

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR VETERINARY CERTIFICATE FOR CAMELS AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CAMEL FAMILY (LLAMAS, ALPACAS, VICUNAS) EXPORTED TO THE CUSTOMS TERRITORY OF THE CUSTOMS UNION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS, REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION FROM THE UK

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND THE EXPORTER

IMPORTANT

These notes for guidance (NFG) provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with the export health certificate (EHC) for the the export of camels and other Representatives of the camel family (llamas, alpacas, vicunas) from the UK to the Customs Union (EHC No.7494). The Customs Union is a group of countries consisting of the Russian Federation and the Republics of Belarus and Kazakhstan. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with this certificate. The certificate is based on the wording and format in accordance with Decision of the Custom Union Commission of 25 December 2012 No 308 Form No. 20. Nevertheless, we strongly suggest that exporters obtain full details of the importing country's requirements from the veterinary authorities in the country concerned, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

1. Scope

The export health certificate should be used to accompany camelids from the UK to the Customs Union of the Russian Federation, Belarus and Kazakhstan. This current certificate (EHC 7494) can only be used for exports taking place until 31/3/2014. After that date the correct EHC to use for the export of camelids to the Customs Union will be EHC 7516, which will be revised to include other zoo animals as well, in accordance with the Customs Union's import requirements that come into effect from 1/4/2014.

2. Certification by an Official Veterinarian (OV)

This certificate may be signed by an Official Veterinarian appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Scottish Government, Welsh Government, or an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland (DARDNI), who is an Official Veterinarian (OV) on the appropriate panel for export purposes. OVs should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any colour OTHER THAN BLACK.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to AHVLA Specialist Service Centre - International Trade in Carlisle or DARD, within seven days of issue. OVs should keep a copy for his/her own records.

3. Identification

The identification details of the animal should be inserted in boxes under the headings of section 2 of the certificate.

4. Origin of Animals

Box 1.6 headed 'Country of origin of animals', refers to the country in which the animal was born.

Box 1.7: Enter United Kingdom.

Box 1.8: Enter DEFRA

Box 1.9: Enter DEFRA or DARD

Box 1.10: Enter the customs border checkpoint in the Customs Union

Box 3.2: The administrative territory is England or Scotland or Wales or Northern Ireland.

5. Declarations and disease clearance

Paragraph 4.1 refers. The first part of paragraph 4.1 is general text and includes the words 'free of contagious animal diseases'. This wording can be certified on the basis that the animals for export are free from clinical signs of epizootic infectious diseases and that the animals are not known or suspected to be infected with the infectious agents that may cause these diseases.

In the next part of paragraph 4.1, for declarations referring to the establishment (such as the zoo), the OV can certify these paragraphs on the basis of their personal knowledge with reference to records and results of laboratory testing as necessary. Alternatively these declarations can be certified on the basis of a signed declaration provided by another Veterinary surgeon with access to this knowledge. These declarations refer to:

- Brucellosis
- Tuberculosis
- Paratuberculosis
- Leptospirosis
- Anthrax

Such declarations cannot be provided for animals taken directly from the wild. Such animals must have been kept in captivity and their health status established for at least 21 days before export procedures are commenced.

For declarations referring to notifiable or reportable disease freedom for the country or the administrative territory of the exporting country (England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland), these declarations can be certified on behalf of the Department provided that written authority to do so has been obtained from the issuing AHVLA or DARD office on Form 618NDC. These declarations are for:

- African Horse Sickness
- Blue Tongue
- Rinderpest
- Foot and Mouth Disease
- Glanders

Authority to provide declarations for the following diseases which are not notifiable diseases under UK animal health legislation will also be provided by AHVLA or DARD on Form 618NDC:

- Zooanthroponotic plague
- Nodular dermatitis
- Camelpox

Zooanthroponotic plague means a plague of a "reverse zoonosis" ie a disease that is normally present in the human population that can be transmitted to other vertebrates. The UK can be recorded as free from Zooanthroponotic plague unless an epidemic of human disease with a concurrent associated epizootic disease of animals which has been transmitted from humans is recorded to occur.

'Nodular dermatitis' was reported to be a viral disease of bovines that is manifested by fever and inflammation of the skin, with the formation of skin nodules. The disease is described to have a chronic, enzootic progression with a mortality rate of up to 95 percent.

'Nodular dermatitis' was first reported in 1929 in eastern Africa and since then it has also been reported in southern and Africa and the island of Madagascar. It has not been recorded elsewhere. The UK can be recorded as

free from 'Nodular dermatitis' unless an epizootic disease of cattle of high mortality characterised by fever and inflammation of the skin, with the formation of nodules is recorded to occur.

Paragraph 4.2 regarding feeding ruminant protein refers. This paragraph can be certified on the basis that under the EU animal by-products Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 these animals cannot be fed feed products containing ruminant protein, excluding components permitted by the OIE code.

Paragraph 4.3 regarding hormonal substances refers. This paragraph can be certified on the basis of the OV's personal knowledge or a written declaration by another veterinarian and checks as necessary on the records of medicines administered to the animals.

6. Clinical Examination

Paragraph 4.4 refers. Clinical examination(s) of the animals must be carried out during the quarantine period prior to export, which should be of a duration not less than 21 days. (see also paragraph 3 of the EHC - this must indicate at least 21 days duration of quarantine).

7. Laboratory Tests

Paragraph 4.4 refers. During the 21 day pre-export quarantine period the animals must be tested with negative results for:

- Glanders
- Bluetongue
- Trypanosomiasis
- Tuberculosis
- Paratuberculosis
- Brucellosis
- Contagious pleuropneumonia

The laboratories used for testing should where possible employ tests accredited to ISO 17025 and use test methods recommended by the OIE (where the OIE has provided such a recommendation).

See: <http://www.oie.int/international-standard-setting/terrestrial-manual/access-online/>

If necessary the Official veterinarian should contact AHVLA or DARD for advice.

Enter the name of the laboratory (eg AHVLA Weybridge), the date, method of testing and result.

For tuberculosis enter 'Intradermal tuberculin test [Date] Negative'.

8. Veterinary Treatments

Paragraph 4.5. refers. Export health certificate 7494EHC does not require that the animals for export are treated with any specific medicines, but if any veterinary treatment such as sedation or treatment of a minor wound is required, this should be recorded. If no treatment is given the OV should enter 'None'.

Methods and dates of any treatments should be recorded and provided.

Ideally the OV must use products with a product authorisation for use in the United Kingdom. If there are no products authorised for the particular species, then the OV should follow the cascade principle in using other products. The exporter/owner should be advised that the use of any product out-with the data sheet can entail a risk of adverse reactions.

9. Welfare

Welfare conditions during transport are laid down by Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005, implemented in England by The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) order 2006, and parallel legislation in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Exporters must comply with the UK welfare laws relating to the export of animals. If transported by air, animals should be transported in accordance with International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards.

Further information on OIE and IATA transport recommendations may be obtained from the following offices;

England, Scotland & Wales Welfare in Transport Team at the AHVLA Specialist Service Centre -International Trade - at Carlisle, via the link below:

<http://animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/about/contact-us/tradeexports.html>

Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Ballymiscaw, Belfast, BT4 3SB. DARD Helpline number 0300 200 7852. DARD Helpline email dardhelpline@dardni.gov.uk . DARD Textphone 028 9052 4420

10. C.I.T.E.S

This certificate does not provide exemption from other legislation laid down for the protection or conservation of certain wild species, e.g. the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (C.I.T.E.S.). Information about the necessary requirements may be obtained from the Department at the address given below:

Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service (WLRS)
Zone 1/17, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol,
BS1 6EB. Tel:0117 372 8774 Fax: 0117 372 8206

11. Disclaimer

This certificate is provided on the basis of information available at the time and may not necessarily comply fully with the requirements of the importing country. It is the exporter's responsibility to check the certificate against any relevant import permit or any advice provided by the competent authority in the importing country. If these do not match, the exporter should contact the AHVLA Specialist Service Centre -International Trade, in Carlisle, via the link below:

<http://animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/about/contact-us/tradeexports.html>