

No:

EXPORT OF HORSES TO PERU

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 149EHC and its continuation documentation 149CON. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 149EHC and 149CON. 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

The export health certificate is in two parts - 149EHC and its continuation document 149CON - and may be used for the export of equines for permanent residence or breeding from the United Kingdom to Peru.

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 (LVI) appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Scottish Government, Welsh Government, or an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland (DARDNI), 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**.

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 AHVLA Specialist Service Centre - Exports in Carlisle, within seven days of issue.

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

3. Identification

Paragraph I. must be fully completed. The horse must be identified either by

completing the silhouette at page 4 of health certificate 149CON or in the case of a registered horse by reference to the passport/identification document silhouette, the number of which must be inserted at page 4. If the horse is registered, the passport/identification document must be checked to confirm its identity. The identity must be checked by reference to the silhouette whenever the horse is examined or when samples are taken for laboratory tests.

4. **Residency**

Paragraph IV. 2) refers. Horses must have been continuously resident in the UK for at least 6 months prior to loading. OV's should receive a written declaration from the owner/representative of the owner stating each premises where the horse has been kept during this period. OV's should check the validity of the declaration by inspecting the passport or other available records.

5. **Disease clearance**

The authorisation (618NDC) referred to below, which enables various paragraphs to be signed, is in relation to the official disease status specified in the relevant paragraphs, and only within the UK; all other matters such as residency, vaccination status, status of premises in respect of other diseases not covered by the 618NDC, and disease status of countries/areas/premises outside the UK, are for the OV to check and verify, obtaining support certification where necessary.

Notifiable and non-notifiable disease - country/area clearance

Paragraphs IV. 1) and 4) may be signed on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained from the AHVLA Specialist Service Centre at Carlisle on form 618NDC.

Paragraph IV. 11) - which requires the horse to be resident during the last 6 months in a third country which has been free of VEE - can be certified without any further checks or support certification as the horse is required to be in the UK for at least 6 months prior to export.

Notifiable and non-notifiable disease - premises clearance

Paragraphs IV. 8) the first section; 9.1) and 15) refer. Where the OV has no direct knowledge of the status of any premises where the horse has been resident during the prescribed periods, the OV should seek a declaration from the owner/representative of the owner including details of all premises on which the animal resided during the specified periods. The OV may then seek a written declaration from the owner/manager of the premises, and from the veterinary surgeon responsible for those premises, that the diseases did not occur on these premises during the specified period. A 618NDC is not normally issued for such clearances.

6. **Pre-export isolation**

Paragraph IV 3) refers. The Official Veterinarian may approve the isolation premises on behalf of the Department, provided that the following criteria can be met:

Construction and location

- a) The isolation premises must be a separate, enclosed building, of sound, permanent construction, capable of being effectively cleaned and disinfected.
- b) An adequate supply of water must be available at all times for the isolated animals and for cleaning purposes.
- c) Adequate supplies of food and bedding material for the whole of the isolation period must be made available and stored within the isolation premises before isolation commences.
- d) All drainage must be away from the isolation premises.
- e) Equipment and utensils used for feeding, grooming and cleaning must be used only in the isolation premises during the isolation period.
- f) Protective clothing and footwear to be used exclusively in the isolation premises must be available at the entrance to the isolation premises.

Procedures

- g) Before use, the isolation premises, all fixed and moveable equipment and utensils used for feeding, grooming and cleaning must be disinfected using a disinfectant approved by DEFRA.
- h) No person may enter the isolation premises unless specifically authorised by the supervising veterinarian.
- i) No staff supervising the animals may come into contact with any other equidae during the period of supervision.
- j) Any authorised visitor to the isolation premises must wear the protective clothing provided throughout the visit.
- k) When no staff are on duty, the premises must be securely locked to prevent the entry of unauthorised persons.
- l) The isolation period for all isolated animals shall be deemed to start from the time of entry of the last equidae.
- m) Isolated animals must have no contact with equidae of lower health status during the isolation period.

7. Owners declarations

Owner's declaration may be obtained to enable paragraphs IV 2), 6), 11) and 19) to be signed. 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.

8. Laboratory tests

Paragraph IV 8), 9), 10), 12) and 13) refers. Blood samples for these laboratory tests should be sent to the AHVLA laboratory in Weybridge (or for horses exported from NI to the VSD Belfast), allowing time for the tests to be completed and for results to be received before the proposed export date.

9. CEM testing

Paragraph IV 8) refers.

All swabs must be submitted to the AHVLA laboratory in Penrith (or to the AFBI laboratory, Stormont in the case of horses in Northern Ireland).

All swabs from an individual animal must be submitted to the same laboratory and must arrive at the laboratory within 48 hours of sampling. This must be confirmed by reference to the laboratory report form so that the assurance at paragraph IV 8) can be provided. If more than 10 swabs are to be submitted, prior notice should be given to the laboratory. A separate laboratory report form must accompany each sample.

10. Vaccinations and Treatments

Paragraph IV 7) and 14) refers. All vaccinations must be carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and recorded in the passport.

11. Clinical examination

Paragraph IV 18) refers. The examination mentioned at paragraph IV 18) may be carried out at the time of loading from the quarantine premises/pre-export isolation, instead of at the port of loading.

12. Transport from premises to airport

Paragraph IV. 19) refers. The horse should travel directly from the quarantine premises/pre-export isolation to the airport of departure. Vehicles must be disinfected before transport, using a DEFRA approved disinfectant. Disinfectants 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. 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.

13. 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, Scotland and Wales

Specialist Service Centre, Animal Health
and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA),
Hadrian House, Wavell Drive, Rosehill,
Carlisle, CA1 2TB

Tel: 01228 403600 / Fax 01228 591900 /

E-mail:

CentralOps.carlisle@ahvla.gsi.gov.uk

NORTHERN IRELAND

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

14. 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 AHVLA Specialist Service Centre - Exports, in Carlisle, via the link below:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/ahvla-en/imports-exports/international-trade/>

