

EXPORT OF NEMATODES AND BENEFICIAL INSECTS (FOR CROP PROTECTION) FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO BELGIUM

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 8624EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8624EHC. 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 of the certificate**

This certificate may be used to accompany the export of nematodes and beneficial insects and mites (for crop protection) from the United Kingdom to Belgium.

2. **Certification by an Official Veterinarian (OV)**

This certificate may be signed by an Official Veterinarian appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Scottish Government, Welsh Government, 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 stamp in any colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the issuing office (in GB - Animal and Plant Health Agency, Customer Service Centre, Carlisle) within seven days of signing.

2. **Identification**

Part I refers. The exporter must ensure that the OV is able to identify the insects and mites in the packages and containers containing them by ensuring that the contents are visible to enable the OV to inspect the contents of the containers or packages.

The containers and packages must be clearly labelled with the species, scientific name and quantity enclosed in each package or container. For the purposes of this certificate the total number of each species should be entered in the number of animals. The number of packages/containers containing the species to be exported in the consignment could be entered underneath if there are many packages.

3. **Clinical inspection of health, freedom from clinical signs of infection and fitness to travel**

The clinical inspection at Part III (a) does not specify the timeframe in which the consignment should be inspected, but it must be as close as possible to the departure date. The inspection should be arranged between the exporter and Official Veterinarian to be carried out on a date and time convenient to the Official Veterinarian, prior to despatch of the consignment.

If the Official Veterinarian is not familiar with the normal appearance of the species to be exported, they should obtain published photographs for example from the exporter or from a book.

The Official Veterinarian should note that it is important to consider the health of nematodes, insects and mites for export as a group. The appearance of the insects may vary slightly but the Official Veterinarian should consider first principles of indications of health or disease.

The batch of nematodes, insects and mites to be exported as well as the colonies where they were produced must be assessed as alive - i.e. they must not be assessed as dead or dying. The batch should be reasonably consistent in shape, size and colouration.

Certification of fitness to travel can be provided, providing the insects are considered to be clinically healthy.

4. **Exporter's declarations**

Part III(c) refers. The OV must obtain a written assurance from the owner/exporter in order to certify these paragraphs. The declarations should not be attached to the health certificate, but it should be retained by the OV for record purposes.

5. **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>