

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Animal health certificate for dispatch of dogs, cats and ferrets into the European Union or Northern Ireland, as a commercial movement or as a consignment of greater than 5 animals

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Animal health certificate for dispatch into the EU or NI of dogs, cats and ferrets not travelling as pets

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR THE CERTIFYING OFFICERS AND EXPORTERS

1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

[Commission Implementing Decision 2017/98](#) as amended

Any EU legislation referenced in the certificate must be complied with and EU legislation can be accessed on the following link. You should ensure you use the latest version:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html>

Please note that Official Control Regulations 2017/625 have repealed Regulation (EC) No 854/2004, 882/2004 and Directive No 96/23/EC. Please see link:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32017R0625&from=EN>

Consolidated legislation

Consolidated texts, which integrate the basic instruments of Union legislation with their amendments and corrections in a single, non-official document, are available. Each consolidated text contains a list of all legal documents taken into account for its construction. You can search for consolidated texts by using the 'find results by document number' option on the European Commission website. Once you have selected the relevant legislation, click 'document information', and then scroll down to 'all consolidated versions' and select the most recent version.

Please note that the consolidated text may not contain the latest amendment to the legislation, as it takes several weeks for this to be updated.

Texts provided in this section are intended for information only. Please note that these texts have no legal value. For legal purposes please refer to the texts published in the 'Official Journal of the European Union'.

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Certifying Officers and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with the relevant export certificate applicable for dispatch into the EU or NI of dogs, cats and ferrets in accordance with Commission Implementing Decision 2017/98. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with the health certificate.

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.

[Please note, policies are being reviewed. NFG will be further amended to provide specific guidance. Traders should look at NFGs regularly for any updates]

2. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

This model export health certificate may be used for exports into the EU of dogs, cats and ferrets in accordance in accordance with Commission Implementing Decision 2017/98.

Premises of origin of the animal/s will require a registration before any export can take place.

To obtain a Balai Registration you will need to complete an EC3163 form which can be obtained here

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/979135/form-ec3163.pdf.

The completed form should then be submitted to the Centre for International Trade – Carlisle for approval at the following email address processingteam@apha.gov.uk.

You will need to obtain a Balai Registration before applying for the EHC as you will need to include the Balai Registration number in the Approval Number field for the Place of Origin.

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

In **England, Scotland and Wales**, this certificate must be signed by a Government Veterinary Officer or by an Official Veterinarian (OV) appointed by the Animal and Plant Health Agency on behalf of Ministers in Defra, the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government and who hold the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ (V)) authorisation.

OVs must sign and stamp, with the OV stamp, the health certificate in ink of a different colour to that of the printing of the Export Health Certificate (EHC). There is no requirement to sign and stamp in a specific colour.

The OV should keep a copy of the signed certificate and any supporting documents for at least three years after signature or receipt/dispatch of the consignment, whichever is later. These can be electronic copies.

EHC in foreign language/s of the EU Member States (MSs).

EHC should be in English and the foreign language/s of the Border Control Post (BCP) of entry in the EU, as well as in the language of the EU MS of destination if this a different country from the point of entry to the EU. The required EHC must accompany the consignment.

Listing of the EU MS BCPs can be found here: https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/vet-border-control/bip-contacts_en

The foreign language certificate as received from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or via the Export Health Certificates on-line system (EHCO) and bearing the same unique reference number as the English certificate, should be considered an official and accurate translations of the English, as published in EU legislation.

The (sub-) paragraphs / options and how they are numbered and formatted is identical in the English and foreign language editions and to the legislation published by the EU Commission. Therefore, when the same phrases/sentences in the foreign language versions/s as in the English version are struck through, both versions can and must be signed (as opposed to being initialled) by the OV as a genuine and properly authorised translation of the English.

This also applies to any instructions in the guidance notes to strike out certain paragraphs or to certify statements that the country is free of certain notifiable diseases etc.

Signing, stamping and pagination

The foreign language version/s and any schedules (if any) may be stapled to the English version but doing so and then fan stamping the multiple sheets is not enough to create one indivisible single document according to the EU Commission.

Therefore, each page (including schedules) should be individually signed and stamped and bear the reference number of the certificate. The pages comprising the complete document should be sequentially numbered so they are part of a finite sequence which covers the English, foreign language version/s and any schedule pages.

