

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV) 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 1377EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 1377EHC. 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 1377EHC may be used to accompany horses exported from the United Kingdom to Thailand.

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 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 of horses**

Section I must be fully completed. In addition the horse must be identified by completing the silhouette and description at page 4 of the certificate **and** be accompanied by an authorised passport. The Official Veterinarian must ensure that during any examination of the horse or any collection of samples from the horse or during the administration of any drug to the horse which is required by this certificate, that the horse has been identified on each occasion by reference to its passport or if a passport is not available, the Official Veterinarian should complete a silhouette at the time of the first procedure, and compare it with the horse on the subsequent procedures and examinations. The Official Veterinarian is advised to identify the horse on all laboratory submission forms by its name and passport number.

4. **Clinical examination**

Paragraph IV (a) refers. The final pre-export examination must be carried out within 72 hours of export.

5. **Pre-export isolation**

Paragraph IV (g) refers. The isolation premises may be approved by the official veterinarian provided that the following conditions are met:

6.1 **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 local APHA office. 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 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.

## 6.2 Procedures

- 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 is 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 the local APHA office.
- g) Isolated horses must have no contact with any horses of lower health status during the isolation period.
- h) 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.
- i) 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.

- j) 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, APHA should be consulted.
- k) If the official veterinarian is not satisfied that the conditions of approval are being met, the local APHA office should be notified.

7. **Disease clearance (Notifiable Disease)**

Paragraphs IV (b), (c) and (d) refer. The certification contained in these paragraphs may be signed on behalf of DEFRA by an Official Veterinarian provided written authority has been received on form 618NDC.

8. Referring to paragraph IV (e), "premises accommodated animals" refers to the premises where horses were resident on during the past 60 days having freedom from the listed diseases for the previous two years.

9. **Laboratory testing**

Paragraphs IV (h) and (j) refer. All testing must be carried out at the APHA laboratory, Weybridge. All test results should be entered in the passport that accompanies the animal.

10. **Treatment**

Paragraph IV (k) and (l) refer. Only licensed products may be used.

11. **Owner/exporter's declarations**

Paragraphs IV (m) and (f) refer. These paragraphs may be certified provided written declarations have been obtained from the owner/exporter. OVs should retain copies of these declarations for record purposes.

12. **Welfare**

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.

13. **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)