

EXPORT OF DOGS FROM GREAT BRITAIN TO TONGA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE EXPORTER AND OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The Notes for Guidance (NFG) should have been issued to you together with export certificate 6613EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 6613EHC. 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 6613EHC may be used for the export dogs and from Great Britain to Tonga.

2. Official Veterinarian

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.

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 issuing office (in GB - the Centre for International Trade, Carlisle) within seven days of signing.

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

3. Import permit

No dog may be imported into Tonga except in accordance with the terms of an import permit. The permit must be obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in Tonga.

4. Vaccinations

Dogs must be vaccinated against distemper, infectious hepatitis, and canine parvovirus not less than 30 days prior to the proposed date of export.

The vaccination certificates should be attached to the Export Health Certificate.

5. Residency in Great Britain

A written declaration must be given to the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN confirming that the animals have been resident in the UK for the previous 6 months or since birth.

6. Travelling through other countries

It is the responsibility of the exporter/agent to apply to the relevant authorities of the countries shown at paragraph 3 of EXA1 for permission to transport the animals through these countries. Additional health certification may be necessary.

7. Vaccinations

Before signing the export health certificate, the Official Veterinarian must be satisfied that the necessary vaccinations have been carried out. If vaccinations are carried out by another veterinary surgeon, the owner/exporter should provide evidence in the form of certificates. Vaccination certificates should be attached to the export health certificate.

8. **Country freedom from rabies**

Official Veterinarians may certify country freedom from rabies providing written authority to do so has been obtained from the issuing office on form EC618.

9. **Transportation**

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>

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>