For example, if the certificate consists of four A4 pages printed back to back on two sheets of A4 paper with a schedule that is three A4 pages long, all 11 pages must be stamped and **signed** (as above) and numbered 1/11 to 11/11.

COs will have to make handwritten corrections to page numbering as may be required. E.g. 1/4 to 4/4 (if present) on the foreign language parts in the example given above will need to be crossed out and the 1/11 to 11/11 entered.

The EHC accompanying the consignment will then comprise the original English EHC and any required additional foreign language/s. These should be arranged in order with the English version on the top, followed by the foreign language/s version/s, and finally the page(s) of the schedule (if any) at the bottom.

As per general guidance for certifiers on APHA's Vet Gateway, any hand written corrections or permitted deletions to a certificate should be stamped and **initialled**. This includes the deletion of optional statements in Part II of the certificate and alterations to content in Part 1. The same applies if a pre-populated text in a box in part I of the EHC needs to be amended. (E.g. if box I.7 which is pre-populated as 'United Kingdom' 'GB', needs to be amended for triangular trade where third country origin 'Products Of Animal Origin' are being certified in the original third country packaging with the original third country Identification Marks, in which case the country of origin will be the third country in question and not the United Kingdom). Please follow the guidance on corrections in the link below.

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/index.htm

We advise that individual stamping and initialling of diagonal lines drawn through blank boxes in Part 1 is not necessary. This is to reduce excessive stamping on the certificate. However we are aware that some BCPs advise otherwise and request stamping and initialling of manually crossed out blank boxes in Part 1 of the certificate. In such cases OV should conform to the BCPs request to facilitate the clearance of the goods.

You can find further information on Export Health Certificates (EHC) Online Guidance for Certifiers in the link below.

<http://apha.defra.gov.uk/documents/exports/guidance-ehc-certifiers.pdf>

UK approved establishments will be uploaded to [Europa](#) website in due course, until the establishments are in Europa website you can find the list of UK approved establishments in the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/businesses-approved-to-export-to-the-eu>

Please check the guidance on completion of part I of the EHC at the bottom of the EHC and in the links provided in the NFG. For completion of box I.8-Region of Origin Code, the territory code should be as listed in the relevant legislation that is provided under the notes at the bottom of the EHC.

PART I: DETAILS OF THE CONSIGNMENT

All boxes in Part I of the certificate must be completed. When a box is not applicable/optional, and not filled, please score it through.

Please use schedule to be attached to the certificate if there is not enough space to fill the information. See Section 'Addition of Schedules' below.

Please complete all the boxes in Part I of the certificate in accordance with the guidance lay down on Commission Decision 2007/240/EC that can be accessed via this link:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32007D0240>

The Harmonised System (HS) Code is a commodity classification system used as a basis for customs tariffs and for international trade statistics.

It is the exporter's responsibility to ensure that the HS code is entered correctly and accurately reflects the product(s) being consigned.

Further information on HS Codes can be found online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/trade-tariff/sections> and <http://madb.europa.eu/madb/euTariffs.htm>

PART II: CERTIFICATION

Insert “United Kingdom” as the name of the third country of origin of the animal(s)

II.1 – The holding or business of origin must be registered (under Balai regulations as transposed into UK law) with APHA. OV's must either be personally familiar with the holding of origin and satisfied that the animals at the holding are examined regularly and comply with UK animal welfare requirements or may rely on written evidence from another veterinary surgeon to this effect.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/979135/form-ec3163.pdf.

The completed form should then be submitted to the Centre for International Trade – Carlisle for approval at the following email address processingteam@apha.gov.uk

II.2 – As stated, an OV must clinically examine the animals within 48 hours of dispatch. The certificate must be certified after this examination has taken place.

II.3 –The UK is listed in Annex II of Regulation (EU) No 577/2013.

The first II.3 “either” is to be certified for dogs, cats and ferrets destined to an approved body, institute or centre approved under Directive 92/65/EEC. If the animals are not destined to a Balai approved establishment this point need to be deleted.

