

EXPORT OF HORSES TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA - 7686NFG

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate - which is in three parts: 7686EHC, the continuation certificate 7686CON and the pages for completing the silhouette 7686SIL. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with this certificate. 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.

In summary, two series of tests are required, as follows:

- First series of tests in the 'Holding/s of Origin' - ie holding/s on which the horse/s has/have been continuously resident prior to entering the Pre-Export Quarantine (PEQ) premises. The horse/s must be isolated from any other horses on the holding/s of origin as soon as the first samples are taken.
- Second series of tests in the PEQ.

1. IMPORT PERMIT

Exporters are advised to contact the Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) for advice regarding import permit(s) that may be required for the export of horses from the UK to the PRC.

2. SUPERVISION OF EXPORT CONSIGNMENTS BY VETERINARIANS / QUARANTINE OFFICERS FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS SHOULD NOTE THAT IT IS A REQUIREMENT OF THE QUARANTINE AND HEALTH PROTOCOLS AGREED BETWEEN THE PRC AND DEFRA THAT THE PRC WILL SEND THEIR OWN VETERINARIANS / ANIMAL QUARANTINE OFFICERS TO THE HOLDING/S OF ORIGIN AND PRE-EXPORT QUARANTINE (PEQ) FACILITIES TO CO-OPERATE WITH BRITISH VETERINARIANS WHEN CARRYING OUT INSPECTIONS AND SUPERVISION OF QUARANTINE AND PRE-EXPORT TESTING. ON NO ACCOUNT SHOULD ANY ARRANGEMENTS (FOR EXAMPLE ISOLATION ON HOLDING OF ORIGIN) BE MADE WITHOUT THE FULL KNOWLEDGE AND APPROVAL OF THE SUPERVISING PRC VETERINARIAN / QUARANTINE OFFICER. FAILURE TO DO THIS MAY COMPROMISE THE EXPORT. IF THE EXPORTER INDICATES THAT AQSIQ HAS DECIDED NOT TO SEND THEIR VETERINARIAN / QUARANTINE OFFICER OVER, THEN CONFIRMATION TO THIS EFFECT IS REQUIRED IN WRITING. PROCEDURES MENTIONED BELOW INVOLVING THESE PERSONNEL MAY THEN BE SKIPPED / WAIVED.

THE EXPORTER AND THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN SHOULD NOTE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT MEETINGS WITH THE SUPERVISING CHINESE VETERINARIAN / QUARANTINE OFFICER SHOULD BE PROPERLY ORGANISED AND CARRIED OUT USING SUITABLE MEETING ROOMS.

THE SUPERVISING CHINESE VETERINARIAN / QUARANTINE OFFICER MAY ASK TO MEET WITH DEFRA/APHA/DARD OFFICIALS AND MAY ALSO WISH TO VISIT THE LABORATORIES INVOLVED WITH TESTING. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THESE MEETINGS AND VISITS SHOULD BE MADE AT AN EARLY STAGE WITH THE OFFICES AND LABORATORIES INVOLVED.

3. CHINESE IMPORT CONDITIONS - DISEASE CLEARANCES

EXPORTERS AND OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS ARE ADVISED THAT THE CONDITIONS FOR EXPORT OF HORSES TO PRC ARE VERY COMPLEX. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT EXPORTERS AND OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS NOTIFY THE CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE (CIT) AT CARLISLE OR DARD WHEN THE EXPORT IS PLANNED AND WELL BEFORE THE HORSES ARE PLACED INTO ISOLATION ON THE HOLDING/S OF ORIGIN OR A SEPARATE ISOLATION PREMISES PRIOR TO ENTERING THE PRE-EXPORT QUARANTINE. WHERE POSSIBLE CONTACT SHOULD BE MADE WITH APHA OR DARD AT LEAST THREE MONTHS BEFORE THE INTENDED DATE OF EXPORT. EXPORTERS MUST SUPPLY FULL AND ACCURATE DETAILS OF ALL HOLDINGS INVOLVED AND THE PROPOSED DATES OF ANY

MOVEMENTS AND THE DATE OF EXPORT. EXPORTERS MUST PROVIDE FULL CONTACT DETAILS OF THEIR STAFF INVOLVED WITH THE EXPORT. WHERE POSSIBLE AN E-MAIL CONTACT SHOULD BE PROVIDED. THE EXPORTER AND THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN SHOULD PROVIDE A LIST OF ROUTINE E-MAIL CONTACTS AND ALL RELEVANT COMMUNICATIONS BY THE EXPORTER OR THE OV REGARDING THE EXPORT MUST BE SENT TO / COPIED TO CIT, CARLISLE OR DARD.

