

**EXPORT OF LABORATORY RODENTS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

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

**IMPORTANT**

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7760EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7760EHC. 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 7760EHC may be used to accompany laboratory rodents from the United Kingdom to the USA.

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

This certificate may be signed by an OV appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Scottish Government, Welsh Government or the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Northern Ireland, who is on the appropriate panel for export purposes or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation.

OVs must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any ink colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

**Certified Copy Requirements – England, Wales and Scotland**

Guidance concerning return of certified copies of EHCs has changed and only specific certified copies are required to be returned to the APHA. Certifying OVs must return a certified copy of EHCs only for the following EHC types:

- if the exported commodity is cattle, pigs, sheep, goats or camelids;
- if the certificate was applied for manually and the application documents have been emailed to APHA and not applied for via the Exports Health Certificates Online (EHCO) system.

Certified copies should be emailed on the day of signature to the Centre for International Trade Carlisle (CITC) at the following address: [certifiedcopies@apha.gov.uk](mailto:certifiedcopies@apha.gov.uk).

For certificates that have been issued to the Certifying OV via the EHCO system, the Certifying OV must complete the certifier portal with the status of the certificate and the date of signature.

A copy of all EHCs and supporting documentation certified must be retained for two years.

Certifying OVs are not required to return certified copies of other EHCs issued, however CITC may request certified copies of EHCs and supporting documentation in order to complete Quality Assurance checks or if an issue arises with the consignment after certification.

**DAERA Export Health Certificates: Provision of certified copies**

aPVPs certifying DECOL produced Export Health Certificates must return a legible, scanned copy of the final EHC to the relevant DAERA Processing Office within 1 working day of signing.

Good quality photographic copies will be accepted by the department, where obtaining a scanned copy is not feasible - for example, where 'on site' certification is undertaken and scanning facilities are not available.

For record purposes, a copy of the final Export Health Certificate and associated Support documents should be retained by the aPVP for a period of 2 years from the date of certification.

The Department will carry out periodic audits of all aspects of export certification to ensure that a high standard of certification is being

maintained.

3. **Identification, seal number(s), means of transport and flight number**

Paragraph I and paragraphs III(c) and III(d) refer: If a known number of specific rodents is present (for example 10 male and 10 female), the OV should provide information for the separate groups on separate lines at paragraph 1.

If the genotype is not known or specified the OV should enter 'Unspecified' or 'UNSP'.

An age range can be provided - for example '3-10w'.

If the animals to be exported cannot be individually identified by means of a tattoo, microchip, or full description, the seal number(s) of the tamperproof seal(s) used to seal the transport container(s) should be entered as 'Seal No(s). XXXXXX' at paragraph I under the heading 'identification'.

The Official veterinarian should note that the transport container must be sealed with a numbered tamperproof seal whether the animals are identified or not. 7760EHC does not include a specific place to enter the seal number(s). The seal number must be recorded at paragraph III(c) using wording such as: Polystyrene container 'Seal No. XXXXXX by air'. Give the flight number and airport of departure at paragraph III(d) as for example 'ET123 from Stansted'

The transporter should be instructed that the tamperproof seal(s) should not be broken before arrival at the premises of destination unless the welfare of the animals is at risk or under the instructions of the authorities of the country where the animals are at that time.

4. **Origin of the animals**

Paragraph IV(a) refers. The OV must obtain any relevant declaration(s), as he/she considers necessary to ascertain the origin of the animals and to confirm that the animals for export are of UK origin.

The declaration(s) should include a clause indicating that the signatory is aware that making a false declaration is an offence. If the OV has any reason to doubt the validity of the declaration(s), the Animal and Plant Health Agency, Centre for International Trade, Carlisle or DAERA should be consulted.

Written declarations should not be attached to the certificate, but should be retained by the OV for their own record.

Certification of this paragraph may also be based on certification by another veterinarian.

5. **Lack of exposure / contact with infectious disease agents and animal products**

Paragraph IV(b) refers. The OV must obtain any relevant declarations, as he/she considers necessary to confirm that the animals for export have not been exposed to / inoculated with infectious disease agents and that the animals for export have not been exposed to other material of animal origin.

The OV should rely on any appropriate evidence available to him/her and this may include the results of for example clinical inspection, information derived from isolation unit production and mortality records, laboratory test results, reports of post mortem examinations and breeding and management records.

Further guidance on producing and using such declarations is given in paragraph 4 of this document.

Certification of this paragraph may also be based on certification by another veterinarian.

6. **Freedom from ectoparasites**

Paragraph IV(c) refers. This paragraph can be certified on the basis of the Official Veterinarian's personal knowledge of the colony of animals and, as necessary, clinical inspection and examination, information derived from

isolation unit production and mortality records, laboratory test results and reports of post mortem examinations. This may also be based on certification by another veterinarian.

7. **Welfare and IATA Transport Conditions and use of disinfectants**

Exporters and transporters must comply with all the legislation for the welfare of live animals during transport. The welfare conditions required during transport, are set out in Council Regulation EC No 1/2005 (as retained), implemented in England by The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006, with parallel legislation in Scotland and Wales.

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

Information about welfare during transport in Great Britain and the necessary requirements can be obtained from the Animal and Plant Health Agency: Welfare in Transport Team  
Centre for International Trade  
Eden Bridge House  
Lowther Street, Carlisle  
CA3 8DX  
Phone: +44 (0) 3000 200 301  
E-mail: [WIT@apha.gov.uk](mailto:WIT@apha.gov.uk)

Or, in the case of Northern Ireland, DAERA at Dundonald House, Belfast.

With reference to Defra approved disinfectants, these are approved under the Diseases of Animals (Approved Disinfectants) Order 1978 (as amended). The list contains over 200 brands of disinfectant approved on the basis of their efficacy against certain notifiable disease viruses. The 'general list' instructions should be followed. DEFRA approved disinfectants carry a statement on the container, and other references to their approval may be found in their data sheets or label instructions.

8. **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 APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle or DAERA, via the link or e-mail address below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-apha>

DAERA - Email: [vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk)