



Irish Draught Breed Register rules and classifications

Background

Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) holds the Main Studbook of origin for the Irish Draught horse. The Irish Draught Horse Society (GB) entered into a harmonisation agreement with HSI in November 2011. This agreement recognised our existing stallion classifications and specified that we should follow the principles of registration and inspection laid down by the parent studbook.

Brexit invalidated this agreement, which we plan to re-negotiate in 2023. In the meantime, our Society continues to follow the same rules for the registrations and inspections of the Irish Draught horse as we did when the harmonisation agreement was in place. This is to enable our horses to continue to benefit from mutual recognition in Ireland, the USA and Canada, and any other countries which may enter into a harmonisation agreement with the parent studbook in future.

The Department for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in Ireland agreed to a five-year amnesty from 2017-2021 to enable the progeny of Class 4/Uninspected parents to come forward for inspection in their own right. This Amnesty came to an end in December 2021. This means that currently, horses by or out of an uninspected parent are not eligible to come forward for inspection.

Our Sport Horse Register was never subject to the harmonisation agreement. This register is solely managed by the Society to help promote top-quality sport horse production for competition, breeding and leisure. That said, there is one section within the Sport Horse Register which may contribute to the Breed Register. For mares that have been inspected and classified as Supplementary Grade-Up, the same pedigree and inspection criteria apply as for our parent body (please see below), so that they and their progeny can be recognised by the harmonised studbooks.

The Society also issues identity-only (Utility) passports for animals with no proven pedigree.

General rules for the IDHS (GB) Breed Register

To comply with the Equine Identification Regulations (2018) and the Minimum Operating Standards (MOPS) issued by Defra (June 2021), all purebred stock with proven Irish Draught ancestry **must** be registered in our Breed Register or Sport Horse Register.

Animals with proven pedigree (whether Irish Draughts or Sport Horses) are never issued with Utility passports.

Whether an animal is registered in the Breed Register or Sport Horse Register depends on its pedigree. This article concerns the Breed Register only.

To register a foal or older horse in the Breed Register, the breeder must submit:

- a valid application form, available from our website at www.idhsgb.org.uk
- an identity marking chart, completed by a veterinary surgeon, showing the microchip number;
- a covering certificate obtained from the stallion owner;
- a DNA sample, which must be taken by a veterinary surgeon;
- the breeder must be a member of the IDHS (GB) to register an Irish Draught horse;
- foals must be registered within six months of birth or December 31, whichever is the later.

Stallion owners may purchase covering certificates from the Society Administrator on payment of £4 per certificate. Homemade covering certificates are never accepted.

The IDHS (GB) does not issue foal papers. If you sell a foal, either within this country or for export, it must be fully registered with the IDHS (GB) before the sale. It is an offence to sell an equine without a passport.

Please do not use non-Irish Draught passport-issuing organisations to issue passports for Irish Draughts, because they are effectively then lost to the breed. It is also contrary to MOPS rules, because a horse should be registered within its own studbook.

Imported Irish Draught horses

Naming and changes of ownership (transfers)

The IDHS (GB) updates passports issued by Horse Sport Ireland with your chosen name (if the horse has not previously been named). We can also carry out transfers of ownership for Irish-bred horses living in the UK. There is a form on our website for this purpose.

Updating foal identity documents for foals born in Ireland

A full passport is a requirement for showing and inspection in this country. Any progeny born to a horse that still has its foal papers will not have any pedigree displayed in their own passports.

Owners thinking about importing a foal from Ireland on foal identity papers (a basic identity document issued in some countries pending DNA results) are strongly advised to wait until Horse Sport Ireland has received the DNA and issued the full passport before importing the animal to the UK. That way, you will have a full Horse Sport Ireland passport and you can then have this over stamped when your foal arrives in this country.

If you have to import your foal on foal papers, you can apply to our passport administration office for a full (pedigree) passport, *provided that* the foal has already arrived in the UK at the time of the application. The Society will never issue a first passport for initial registration for any equine born outside the UK while that animal is still overseas. It must have at least a foal identity document in order to import it into the UK.

Applications to update Irish foal papers are made on our usual Irish Draught or Sport Horse registration application form, using one of our marking charts. The owner has to be a full member of our Society to register an Irish Draught, but not to register a sport horse, but members do receive a discount to register a sport horse.

For imported foals, covering certificates and DNA results will be confirmed with Horse Sport Ireland. The foal identity document must be sent to us so that it can be rescinded before a full passport is issued, as a horse must not have two passports in circulation at the same time.

Equines born in other countries and imported into the UK must by law be over stamped by a relevant passport-issuing organisation within a specified time scale (30 days from clearing Customs), so that they are logged on the government's Central Equine Database. Over-stamping and transfer into the correct ownership are both legal requirements.

