

**EXPORT OF EQUINES TO URUGUAY  
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 353EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 353EHC. 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.

**SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE**

Export health certificate 353EHC may be used for the export of equines from the United Kingdom to Uruguay.

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.

**1. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)**

This certificate may be signed by an Official Veterinarian (Local Veterinary Inspector) appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Scottish Government - Rural Directorate, Welsh Government - Department for Rural Affairs, 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 the issuing office (in GB - Animal Health, Specialist Service Centre - Exports, Carlisle) within seven days of signing.

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

**2. Identification of Horses**

Section I must be fully completed. In addition, the horse must be identified either by means of the silhouette and description in a passport in the case of a registered horse or by completing the silhouette and description on 353SUP. In the case of identification by means of a passport, the passport number should be entered where indicated on page 1 of 353EHC and 353SUP. 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 where available.

3. **Clinical Examination**

Paragraph IV (c) refers. The final pre-export examination must be carried out on the date of loading.

4. **Disease Clearance**

Paragraphs IV (d), (e) (f) (i), (g) (i), (h) (i) and (l) (i) refer. The certification contained in these paragraphs - **in relation to residence in the UK only** - may be signed on behalf of the Department by a Official Veterinarian provided written authority has been received on form 618NDC. For residencies in other countries, supporting certification will be necessary if disease information is not available on the OIE WAHIS website or from any other reputable source.

In respect of paragraphs IV (j) and (k), the premises of origin is the premises mentioned at paragraph II (b) where the horse was isolated and examined prior to loading for export.

5. **Owner/Exporter's Declarations**

All paragraphs relating to residencies must be supported by written declarations from the owner/exporter. Cross-checks with other documents, mainly passports, should be carried out if in doubt, to check the veracity of these declarations. OV's should retain copies of the declaration for record purposes.

6. **Laboratory Tests**

Blood samples, where necessary (when disease free options cannot be certified), for these tests should be sent to the AHVLA laboratory, Weybridge, allowing time for the tests to be completed and for results to be received before the proposed export date.

7. **Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) testing**

Paragraph IV (o) refers. The swabs for CEM testing should be taken within 30 days of export. The swab sites are identified in export health certificate 353EHC. All CEM swabs must be submitted to the Veterinary Laboratories Agency laboratory, Penrith. A separate swab must be taken at each of the specified swabbing sites. It is not sufficient to use one swab applied to several sites. All swabs from an individual animal must be submitted to the same laboratory. The samples must be refrigerated (**not frozen**) with a cool pack included in the parcel, and arrive at the laboratory within 48 hours of sampling. 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.

8. **Vaccinations**

Paragraph IV (h) (ii), (m), (p), (q) and (r) refer. All horses must have been vaccinated using only licensed products in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions. The Official Veterinarian must verify the dates of vaccination by reference to the animal's passport or vaccination certificates. The names of the vaccines and the batch numbers should be entered in the spaces provided.

9. **Treatment**

Paragraph IV (s), (t) and (u) refer. It is essential that only licensed products are used for treatments.

10. **Post-Arrival Quarantine**

All horses imported into URUGUAY must undergo post-arrival quarantine for at least 21 days. For further details the importer should consult the import permit and conditions issued by the Ministry of Agriculture of Uruguay.

11. **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:

Centre for International Trade - Carlisle, Eden Bridge House, Lowther Street, Carlisle, CA3 8DX  
Tel: 03000 200301

12. **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://animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/about/contact-us/tradeexports.html>

