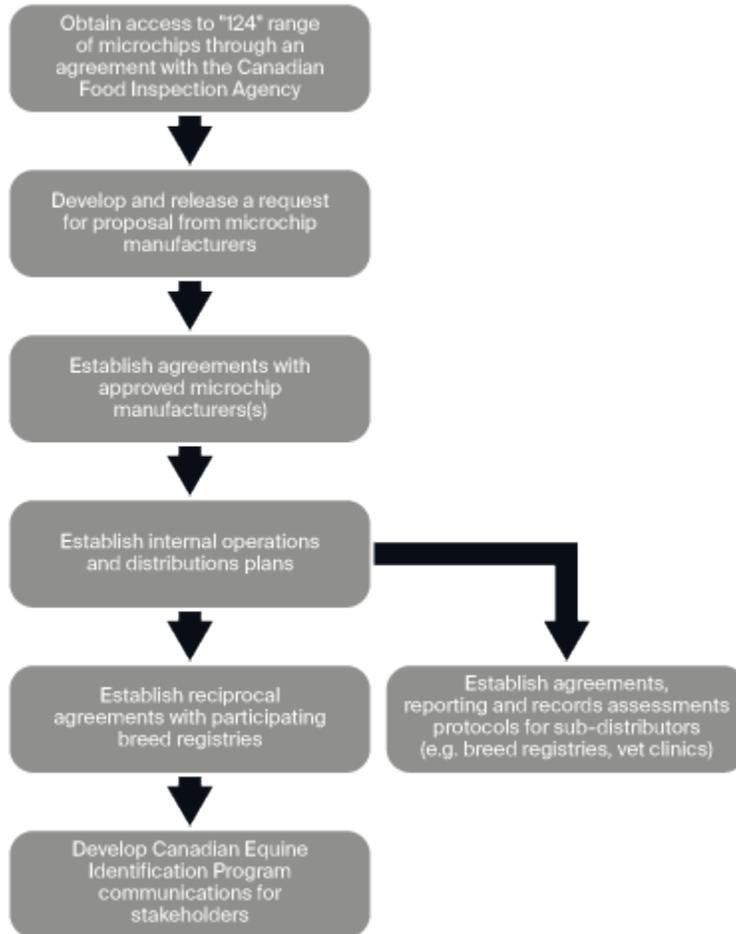
The intent of Phase 2 is to be able to implement equine traceability and identification compliance through a main data sharing platform and supporting applications. During Phase 2 of the CEIP, a national equine data sharing platform will be developed to help ease the transfer of equine information, facilitate ease of compliance for equine owners in national and provincial programs, and provide security for owners and custodians. A data sharing platform is different from a standard database because it is able to send and receive information from many different equine, government, veterinary and even custodial databases.

The intended platform would be able to send and receive information from many different administration (input) portals and associate relevant equine input information (e.g. movement, drug administration and health records, pedigree and results) with an animal identification number and portfolio, and then compare it to prerequisite output requirements. By delivering this type of administration from a data sharing platform, equine owners/custodians will easily be able to meet biosecurity and health requirements for entry to events and border crossings, as well as set food chain status and other security options. The benefits to the health and welfare of the national herd are endless, but most importantly, tracking movement in a user-friendly format will enhance disease prevention and control.