Over-stamping your horse with the IDHS (GB) also allows Irish Draught horses to be shown or inspected in Great Britain.

Classification of Irish Draught horses

Class 1

This class is for inspected horses that meet the pedigree, veterinary and breed standard requirements of the Irish Draught Horse Society (GB) Breed Register and hence, the Irish Draught Horse Main Studbook.

Class 2

This class is for inspected horses that meet the pedigree and veterinary requirements of the IDHS (GB) Breed Register/Irish Draught Horse Main Studbook, but which have not met all of the inspection criteria for Class 1.

The male and female progeny of Class 1, Class 2 and RID mares and stallions, and Supplementary Grade-Up mares by a Class 1 or RID stallion, are eligible for Class 1 on inspection. The progeny of AID mares by a Class 1 or RID stallion are also eligible for inspection.

Class 3

This class is for horses that fail their inspection day or pre-inspection veterinary examinations. These animals are not recommended for breeding. The progeny/grand-progeny of Class 3 animals are not eligible for inspection.

Class 4/Uninspected

This is the entry level of the Breed Register, for all foals and other uninspected Irish Draughts. Under current studbook rules, the progeny of these animals are not eligible to be inspected.

Supplementary Grade-Up Register

To be eligible for inspection for this grade, which is for fillies and mares only, horses must be registered on the Irish Draught Sport Horse Register. They must have the following pedigree requirements:

- one RID or Class 1 parent;
- three RID or Class 1 grandparents;
- the remaining quarter to be verified as registered Thoroughbred, Connemara or traditionally-bred Irish Sport Horse, comprising only those breeds.

Prior to inspection, these fillies and mares must be shown as sport horses. After successful inspection, Supplementary Grade-Up mares remain registered on the Sport Horse Register, but are also cross-registered on the Breed Register.

After successful inspection, Supplementary Grade-Up mares are shown in Irish Draught mare classes and must not concurrently be shown as sport horses.

The progeny of Supplementary Grade Up and AID mares sired by RID/Class 1 and Class 2/Grade 2(GB) stallions are all eligible for Class 1 on inspection.

Historical (legacy) classifications of Irish Draught horses bred in the UK

RID and RID (GB) stallions, RID mares and geldings

RID is the historical classification for stallions and mares inspected and graded in Great Britain between 1979 and the introduction of the Breeding Plan in 2010-2011. These animals met official inspection and veterinary requirements in operation in Great Britain at the time and are deemed to be equivalent to Class 1.

The term 'RID' has a very specific meaning and therefore must not be used for any animal that has not been inspected before 2010. Foals and yearlings must not be described as 'RID'. The correct term is 'Uninspected Irish Draught'.

RID (GB) stallions are a specific group of named animals that were classified as RID in Great Britain in the ten year period between 2001 and 2010. Some of these stallions are no longer standing at stud. Please see our current stallion lists on our website at www.idhsqb.org.uk for those standing this year.

All RID stallions and RID (GB) stallions are treated exactly the same as Class 1 animals in terms of eligibility for merit awards and the eligibility of their progeny for inspection.

Until our studbook fully harmonised with Ireland's Main Studbook, geldings registered in Great Britain by a RID stallion out of a RID, AID or SID mares were given the same classification as their dam, on confirmation of castration, even though they were never inspected. They would now be termed 'Class 4' or 'Uninspected'.

Geldings are eligible for inspection for Class 1 under the same rules as mares, but to date (2022) no gelding has ever been inspected in Great Britain.

AID geldings are shown in Irish Draught classes, because most are at least 75% Irish Draught.

AID mares

AID is a legacy classification. AID mares are part of the Sport Horse Register and are equivalent to Supplementary Grade Up, (although they may not meet the strict pedigree requirements for that classification). Many are three quarters Irish Draught, so they are shown in Irish Draught classes rather than sport horse classes. These mares are now an ageing population and few are still being shown or bred from.

Foals out of AID mares by a RID, Class 1, Class 2, Class 3 or Uninspected/Class 4 stallion are registered as 'Uninspected/Class 4' in the IDHS (GB) Breed Register (Main Studbook).

Historical Grade 2 ID

This classification was for stallions inspected up to and including 2010 which did not meet inspection standards at the time, but which met veterinary requirements.

The progeny of Grade 2 stallions out of RID, RID (GB), Class 1, Class 2 and AID or Supplementary Grade Up mares are eligible for Class 1 on inspection.

Historical Grade 3 ID

This classification was for stallions inspected up to and including 2010 which did not meet veterinary requirements. The progeny of these animals are not eligible for inspection.

If you have any questions about your horse's classification, or that of a horse you are thinking of buying, please contact our Administration Office through our website contact form, or by phone.

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