

No:

EXPORT OF HORSES TO ISRAEL

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 925EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 925EHC. 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 of the certificate**

Export health certificate 925EHC may be used for the export of horses to Israel from the United Kingdom.

If the horse has not been continuously resident in the UK since birth, a test for African Horse Sickness is required [paragraph IV(1) refer]). Also, if the horse has not been resident in the UK for a continuous period of 30 days prior to export, supporting certification during in periods from the countries that it has been resident is required to enable the attestations at paragraphs IV to be signed as specified in the 925 EHC.

If the horse is over 6 months of age, it needs to be vaccinated against equine influenza between 21 and 90 days before shipment either with a primary course or a booster (the horse should be vaccinated within the periods of 90 days before shipment with booster vaccine).

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 an Official Veterinarian (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, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland (DAERA), 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**.

The certificate is **valid for 48 hours**.

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 office (in GB - Animal Health, Specialist Service Centre - Exports, Carlisle) within seven days of signing.

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

3. **Identification**

The silhouette on page 5 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 5 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.

4. **Examination**

The examination mentioned at paragraph IV. (a) must be carried out within 24 hours of export.

5. **Laboratory tests**

Blood samples for the laboratory tests mentioned in Paragraphs IV. (j), (l), (m), and (p) should be taken within 30 days of export, but in respect of Paragraph IV. (k) within 15 days of export. In respect of Paragraph IV. (o) blood samples should be taken within 21 days of export. 5ml of whole unadulterated blood is required for each test. The samples should be sent to the Veterinary Laboratories Agency laboratory, Weybridge, or in the case of African Horse Sickness, to the Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright, allowing sufficient time for the tests to be completed and for results to be received before the proposed export date.

6. **Disease Clearance**

Paragraph IV (d) refer. OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS (OVs) may certify this paragraph, in respect of residencies in the UK only, on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained from

APHA, CIT, Carlisle on form 618NDC.

Paragraph IV. (d), and(e) and (f), refer. The Official Veterinarian should obtain a written declaration from the owner/exporter stating each of the premises or region (s) where the horse has been kept during the past 30 days and obtain certification from veterinary surgeon (s) responsible for these premises in each region the horse has been kept ensuring that the requirements of each paragraph IV. (d) (e) and (f) can be met.

Where it is possible Official Veterinarian (OV) in Great Britain to obtain disease clearance themselves, the Centre for international Trade - Carlisle (CITC) will not issue a 618NDC notifiable disease clearance. OVs must check the following sources of disease information for the United Kingdom immediately prior to certification, to ensure disease freedom statements can be certified:

- the Notifiable Disease Occurrence List for Great Britain (ET171) available on the [Exports > Certification Procedures](#) page of the APHA Vet Gateway
- the UK Status for Non-Notifiable Diseases Relevant to Export Certification (ET152) available on the [Exports > Certification Procedures](#) page of the APHA Vet Gateway.

In the case of horse (s) that has/have been resident in any other country or has/have transited another country, the OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS may obtain the necessary supporting information to certify country freedom from a copy of the original EHC used for import of horses into UK.

Disease clearance for animals originating in **Northern Ireland (NI)** can be completed using auto-clearance NDC (Notifiable Disease Clearance) found here:
<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/notifiable-diseases-northern-ireland>

Where regional or local level disease clearance is required, this can be certified upon request on the basis of information from NI in the form of a declaration or a supporting health attestation.

7. **CEM Testing**

Paragraph IV. (q) and (r) refer. The tests for contagious equine metritis mentioned at paragraph IV. (q) and (r) must be carried out in such a way that the final swabs are collected within 30 days of export. The two sets of swabs must be taken at an interval of not less than 7 days and submitted to the Veterinary Laboratories Agency laboratory at Bury St Edmunds (Tel. 01284 724499).

Swabs must be set up for culture within 48 hours of sampling. A separate swab must be used for each of the sites mentioned.

NB: The samples from mares/fillies are required from the clitoral fossa and from the clitoral sinuses (i.e. both sinuses). The word clitoral sinuses (and not sinus) must be written on the VLA submission form. Furthermore, on one of the two occasions, an additional sample from the endometrium or deep cervix must be taken when the mare/filly is in oestrous.

8. **Welfare**

If transported by air, animals should be transported in accordance with International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards.

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.

Horses exported to Israel from the United Kingdom may 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:

<u>ENGLAND</u>	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;
<u>SCOTLAND</u>	Scottish Government - Rural Directorate, Pentland House, 47 Robb's Loan, Edinburgh, EH14 1TW. Tel: 0131 556 8400 ext 6181/Fax: 0131 244 6616;
<u>WALES</u>	Welsh Assembly Government - Department for Rural Affairs, Crown Buildings, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF1 3NQ. Tel: 02920 823593/Fax: 02920 823352
<u>NORTHERN IRELAND</u>	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

9. **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 Specialist Service Centre - Exports, in Carlisle, via the link below:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalhealth/about-us/contact-us/centrops.htm>