

EXPORT OF HORSES TO I. R. IRAN

NOTES FOR 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 325EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 325EHC. 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**

Export health certificate 325EHC may be used for the export of horses from Great Britain to I. R. Iran on a permanent basis. Exporters wishing to export other categories of equidae should contact Central Operations for Exports, Hadrian House, Wavell Drive, Rosehill Industrial Estate, Carlisle, CA1 2TB - Tel. 01228 403600.

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, Scottish Government - Rural Directorate, or Welsh Assembly Government - Department for Rural Affairs, 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**.

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 should keep a copy for his/her own records.

3. **Identification**

Section I (a) and (b) and in the case of registered equidae, sections I (c) and (d), should be fully completed. The silhouette on page 4 of the certificate must also be fully completed or in the case of registered equidae, the passport number inserted. The LVI must verify the identity of all registered equidae by reference to the passport, even if the silhouette on page 4 of the certificate is also completed. The LVI must be satisfied that each animal is adequately identified at the time of inspection and each time that samples are taken for pre-export testing.

4. **Disease clearance**

Paragraph IV (b) (ii) may be signed on behalf of Defra by an OV provided written authority (Form 618NDC) has been received from the local Animal Health Divisional Office.

5. **African horse sickness vaccination**

Paragraph IV(d) (ii) refers. A written declaration must be obtained from the owner or exporter stating whether or not the horse has been vaccinated against African horse sickness. The OV should check the validity of the declaration by reference to available records of treatment and vaccination and by considering the vaccination policies of the countries in which the horse has resided. In the case of a registered horse the OV should examine the horse's passport. If the horse has been imported into Great Britain, the owner must give details of all countries in which the horse has resided. Horses which have been in Africa, the Middle East, Spain and Portugal may have been vaccinated against African Horse Sickness. At the time of vaccination, the horse may have been brand marked.

In the case of horses which are known to have been vaccinated, the date of the last vaccination against African Horse Sickness should be entered at paragraph IV (d) (ii) (b).

6. **Prohibitions for animal health reasons**

Paragraph IV (e) refers. If the OV has no direct knowledge of the disease status of the premises of origin or those of in-contact animals during the specified periods, then the DVM should be consulted.

7. **Veterinary supervision**

Paragraph IV (f) refers. "Veterinary supervision" means that the OV or another veterinary surgeon must visit the premises at the start or within 7 days prior to the start of the 15 day period, and at least every 7 days thereafter until the time of export and during these visits the OV must be satisfied either personally or by receiving supporting statements from other veterinary surgeons who visited the premises, that there were no signs of infectious or contagious disease which might affect equines, on the premises. The model supplementary health certificate at Appendix I to these NFG may be used by the certifying veterinarian to obtain the necessary support statement(s). The appendix should be retained by the certifying veterinarian for his/her own records, together with the other statements referred to in paragraph 8 below.

8. **Written declarations**

Paragraphs IV (d) (ii), (f), (g) and (l) refer. These written declarations must be retained by the OV. The OV should carry out any enquiry considered necessary into the validity of the declarations. If the OV has any reason to doubt the validity of any declaration the Divisional Veterinary Manager (DVM), or equivalent, at their local Animal Health Divisional Office should be consulted.

9. **Laboratory tests**

Sampling for the tests at paragraph IV (h) (ii), (j) and (k) (i) and (ii) as applicable must be undertaken within 30 days of export and if the horse was imported into the EU, at least 14 days after entry. The samples should be sent to the Veterinary Laboratories Agency laboratory, Weybridge, for testing.

Where semen samples are submitted, the OV should contact the laboratory in advance to make arrangements for testing and to seek advice on the submission of samples. The semen sample submission must be clearly marked for "testing according to OIE with 3 x passaging".

NOTE: Copies of the laboratory results should be attached to the certificate.

10. **Horses not moved directly from the premises of origin to the airport of departure**

Paragraph IV (l) (ii) (b) refers. Where horses are not moved directly from the premises of origin to the airport of departure, supplementary certification must be provided with respect to the isolation of the horse at each intermediate premises (resting place or staging point).

In the case of resting places in GB, certification may be provided by an OV using supplementary certificate 325SUP provided that suitable arrangements are made so that horses certified for export to the I.R.Iran do not come into contact with animals of lower health status. The OV should obtain a written declaration from the owner or manager of the premises confirming that there has been no evidence of infectious or contagious disease of equidae at the premises during the 15 days immediately prior to the entry of the export horses and should make due enquiry as to the validity of this declaration.

In the case of resting places outside GB, arrangements should be made with the veterinary authorities of that country for an official veterinarian to provide certification in accordance with the model at Annex I. N.B. Where English is not understood by the certifying veterinarian, the certificate must be in English and the language of the country where the certificate is issued.

The exporter/transporter is responsible for making arrangements for the appropriate certification to be obtained with respect to each intermediate premises.

11. **Welfare**

Exporters must comply with the British welfare laws relating to the export of horses (including ponies). 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 - Rural Directorate, Pentland House, 47 Robb's Loan, Edinburgh, EH14 1TW. Tel: 0131 556 8400 ext 6181/Fax: 0131 244 6616;

WALES

Welsh Assembly Government - Department for Rural Affairs, Crown Buildings, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF1 3NQ. Tel: 02920 823593/Fax: 02920 823352

12. 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>

Appendix I

MODEL SUPPLEMENTARY HEALTH CERTIFICATE

I, the undersigned Certify that:

i) The horses identified in the accompanying Health Certificate 325EHC and serially numbered..... were held in isolation at: (address) from (time and date) until (time and date)

II. to the best of my knowledge and based on a written declaration of the owner*/manager* of the premises, there has been no evidence of infectious or contagious diseases of equines during the 15 days immediately prior to the entry of the said animal.

* Delete as applicable

Signature:.....

Date:.....

Official Stamp

Name and Qualifications

(in block capitals):

