

## EXPORT OF HORSES FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM INTO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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

#### IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 155EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 155EHC. 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 155EHC may be used to accompany horses intended for export to Trinidad and Tobago.

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

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 the issuing office (in GB - the Centre for International Trade, Carlisle) within seven days of signing, or in the case of Northern Ireland, to DAERA, Dundonald House, Belfast.

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

#### 3. Identification

Paragraph I. must be fully completed. The Official Veterinarian must verify the identity of the horse by reference to its passport. The Official Veterinarian must be satisfied that the horse is adequately identified each time that samples are taken for pre-export testing and at the time of inspection.

4. **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 disease - country/area clearance**

Paragraphs IV. b) (i) and i) may be signed on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle on form 618NDC.

**Notifiable and non-notifiable disease - premises clearance**

Paragraph IV. k) refers. Where the OV has no direct knowledge of the status of any premises where the horse has been resident during the previous 60 days, the OV should seek a declaration from the owner/representative of the owner including details of all premises on which the animal resided during this period. 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 listed at paragraph IV. k) did not occur on these premises during the specified period. In case of difficulty in obtaining support documentation, the local Animal Health Office should be consulted.

5. **Approval of pre-export quarantine (PEQ) / isolation premises**

Paragraph IV. d) refers. The pre-export isolation premises must be approved by the Official Veterinarian on behalf of the Department, prior to the start of pre-export isolation. The following conditions must be met for the premises to be approved:

5.1 **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.

## 5.2 **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 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 APHA - CIT, Carlisle.
- 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 - CIT, Carlisle should be consulted.
- k) If the VO/ Official Veterinarian is not satisfied that the conditions of approval are being met, APHA - CIT, Carlisle should be notified.

## 6. **Clinical Examination**

Paragraph IV. c) refers. Although not specified, the Official Veterinarian should carry out the final clinical examination and complete the export health certificate within 24 hours of export.

7. **Laboratory Tests**

Paragraph VI. g), h i), h) ii) and j). Blood samples must be sent to the Animal and Plant Health Agency laboratory, Weybridge allowing sufficient time for the receipt of results before the proposed date of export.

8. **Vaccinations**

Paragraphs IV e) and e) refer. All vaccinations must be carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and recorded in the passport.

9. **Welfare**

Most horses and ponies exported from Great Britain need certification to satisfy export welfare legislation **IN ADDITION TO** the export health certification. 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.

Exporters must comply with the UK welfare laws relating to the export of animals. If transported by air, animals should be transported in accordance with International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards.

Further information about the necessary requirements may be obtained from the Animal Welfare Team at any of the offices mentioned below:

England, Scotland & Wales

Welfare in Transport Team at the APHA Centre for International Trade - Carlisle, via the link below:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening#centre-for-international-trade-carlisle>

Northern Ireland

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Ballymiscaw, Belfast, BT4 3SB.  
DAERA Helpline number 0300 200 7852.

DAERA Helpline email [daerahelpline@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:daerahelpline@daera-ni.gov.uk)

DAERA Textphone 18001 0300 200 7852

10. **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 Centre for International Trade - Carlisle, via the link below:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening>