The second II.3 “or” should be certified for animals not destined for a body, institute or centre approved under Directive 92/65/EEC. The “either “sub-option under this II.3, should be certified for animals originated in the UK and that are only transiting EU countries or countries listed in annex II of Regulation 577/2013. The “or” sub-option under this should be deleted, unless the animal/s is/are transiting a country not listed in annex II Regulation 577/2013 and undergone a rabies antibody titration test in which case this sub-option needs to be certified.

Rabies vaccinations used must by licenced in the UK and administered by an Official Veterinarian or a registered veterinarian (MRCVS). The identity of the animals (microchip number) must have been checked and verified prior to administration of vaccination. A certified copy of the identification and vaccination details of the animals must be attached to the certificate. This must demonstrate that any booster vaccination given is given within the period of validity of the preceding vaccination. If rabies vaccination lapses then any subsequent vaccination must be considered a primary vaccination (requiring a post vaccination waiting period before travel and, if necessary, a repeat rabies antibody blood test).

A rabies serology blood test must be collected 30 days after the preceding vaccination (whether this is a primary vaccination or a booster vaccination) and tested at an approved

lab for a sufficient titre. A minimum three month wait after the date of the successful blood test is required before the animal can be exported.

Where a blood sample has been taken following a previous rabies vaccination and the subsequent booster vaccinations have been kept up to date, details of these vaccinations should be attached to the certificate.

Where the certificate states “blood sample taken by the veterinarian authorised by the competent authority” OV’s are permitted to certify this clause on the basis of written or documentary evidence provided by another registered veterinary surgeon (Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons) demonstrating that the blood sample was taken by a registered veterinary surgeon, that the identity of the animal was checked prior to blood sampling and that the identity (e.g. microchip number) matches that shown on the official rabies serology lab report.

II.4 – This section is for dogs only. Dogs travelling from the UK to EU or NI listed tapeworm free countries including Malta, Ireland, Norway and Finland must be treated for tapeworm prior to travel in accordance with EU requirements. Tapeworm treatment is not required for dogs travelling from the UK to non-‘tapeworm free’ countries in the EU. Where tapeworm treatment is given, the second II.4 clause should be struck through and the table containing the details of anti-echinococcus treatment given should be fully completed. Where tapeworm treatment is not given then the first II.4 clause should be struck through but the boxes in the anti-echinococcus treatment table should be left blank (i.e. not struck through) in order to permit future anti-tapeworm treatments to be recorded if required (e.g. prior to re-entry into the UK from a non-‘tapeworm free’ country).

The treatment must be carried out not less than 24 hours and not more than 120 hours before the dog arrives in the EU destination country. The administering veterinarian (who does not necessarily have to be an Official Veterinarian) should record tapeworm treatments by completing the table referred to in clause II.4 of the certificate. If the veterinarian administering the treatment is an Official Veterinarian they should apply their OV stamp in the box. If the veterinarian is not an OV they should use their practice stamp. The treatment used must contain praziquantel or an equivalent containing a product (active substance) proven to be effective against *Echinococcus multilocularis*.

4. COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE

Certification Support Officers may not be utilised for gathering evidence relating to this model certificate.

5. ANIMAL TRANSPORT ATTESTATION

Council Regulation EC No 1/2005 (EC) is implemented under the Welfare of

Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 and parallel legislation in Scotland and Wales. If transported by air, animals should be transported in accordance with International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards.

Every animal should be fit for the journey that is planned. Animals should be in good health, free of illness, free of significant wounds and able to walk without pain on all legs. Animals that are in sufficiently good health, should be able to withstand the stress of a journey without experiencing any unnecessary pain or distress, and should arrive at their destination in good health.

Animals that are injured or that present physiological weaknesses or pathological processes shall not be considered fit for transport and in particular if:

- they are unable to move independently without pain or to walk unassisted;
- they present a severe open wound, or prolapse;
- they are pregnant females for whom 90% or more of the expected gestation period has already passed, or females who have given birth in the previous week;
- they are new-born mammals in which the navel has not completely healed; □ they are pigs of less than 3 weeks, unless they are transported less than 100km.