CHINA HAS NOT SPECIFIED WHAT CONSTITUTES THE HOLDING OF ORIGIN. SO, PROVIDED THE SUPERVISING CHINESE VETERINARIAN / QUARANTINE OFFICER IS AGREEABLE, THE HOLDING OF ORIGIN CAN BE CONSIDERED TO BE THE HOLDING/S ON WHICH THE HORSES WERE CONTINUOUSLY RESIDENT FOR THE FIRST SERIES OF TESTS TO BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO ENTERING THE PRE-EXPORT QUARANTINE. THE HORSES MUST BE ISOLATED AT THE HOLDING OF ORIGIN (FROM HORSES NOT INTENDED FOR EXPORT) FROM THE TIME THE FIRST SAMPLES (AS REQUIRED IN THE CERTIFICATE) ARE TAKEN. IF HORSES INTENDED FOR EXPORT ARE RESIDENT ON A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT HOLDINGS, THEY MAY BE MOVED ONTO AND MARSHALLED ON (A) SEPARATE HOLDING/S FOR A PERIOD THAT ALLOWS THE RESULTS FROM THE FIRST SERIES OF SAMPLES TAKEN TO BE AVAILABLE PRIOR TO ENTERING THE PRE-EXPORT QUARANTINE. SUCH (A) HOLDING/S CAN THEN BE CONSIDERED THE HOLDING OF ORIGIN IF THE SUPERVISING CHINESE VETERINARIAN / QUARANTINE OFFICER IS AGREEABLE.

EXPORTERS MUST ADVISE CIT, CARLISLE OR DARD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OF ANY CHANGES TO THE PLANNED EXPORT.

4. SCOPE

Export health certificate 7686EHC is in three parts, 7686EHC - Part A, 7686CON - Part B, and 7686SIL - Part C. It may be used to accompany horses intended for export to PRC, whether on a permanent or temporary basis.

Horses have to be resident in the UK for at least 6 months prior to export, the final 30 days in an approved pre-export quarantine (PEQ) facility.

To facilitate such certification, additional documentation is available as follows:

- 7686ANA: Declaration of country/holding in/on which horse has been resident prior to entering the pre-export quarantine (PEQ) facility prior to export.
- 7686ANB: Support certification in respect of holding of origin of the horse and the first series of tests.
- 7686ANC: Defra-PRC protocol.
- 7686AND: Pre-export Quarantine (PEQ) standards
- 7686ANE: Transport declaration

5. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)- PARAGRAPH IV REFERS.

****IMPORTANT****. The OV must note that the supervising Chinese veterinarian / quarantine officer will check to ensure compliance with both the import protocol (see 7686ANC and is also available on request from CIT, Carlisle or DARD), AND the export health certificate.

In providing this certification and other functions required such as approval of pre-export quarantine facility, the OV has the authority to carry out these functions and is acting on behalf of the UK Competent Authority.

This certificate may be signed by an OV 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 on the appropriate panel for export purposes, or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorization . OVs/AVIs should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV/AVI stamp in any colour OTHER THAN BLACK.

As with all/most certification for PRC, all entries on the certificate must be in type except for the signature, stamp and the silhouette description.

If necessary (eg if an interactive PDF certificate is not available), exporters / OVs should contact CIT Carlisle or DARD for information on the software that is needed to

enable typing of details of the export health certificate.

