

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

1. Scope

These notes for Guidance are only for use with certificate 3097EHC which can be used for exports of Registered horses from Great Britain to Tunisia.

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 appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department (SEERAD) or National Assembly For Wales Agricultural Department (NAWAD) who is an Official Veterinarian (OV) on the appropriate panel for export purposes. OVs should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the local Divisional Veterinary Manager within seven days of issue. OVs should keep a copy for his/her own records.

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

3. Identification of horses

The silhouette on page 4 of the certificate must also be fully completed and, the passport number inserted. The OV must verify the identity of all registered horses by reference to the passport. The OV should be satisfied that the horse is adequately identified at the time of inspection and each time that samples are taken for pre-

export testing.

4. **Clinical Examination**

Paragraph IV (a) refers. The OV should carry out the clinical examination on the day of export.

**NOTE: The certificate is valid for 3 days from the date of signature.**

5. **Pre-export isolation**

Paragraph IV(f) (i) and (ii) refers. The pre-export isolation premises at II (b) must be approved by a Veterinary Officer (VO) of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and under the supervision of an OV. Head Office retains responsibility for the approval of premises on the basis of a recommendation from the DVM. The DVM should send the recommendation letter to Page Street for the attention of the VA - Export of Horses. The standards required for pre-export isolation are as follows:

**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 OV, after consultation with the DVM. The OV 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/OV 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.

**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 OV. Exercise areas/paddocks should be cleaned to the satisfaction of the OV.
- b) No person may enter the isolation premises unless specifically authorised by the supervising OV.
- 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 OV and DVM.
- g) Isolated horses must have no contact with any horses of lower health status during the isolation period.

- h) The supervising OV 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 OV or VO.
- j) The operator should report any illnesses or other problems to the supervising OV. Where there is any cause for concern about the export certification of the consignment, the DVM should be consulted.
- k) If the VO/OV is not satisfied that the conditions of approval are being met, the DVM should be notified.

6. **Disease Clearance**

Official Veterinarians may certify paragraph IV (b) and (c) on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained from the local Animal Health Office on form 618NDC.

Paragraphs IV(d) (i), (e) i) (g) and h(i) refer. Where the OV has no direct knowledge of the status of any premises where the horse has been resident during the previous 3 months, a written support document should be obtained from the veterinary surgeon responsible for that premises stating that no evidence of equine viral arteritis or equine viral rhinopneumonitis has occurred during the 3 months prior to movement from the premises. In case of difficulty in obtaining support documentation, the DVM should be consulted.

7. **Laboratory tests**

Paragraph IV (d) (ii) refers. The swabs for CEM testing should be taken on 2 occasions and with an interval of no less than 7 days between each sampling, and both samplings being taken within 30 days of export. The swab sites are identified in export health certificate 3097EHC

All swabs must be submitted to APHA Penrith or to Lasswade Laboratory to arrive within 48 hours of sampling

Paragraphs IV (e) (ii) and (h) (ii) refer. Blood samples for these laboratory test should be sent to the Veterinary Laboratories Agency laboratory, Weybridge, allowing time for the tests to be completed and for results to be received before the proposed export date.

8. **Vaccination against Equine influenza**

Paragraph IV (f) (iii) refers. The vaccination against equine influenza must be carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. The most recent booster having been administered not more than 8 weeks and not less than 2 weeks prior to the proposed date of export.

9. **Disclaimer**

The DEFRA disclaimer (Form 372DMR) will be issued to the exporter with this certificate for his/her information. The 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 International Animal Health Division at the address given below.

10. **Welfare**

Exporters must comply with the British welfare laws relating to the export of horses (including ponies). Information about the necessary requirements and application forms 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.