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## EXPORT OF HORSES TO BARBADOS

### NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND THE EXPORTER

#### 1. Scope

Health certificate 204EHC may be used for the temporary or permanent export of horses to Barbados.

It is not permitted to export horses and other equines from Great Britain for slaughter. This applies to journeys from, and transit journeys through, Great Britain to destinations outside the UK, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

#### 2. Certification by an Official Veterinarian (OV)

This certificate may be signed by a Local Veterinary Inspector appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Scottish Government - Rural Directorate, Welsh Assembly Government - Department for Rural Affairs, 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/AVIs should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV/AVI stamp in any colour other than black **ON EACH PAGE**.

Under the Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Act 2024, it is an offence to export horses and other equines for slaughter, beginning in or transiting through Great Britain to a third country.

If the OV has suspicions that the consignment is being exported for slaughter in contravention of section 1 of the Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Act 2024, this should be reported as soon as possible to APHA by calling 03000 200 301. In your report, please detail the following:

- EHC and journey log reference number
- Location and address of inspection, including CPH number
- Name and address of transporter and journey organiser
- Transporter authorisation number
- Details of the animals in the consignment (number, species, age)
- The reason for your concern
- Any relevant additional information

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the issuing local Animal Health Divisional Office (AHDO) within seven days of issue.

The OV/AVI should keep a copy for his/her own records.

### **3. Identification**

Paragraph I and Page 4 refer. The silhouette on page 4 of the certificate must be fully completed or in the case of a registered horse, the passport number inserted. The Official Veterinarian must verify the identity of all registered horses by reference to the passport, even if the silhouette on page 4 of the certificate is also completed. The Official Veterinarian must be satisfied that the horse is adequately identified at the time of inspection and each time that samples are taken for pre-export testing. Paragraph I must also be completed and the passport number entered if applicable.

When a horse is accompanied by a passport, and the description of the horse is clear, the declaration in the bottom right-hand corner of the silhouette on page 4 should be signed. When a passport is not presented, or where the passport description is not clear, the silhouette must be completed accurately.

### **4. Pre-export examination**

Paragraph IV (a) refers. The examination mentioned in para IV (a) must be carried out within 72 hours of export.

### **5. Written declaration**

Paragraph IV (b) refers. The written declaration must be retained by the Official Veterinarian. The Official Veterinarian should carry out any enquiry considered necessary into the validity of the declaration and if he has any reason to doubt its validity, the Divisional Veterinary Manager (DVM) should be consulted.

### **6. Approval of pre-export isolation premises**

Paragraph IV (c) refers. The isolation premises must be approved by a Veterinary Officer of DEFRA prior to the start of pre-export isolation. Exporters should contact their DVM for details. The supervision is the responsibility of the nominated Official Veterinarian.

The following conditions must be met for the premises to be approved:

#### **6.1 Construction and location**

- a) The isolation premises must be a clearly demarcated area surrounded by a stock proof wall or fence and containing suitable facilities for the accommodation and exercise of the animals during the isolation period.
- b) The use of exercise facilities outside the premises may be permitted under the direction of the Official Veterinarian, after consultation with the DVM. The Official Veterinarian must ensure that the isolation status of the consignment is maintained at all times. If the exercise facilities are used by non-export horses, the isolated horses must use the facilities first each day and must be cleared from the area before non-export status horses are allowed access to the facilities.
- c) The premises should have facilities for veterinary examination and collection of samples and facilities for the segregation of sick or suspect horses.
- d) The access to the premises should be controlled and secure.

- e) The location should be as remote as possible from other premises containing equidae. In making a decision as to the suitability of the location of the isolation premises, the VO/Official Veterinarian should take into consideration the epidemiology of the diseases for which certification is being provided, in particular with respect to the distance and presence of physical barriers between the isolation premises and other premises.
- f) All drainage must be away from the isolation premises.
- g) Isolation buildings should be capable of being effectively cleaned and disinfected.
- h) An adequate supply of water must be available at all times for the isolated horses and for cleaning purposes.
- i) Adequate supplies of food and bedding material for the whole of the isolation period must be stored either within the isolation premises or in a nearby secure and separate store.
- j) Equipment and utensils used for feeding, grooming and cleaning must be used only in the isolation premises during the isolation period.
- k) Protective clothing and footwear to be used exclusively in the isolation premises must be available at the entrance to the isolation premises.
- l) There should be adequate facilities for the cleansing and disinfection of vehicles, either on or near to the isolation premises.

## **6.2 Procedures**

- a) Immediately before the commencement of the isolation period, the isolation buildings, all fixed and moveable equipment and utensils used for feeding, grooming and cleaning must be disinfected, unless new, using a disinfectant approved by DEFRA, to the satisfaction of the supervising Official Veterinarian. Exercise areas/paddocks should be cleaned to the satisfaction of the Official Veterinarian.
- b) No person may enter the isolation premises unless specifically authorised by the supervising Official Veterinarian.
- c) No staff supervising the horses may come into contact with any other horses during the period of supervision.
- d) Any authorised visitor to the isolation premises must wear the protective clothing provided throughout the visit.
- e) When no staff are on duty, the premises must be securely locked to prevent the entry of unauthorised persons.
- f) The isolation period for all isolated horses shall be deemed to start from the time of entry of the last horse. Horses must not leave the premises during the isolation period except with the permission of the Official Veterinarian and DVM.
- g) Isolated horses must have no contact with any horses of lower health status during the isolation period.
- h) The supervising Official Veterinarian should visit the premises when the horses enter at the start of the isolation period and at the end of the isolation period. At least one unannounced visit should be

carried out during the isolation period.