If the place of loading and holding of origin is different, then the OV must obtain a written declaration from the owner/transporter/exporter that the animals were transported from the holding in vehicles previously cleansed and disinfected with a Defra approved disinfectant and “in such a way as to provide effective protection of the animals’ health status”. This means transport without coming into contact with cloven hoofed animals other than those of a similarly certified level of health status. In this case, where a consignment is grouped in an assembly centre and comprises animals that were loaded on different dates, the date at which the journey commenced for the whole consignment is considered to be the earliest date when any part of the consignment left the holding of origin. OVs should also receive a declaration from the exporter/transporter that the animals will be transported to the place of destination in vehicles which have first been cleaned and disinfected with a Defra approved disinfectant and without coming into contact with cloven hoofed animals other than those of a similarly certified level of health status.

- Except animals are accompanied by their mother, long journeys should only be permitted for domestic equidae and domestic animals of bovine and porcine species if:
 - calves are older than fourteen days; ○
 - pigs are heavier than 10 kgs.
- Except if animals accompanied by their mother, long journeys should only be permitted for domestic equidae species if domestic equidae are older than four months, with the exception of registered equidae; Unbroken horses shall not be transported on long journeys”.

6. CLINICAL EXAMINATION

The inspection must be carried out within 48 hours of loading. The pre-export inspection should consist of a visual appraisal and, if deemed appropriate, physical examination of the animals for export. Each animal subject to an inspection must be assessed as an individual.

OVs must use their professional judgement to determine the level of inspection required in order to ensure that no animal is exported which shows signs of infectious disease and that animals are fit to travel to their intended destination.

7. ADDITION OF SCHEDULES

When the space in Part I or Part II of the certificate is insufficient to accommodate full details of the consignment a schedule may be used. In the relevant section of the certificate the certifying officer should annotate the certificate 'see attached schedule'. A new schedule should be created (typed or clearly written) containing the same information as that required in the certificate. The schedule must include the certificate reference number on each page and must be signed, dated and stamped by the certifying officer in a colour other than black on each page and under the last entry. Any blank spaces in the schedule or the certificate should be struck through with diagonal lines. The schedule must be firmly stapled to the EHC, the pages of the certificate including the schedule should be numbered and the complete document (EHC and schedule) should be "fan stamped" as a precaution against tampering. Further guidance is available here: http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/index.htm

8. CERTIFIED COPIES OF EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATES

When completing export certification Certifying Officers (CO) (Official Veterinarians (OV) and Environmental Health Officers (EHO)) must make photocopies of, or scan and save all documents they certify. This includes all documents that:

- are certified with the COs signature and stamp
- form part of any export documentation
- will accompany the consignment, or
- any support documentation (documentation provided by the CO at the premises of origin to enable the CO at the premises of loading to certify the final export certificate).

Examples of export documents required to be saved are:

- Export Health Certificates (EHC)
- Supplementary certificates
- Schedules to EHCs.

Where it is impossible to copy documents at the premises immediately after certification then a photocopy of the certificate could be made before travelling to the place of certification, and the certification details transposed onto the copy at the same time as

completing the certificate. When a paper copy is made, mark the photocopy as 'Certified Copy' and initial.

COs must retain copies of all export documentation for a period of two years.

Return of export documents to the Centre for International Trade - Carlisle (CITC) are only required for the following live animal export commodities:

- cattle
- pigs
- sheep
- goats
- camelids.

This should be done by scanning and emailing the documents on the same day as certification.

These certified copies are required to enable APHA to provide information to other Competent Authorities on Brucellosis, Tuberculosis or Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy cases found in herds subsequent to export, to enable the country of destination to take the appropriate notifiable disease action.

For the purposes of completing routine Quality Assurance checks on export certification, CITC may request certified copies of certification from COs.

Further information:

Please visit APHA Vet Gateway for further information in certification procedures:

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/index.htm

9. LEGAL STATEMENT

The existing EU legislation that the UK already complies with will be incorporated into our domestic law as “retained EU law” under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018. References in our guidance and certification to such EU instruments should be taken to be references to this “retained EU law”. Under the Withdrawal Act we will ensure that current EU standards remain in force, without amendment, in the immediate months after our EU exit as part of UK domestic law (apart from corrections to make the EU legislation fully operable).

10. DISCLAIMER

This certificate and NFG are 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 Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) in Carlisle, via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency>

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This publication is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications Any

enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at

liveanimalexports.carlisle@apha.gov.uk

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