As specified in the import protocol, handwritten or altered versions are invalid. This means that unauthorised deletions or amendments are not permitted and the only permitted handwritten entry is the signature of the Official Veterinarian. The final date of certification can be entered using an inked rubber stamp in any ink colour OTHER THAN BLACK.

Any authorised deletions that cannot be entered electronically must be made using a ruler and a fine black pen. Diagonal deletions must NOT be used. Each line to be deleted must be ruled out providing an effect similar to that of typewritten deletions.

Where wording has been added in English but there is insufficient space to enter the same words in the space in the Chinese worded text, enter "as above" in the space in the Chinese worded text. For deleteable options, the equivalent in Chinese must also be deleted (if it has not been pre-deleted), but if unsure where this text is or where it begins/ends, please contact CIT. If there is space to enter information within or as part of the Chinese text, then this must be entered (in English), even though it would already have been entered in or as part of the English text.

The Official Veterinarian and the Exporter should note that they have the final responsibility to ensure that the details on the completed certificates are correct. Due to the complexity of the certificates, it is recommended that such checks should be carried out sufficiently well in advance of the date of export to enable any changes that may be required.

The Official Veterinarian and the exporter should note that the Chinese authorities will expect that the details of the owner/ company / holding name and address are correct and consistent on ALL documents including for example bills of sale and bank transfers.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the CIT Carlisle or DARD - within seven days of signature.

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

6. IDENTIFICATION OF HORSES

Section I must be fully completed. In addition, the horse must be identified by completing the silhouette and description at page 9 of the certificate. The passport number should be entered where indicated on pages 1 and 9. The OV must ensure that during any examination of the horse or any collection of samples from the horse or during the administration of any drug to the horse which is required by this certificate, that the horse has been identified on each occasion by reference to its passport. The OV is advised to identify the horse on all laboratory submission forms by its name and passport number/microchip.

7. 6 MONTHS' RESIDENCY IN THE UK AND ISOLATION ON HOLDING OF ORIGIN WHERE THE FIRST SAMPLES ARE TAKEN

Paragraphs IV (a), (f) and (g) refer. The owner/agent must provide a written declaration stating that the horse has been / will have been resident in the UK throughout the 6 month period prior to export, unless it is younger than 6 months, in which case a declaration that it has been born and continuously resident in the UK is required.

The owner/agent must also provide a written declaration stating the holding on which the horse has been or will be resident prior to entering PEQ. This holding could be deemed the holding of origin if the supervising Chinese veterinarian / quarantine officer is agreeable (see paragraph 3 above). Annex A (7686ANA) has been created to provide this assurance. The horse must be isolated from any other horses resident on the holding of origin as soon as the first samples are taken as part of the first series of tests. The supervising Chinese Veterinarian may require a letter from Defra or DARD to confirm that the within-holding or any separate isolation has been officially approved. In this case, Defra or DARD will provide the letter based on written information which the veterinarian responsible for overseeing isolation must supply. The letter from the veterinarian must confirm that arrangements have been made to ensure the horses in question will not have any direct (ie skin to skin or nose to nose) contact with horses not intended for export to the PRC and that if grooms are shared, then a change in outer protective clothing and thorough cleansing and disinfection of tools and equipment in between will be ensured. Whether a separate airspace is required will depend on an assessment by the supervising veterinarian of the risk from diseases (for which assurances are required by PRC) which can be spread by aerosol eg equine rhino-

pneumonitis and equine influenza; if either the horses intended for export or the other horses sharing the airspace are vaccinated, then there is no need for a separate airspace to be provided.

8. PRE-EXPORT QUARANTINE (PEQ) AND THE 30 DAYS' PEQ PERIOD

Paragraphs II (c) and IV (b) refer. AQSIQ have not prescribed any specific criteria for the approval of the PEQ, but have indicated a preference for procedures in place for Australia and these are detailed at Annex D (7686AND refers). The facility at II (c) must have been inspected and approved by an OV before the commencement of the quarantine period. Whenever the OV visits the facility during pre-export quarantine s/he should refer to Annex D and ensure the details in the Annex D and the corresponding SOP are being complied with.

