

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

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

1. **Scope**

Export health certificate 339EHC should be used to accompany horses exported from Great Britain to Morocco.

2. **Identification**

Details of the horse's identification should be entered at paragraph I. The silhouette on page 3 of the certificate must also be fully completed or in the case of a registered horse accompanied by its passport, the passport number inserted on page 3. The OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN must verify the identity of all registered horses by reference to the passport, even if the silhouette on page 3 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.

3. **Health examination**

Paragraph IV (a) refers. The OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN must examine the animal at the premises of origin at II (b) within 48 hours of the animal being loaded to start its journey.

4. **Owners Declarations**

Paragraphs IV (b) and (i) refer. The OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN should obtain a written declaration from the owner or agent of the owner, concerning the transport vehicle and means of cleansing and disinfection. The OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN should also discuss with the owner/exporter the transport arrangements and in particular the arrangements for resting, watering and feeding during the journey. The written declarations must be retained by the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN for record purposes. The OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN should make due enquiry as to the validity of the declarations and if there is any doubt, the Divisional Veterinary Manager (DVM) should be consulted.

5. **Pre-export isolation premises**

Paragraph IV (c) refers: the pre-export isolation at paragraph IV (c) must be carried out in premises approved and supervised by the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN on behalf of the Department. Isolation premises may be approved by the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN if the following conditions are met:

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.

2. Procedures

339NFG (Regs 15/01/1999) (Revised 01/03/2001)

- 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.

Isolated horses must have no contact with any horses of lower health status during the isolation period.

- g) 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.
- h) 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.
- i) 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.
- j) If the VO/OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN is not satisfied that the conditions of approval are being met, the DVM should be notified.

6. Supervision of the isolation premises

The OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN should visit the isolation period and inspect the horses for export, at the beginning and end of the isolation period and on at least one occasion during the isolation period.

7. Notifiable Disease Clearance

Paragraphs IV (d) and (e) refer.
Paragraphs IV(d) and (e) may be signed on behalf of the Department by the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN provided written authority (Form EC 618) has been received from the DVM.

8. Blood testing

Paragraphs IV (g) (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) refers. Blood samples for the tests mentioned at paragraph IV (g) must be taken from horses for export within 30 days of export. 5ml of whole unadulterated blood is required. 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.

N.B. Copies of the laboratory test reports should be stamped with the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN stamp in ink other than black and attached to the export health certificate.

9. Completion of the health certificate and return of copy to the DVM

After completing all the examinations, checks and tests, the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN should ensure that paragraphs I to IV are completed and should sign, stamp and date the certificate at section V in ink of any colour other than black.

The OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN must make two photocopies of the export health certificate (EHC). The original EHC must be given to the exporter. One copy must be retained by the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN and one copy must be returned to the Divisional Veterinary Manager (DVM) as soon as possible after completion of certification and no later than 7 days after the date of export.

10. Transit countries

The Moroccan Authorities stipulate that the horse must originate from a country free of African horse sickness and must only transit through countries which are free of African horse sickness. In case of doubt, exporters are advised to contact the Moroccan authorities and seek their agreement to the proposed transport route.

11. Welfare

Exporters should be reminded that they must comply with the British welfare laws relating to the export of horses (including ponies). Information about the necessary requirements may be obtained from the Animal Welfare Department at the following offices:

ENGLAND Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs,
1A Page Street, London, SW1P 4PQ.
Tel: 0207 904 6581/Fax: 0207 904 6961;

SCOTLAND The Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs
Department, Pentland House, 47 Robb's Loan, Edinburgh EH14 1TW.
Tel: 0131 556 8400 ext 6181/Fax:
0131 244 6616;

WALES National Assembly for Wales Agriculture Department,
Crown Buildings, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NQ.
Tel: 02920 823593/Fax: 02920 823352

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
1A Page Street
London
SW1P 4PQ