- i) A health record should be kept of each isolated horse during the isolation period. This record should be available for inspection by the Official Veterinarian or VO.
- j) The operator should report any illnesses or other problems to the supervising Official Veterinarian. Where there is any cause for concern about the export certification of the consignment, the DVM should be consulted.
- k) If the VO/ Official Veterinarian is not satisfied that the conditions of approval are being met, the DVM should be notified.

#### **7. Laboratory tests**

Paragraphs IV (d) (f) and (g) refer. 5ml of whole unadulterated blood is required for the tests described in these paragraphs. Samples must be sent to the Veterinary Laboratories Agency laboratory, Weybridge, allowing sufficient time for receipt of the results before the proposed date of export.

#### **8. Contagious equine metritis (CEM) testing**

Paragraph IV (h) refers. One set of swabs must be taken as follows:

**For females:** the clitoral fossa and the clitoral sinuses, and also where practical in mares of breeding age, from the endometrium;

**For males - excluding geldings:** the penile sheath, the penis including the fossa glandis, the urethral fossa including the urethral sinus and where practical in mature stallions, a sample of the pre-ejaculatory fluid.

**OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS MUST ANNOTATE THE SAMPLE SUBMISSION FORMS REQUESTING THAT CULTURES ARE READ ON A DAILY BASIS FOR A PERIOD OF 7 DAYS. SAMPLES MUST BE SENT TO:**

The Veterinary Investigation Centre at Penrith (from horses in England and Wales);

**OR**

SEERAD Veterinary Laboratory, Lasswade (from horses in Scotland)

Swabs must be set up for culture within 48 hours of sampling.

NB. There is no requirement to swab geldings.

#### **9. Breeding mares and stallions**

Paragraphs IV (j) and (k) refer. These assurances are required in the case of any mares and stallions that have been used for breeding purposes. In the case of in-foal mares, an owner's/agent's declaration stating the name(s) of the stallions used, must accompany the health certificate.

#### **10. Vaccination against equine influenza and equine rhinopneumonitis**

Paragraphs IV (m) and (n) refer. In the case of booster vaccination, it should be noted that the vaccination given not less than 14 days and not more than 60 days prior to export must be within 6 months of the previous certified vaccination injection. If not, then the primary course must be repeated.

**11. Disease clearance**

Paragraph IV (o) refers. The OV should obtain a written declaration from the owner/agent, stating all the premises at which the animal has been resident during the 3 months prior to export. If the OV does not have personal knowledge of any of the premises, he/she should seek written information from the veterinarian normally responsible for those premises. Written declarations should be retained for record purposes.

**12. Notifiable Disease clearance**

Paragraphs IV (p) and (q) refer. The declarations in paragraphs (p) and (q) (for the former, relating to residencies in the United Kingdom), may be signed on behalf of the Department provided written authority has been received on form 618NDC, which will be sent to the OV by the DVM within 10 days prior to export. With reference to paragraph IV (p), if the horse has visited any other countries within the past 6 months the OV should consult the Animal Health Policy Liaison Team in Carlisle for the required authority. .

**13. No paragraph (i)**

Note that the paragraph notation in the certificate reads IV (h) to IV (j) with paragraph IV (i) omitted. This is intentional as roman numeral 'i' is used to number indented paragraphs. Use of the symbol 'i' for both paragraphs and sub-paragraphs could lead to confusion.

**14. Welfare**

Most horses and ponies exported from United Kingdom need certification to satisfy British export welfare legislation **IN ADDITION TO** the export health certification. Information about the necessary requirements and application forms may be obtained from the Animal Welfare Department at the following offices:

<b><u>ENGLAND</u></b>	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 9 Millbank, c/o 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR. Tel: 020 7238 5865/Fax: 020 7238 6009;
<b><u>SCOTLAND</u></b>	Scottish Government - Rural Directorate, Pentland House, 47 Robb's Loan, Edinburgh, EH14 1TW. Tel: 0131 556 8400 ext 6181/Fax: 0131 244 6616;
<b><u>WALES</u></b>	Welsh Assembly Government - Department for Rural Affairs, Crown Buildings, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF1 3NQ. Tel: 02920 823593/Fax: 02920 823352
<b><u>NORTHERN IRELAND</u></b>	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland, Animal Welfare Section, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3SB. Tel: 028 9052 4580 / Fax 028 9052 5012

**15. Disclaimer**

The DEFRA disclaimer (Form 372DMR) will be issued to the exporter with this certificate for his/her information. The 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 Exports Policy Liaison Team in Carlisle via the appropriate address in the link given below:-

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/int-trde/general/contacts.htm>