9. DISEASE CLEARANCE

UK clearance

Paragraphs IV (c) and (d) refer. The certification relating to the notifiable disease clearance in IV (c) and non-notifiable disease clearance in IV (d) may be signed on behalf of the Department by a Official Veterinarian provided written authority has been received on form 618NDC (revised 01/11/1990)

Holding of origin clearance

Paragraphs IV (f) and (g) refer. The OV must obtain a written support certification from the veterinarian responsible for each of the holding/s the horse has been resident on in the 30 day period prior to the horses entering the PEQ. The certificate must state that there has been no clinical evidence of the diseases referred to here during the previous 12 months - Annex B (7686ANB) refers.

10. CLINICAL EXAMINATION DURING ISOLATION AND AT THE TIME OF EXPORT

Paragraphs IV (g) and (p) refer. The horses must be examined during isolation (at the beginning and on each occasion when samples are taken etc) and also within 24 hours prior to loading for movement to the PEQ facility to ensure that they are clinically healthy and fit to travel - Annex B (7686ANB) refers.

11. SAMPLING, TESTS AND VACCINATION

Reference to tests having been carried out during specific period should be interpreted as samples being taken for the tests.

Two series (repeats) of tests are required - the first during their isolation on their holding of origin prior to entering PEQ and the second during the 30 days PEQ - paragraphs IV (h) and (k) refer.

All samples for the various tests to be carried out during isolation and PEQ must be taken by an OV (or a veterinarian authorised by the OV in the case of the first series of samples taken during isolation) and submitted to an APHA/DARD laboratory, but see the following additional notes:

Equine rhinopneumonitis: For serology, the CFT must be requested as the SNT is not available atAPHA. Also, a PCR is not yet available atAPHA, but it is at the Animal Health Trust (AHT) in Newmarket, with whom APHAhas a sub-contract. So, samples for the PCR should also be sent toAPHA, Weybridge who will then arrange for them to be tested at the AHT.

The effective period of vaccine is the duration of immunity following vaccination, which for the currently available vaccine is 6 months (the data sheet should however be consulted).

Equine viral arteritis: A negative VI result on a semen sample collected during isolation (as part of the first series of tests) does not have to be repeated during PEQ as long as it was taken within 60 days prior to export. This obviates the need for a teaser (which will also have to meet the same requirements as the horses intended for export) to be required in the PEQ for semen collection.

CEM: In the case of males, separate samples/swabs are required from the urethra, the urethral fossa (fossa glandis) and the penile sheath, and in the case of females separate samples/swabs are required from the clitoral fossa and the clitoral sinuses.

The swabs must be kept cool and transported in Amies charcoal medium to APHA Penrith (or AFBI in the case of samples taken in Northern Ireland) where they would be submitted to a bacteriological culture test for *Taylorella equigenitalis*. The samples must be set up for culture within 48 hours of collection and the cultures incubated for at least 7 days.

The OV must ensure that the laboratories involved are aware that the testing is being carried out to support the export of horses to China and that the laboratory reports must:

- a) State „negative“ for each negative test result.
- b) Provide the dates i) sampled, ii) received, iii) tested and iv) the date of the final report.
- c) The final report must state „final“ and no supplementary reports must be issued after then.

Support certification at Annex B (7686ANB) can be used to provide the assurances in respect of the first series of tests (and equine influenza vaccination) to the certifying OV at the PEQ.

12. SOURCES OF FEED AND BEDDING

Paragraph IV (o) refers. The OV must obtain a declaration from the owner / exporter stating the origin of the feed and bedding to be used during the quarantine period and journey respectively originate from farms or feed mills within the UK. The declaration should be sent to CIT, Carlisle or DARD and written confirmation obtained that the sources are within an area which is not currently subject to restrictions for epizootic diseases of horses. This must be done before horses enter the PEQ.

An epizootic free area is defined as an area which is not under official restrictions as a result of the outbreak of notifiable equine diseases namely African horse sickness, equine encephalomyelitis (Eastern and Western), Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis, Glanders, Vesicular stomatitis, Dourine and West Nile fever for at least 30 days prior to loading of the animals for export.