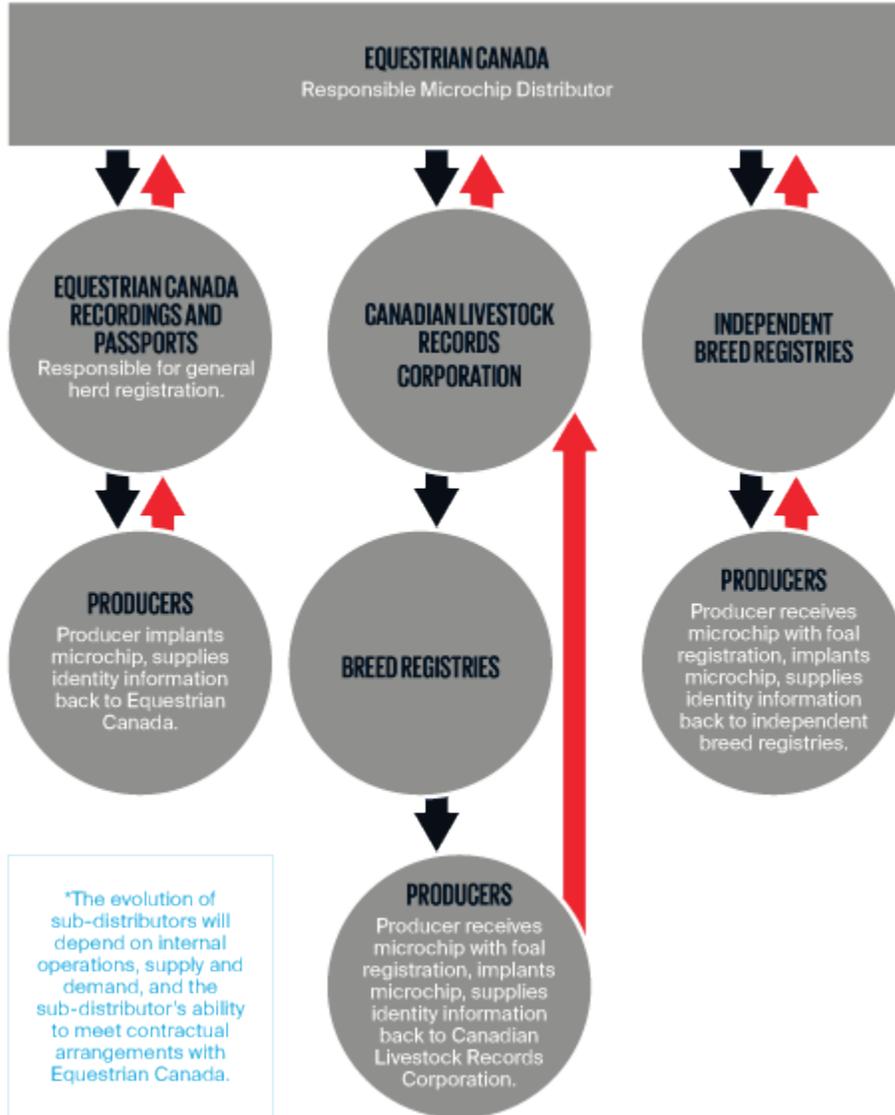
Phase 2 will commence when a data sharing platform that can facilitate the needs of the diverse Canadian equine sector is selected. A request for proposals process will be carried out to find the appropriate service provider and platform. When federal funding is secured, the implementation of Phase 2 will begin.



### Phase 1: Implementation Plan

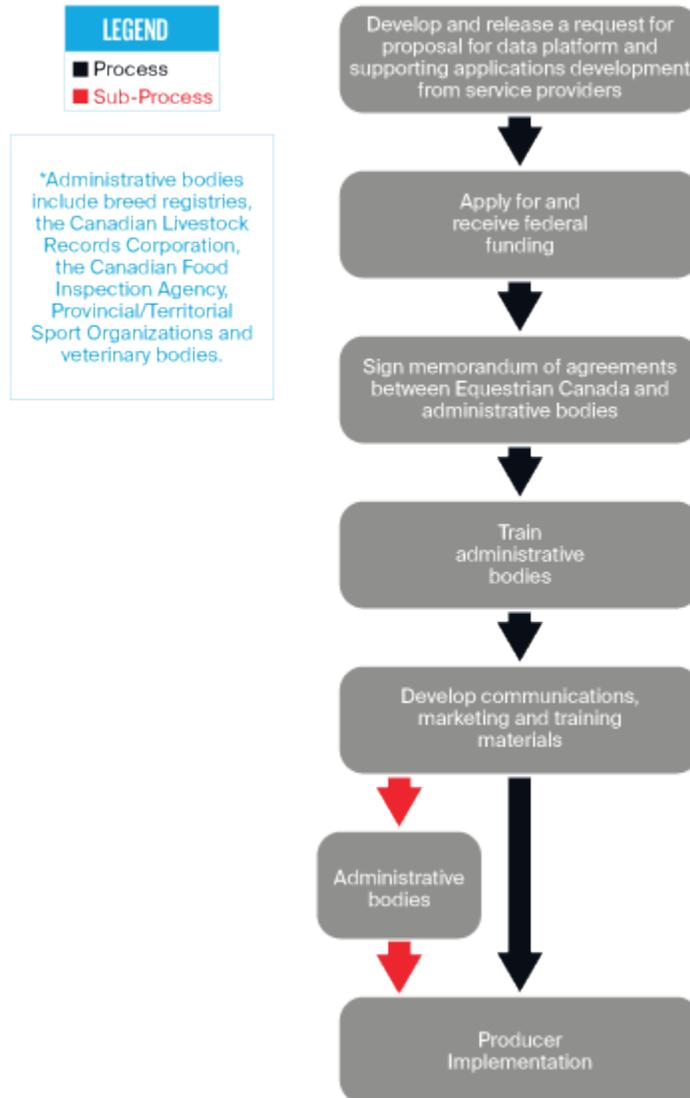


Phase 1: Distribution Plan





## Phase 2: Implementation Plan





Phase 2: Intended Functionality of Data-Sharing Platform