13. TRANSPORT OF THE ANIMALS

Paragraph IV(q) refers: The OV must obtain a written declaration from the person in charge of transporting the horses to the PRC (or an agent) stating that the arrangements described in paragraph IV(q) have been made. The declaration at Annex E (7686ANE) is available for his purpose.

Paragraphs IV(q) (1) and (3) requires that the crates, stalls, containers and road vehicles used to carry the animals to the port / airport of loading and onwards by air to China, are clean and have been disinfected with a DEFRA or DARD approved disinfectant and under the supervision of a Defra OV.. The stalls /penning from the aircraft onto which the horses are loaded must be clean and must be disinfected. The exporter must contact the handler involved to ensure that this can and will be done. The full details of the active ingredient in the disinfectant must be provided. All this assumes that the flight operates from an airport in the UK. If the flight leaves from a country outside the UK - and provided AQSIQ is agreeable to the use of such an airport outside the UK - the certifying Defra OV should get the required declaration from an OV of the competent authority responsible for the airport of departure, and the transporter must ensure that the C&D certificate is attached to the Defra certificate when the horses depart from that airport - as evidence that the requirements have been met. Point (3) of the certificate can be signed on this basis. By following this procedure, it can be claimed that the C&D of the air stalls etc is being directed by a Defra OV and therefore indirectly supervised (by delegating to an OV in another country) by him/her.

Details of suitable disinfectants are provided in the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals Regulations 1998 chapter 10.7.3 to which the Official Veterinarian should refer. Such disinfectants include 4% sodium carbonate mixed with 0.1% sodium silicate, or a solution of 0.2% citric acid. It is not necessary to flood the surfaces to effectively deodorise and disinfect areas.

Defra has a statutory mechanism in place under The Diseases of Animals (Approved Disinfectants) (England) Order 2007 (www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2007/448) to allow veterinary disinfectants to be placed on an approved list for the control of different diseases if they demonstrate efficacy in laboratory testing and comply with the requirements of the Biocidal Products Directive. Under this procedure, Defra approves veterinary disinfectants for cleansing and disinfecting inanimate surfaces such as crates/stalls/containers, vehicles and alike. APHA delivers the scheme on behalf of Defra. Veterinary disinfectants approved under the General Orders of the Animal Health Act can be used for disinfecting crates. Virkon is a commonly used disinfectant for this purpose - at a dilution rate of 1:100.

All removable equipment, penning and containers including loading ramps must be

thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. It is advisable that no equipment with which the animals will come into direct contact be replaced in the aircraft until it has been washed with clean water after disinfection to remove any trace of disinfectant which might cause damage to the aircraft structures.

Paragraph IV(q) (2) requires a declaration that animals will be transported from the PEQ to the Chinese port/airport of arrival without coming into contact with animals other than those similarly certified, and avoiding areas under restrictions for notifiable diseases affecting equines. In the case of the latter and for movement to an airport within the UK, a 618NDC covering paragraph IV (c) will provide the necessary assurances. **Transport by road or rail to an airport in another country would require prior approval from PRC.** Transit is permitted by air subject to the stopover not exceeding 24 hours. If the proposed flight involves stops for re-fuelling, the exporter must inform the supervising Chinese Veterinarian / quarantine officer and they should check with the PRC Veterinarian / officer that this is acceptable. Any variation from this procedure must be authorised by the PRC veterinary authorities.

14. POST-ARRIVAL QUARANTINE

All imported horses would undergo post-arrival quarantine in PRC for at least 30 days. For further details the importer should consult the import permit and conditions issued by the Chinese authorities.

15. WELFARE

Most horses and ponies exported from Great Britain 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:

ENGLAND 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

SCOTLAND Scottish Government,
Pentland House, 47 Robb's Loan, Edinburgh
EH14 1TW. Tel: 0131 556 8400 ext 6181/Fax: 0131 244 6616;

WALES Welsh Government,
Crown Buildings, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF1 3NQ.
Tel: 02920 823593/Fax: 02920 823352

16. DISCLAIMER

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 CIT, Carlisle.