

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Notes for Guidance: Export Health Certificate and Declaration for re-entry into the European Union or Northern Ireland of registered horses for racing, competition and cultural events after temporary export for a period of not more than 30 days 8433

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No: 8433 NFG

Notes for guidance for export health certificate and declaration for the re-entry into the Union of registered horses for racing, competition and cultural events after temporary export for a period of not more than 30 days.

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE (NFG) FOR THE CERTIFYING OFFICERS AND EXPORTERS

1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

[Regulation \(EU\) No 2016/429](#) on transmissible animal diseases (the 'Animal Health Law').

[Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2020/692](#) supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 as regards the rules for entry into the Union of certain animals, germinal products and products of animal origin.

[Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/403](#) laying down rules for the application of Regulations (EU) No. 2016/429 and (EU) 2017/625 as regards model animal health certificates/official certificates for entry into the union.

[Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/404](#) laying down the list of third countries, territories, and zones thereof from which the entry into the union of animals, germinal products and products of animal origin is permitted.

[Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/634](#) amending Implementing Regulation 2021/404 as regards the entries of the United Kingdom.

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Please note that Official Control Regulations 2017/625 have repealed Regulation (EC) No 854/2004, 882/2004 and Directive No 96/23/EC.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

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

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 to re-entry into the Union of registered horses for racing, competition and cultural events after temporary export for a period of not more than 30 days.

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 NFG regularly for any updates]

A declaration by the master of the ship, as set out in Annex III of Commission Regulation (EC) No 403/2021, shall be attached to veterinary certificates for imports into the EU of terrestrial animals where the transport of those commodities includes transport by ship, even for part of the journey. You can find the Master of the ship declaration [here: www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates/master-of-the-vessel-declaration-8466](https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates/master-of-the-vessel-declaration-8466)

2. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

This health certificate and declaration may be used for the re-entry into the Union of registered horses for racing, competition and cultural events after temporary export for a period of not more than 30 days.

This certificate is only valid for registered horses. 'Horse' means an animal of the species *Equus caballus*.

'Registered equine animal' means an animal defined in Article 2(30) of [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2019/2035](#)

- i. a purebred breeding animal of the species *Equus caballus* and *Equus asinus* entered or eligible for entry in the main section of a breeding book established by a breed society or breeding body recognised in accordance with Article 4 or 34 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1012.
- ii. a kept animal of the species *Equus caballus* registered with an international association or organisation, either directly or through its national federation or branches, which manages horses for competition or racing.

Note: having a passport does not necessarily mean that the horse is 'registered'.

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

In **England, Scotland and Wales**, this certificate must be signed by a Government Veterinary Officer (e.g., APHA, FSA or FSS employed veterinary officers) 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 two 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 of the Border Control Post (BCP) of entry in the EU. The original copy of the required EHC must accompany the consignment to the BCP of entry.

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 Online 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 European Commission. Therefore, the same phrases/sentences in the foreign language versions as in the English version should be struck through and these deletions should be stamped and initialled in both versions. Both versions must also be signed (as opposed to being initialled) and stamped by the OV, the foreign language certificate is deemed to be a genuine and properly authorised translation of the English version.

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 AND STAMPING

When signing a certificate, the Certifying Officer should ensure that the certificate contains no deletions or alterations, other than those which are indicated on the certificate to be permissible and any corrections to permitted entries, subject to such changes being initialed and stamped (in the margin) by the CO. Permissible deletions are normally indicated in the 'Notes' section at the end of the certificate, with the instruction 'Keep as appropriate' or 'delete if not applicable'.

- Where the certificate contains optional or contextual statements, the statements which are not relevant shall be crossed out, individually initialed and stamped by the CO, or completely removed from the certificate.
- Permitted paragraphs and sections may be crossed out by applying a 'Z' across the section or paragraph rather than crossing out line by line.

- There is no requirement for a date and time to accompany each stamp. The date is only entered at the required entry field in Part I of the certificate, and at the end where the Certifying Officer signs, stamps and dates that action.
- We are aware of some BCPs demanding that all handwritten information in Part 1 of the EHC is initialed and stamped, including handwritten scoring out of otherwise blank boxes. There is no legal requirement in EU legislation that all the hand-written information entered in the certificate must be signed and stamped. It is only in the case of correction, in any part of the certificate, or in the case of statements to be crossed out, that the certifier must add signature (or initials) and stamp. This has been confirmed by the European Commission. The Commission noted however, in the case of a hand-written certificate, it is expected that the same one person completes the document. If not, the BCP might suspect that empty boxes were completed by another person after the certificate has been signed by the official.

You should consider checking with the specific BCP regarding their preference when it comes to the stamping and initialing of handwritten scoring out of otherwise blank boxes in Part I of the EHC.

- **Clarification from the European Commission means that all pages (as opposed to sheets of paper) are signed and stamped once individually in place of fan stamping and in addition to any permitted alterations. There is no requirement to fan stamp.**
- Certifying Officers are reminded to consult the Notes for Guidance prior to the certification of each EHC. NFG will be updated with this new information in due course.

Further Information Certifying Officers should make sure they are familiar with all relevant guidance and other documents relating to EHCs and that they discuss requirements with exporters in advance.

See <http://apha.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/Guidance/exports/ehc-online.htm>

You can also contact the Animal and Plant Health Agency's Centre for International Trade (CIT) on 03000 200 301.

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 a 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 laid down in Chapter 4 of Annex I to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235 that can be accessed via this link:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32020R2235>

I.1

As laid out in EU regulation 2020/2235, Chapter 4 of Annex I, Consignor and consignee should be the owner/operator originating from EU in case of re-entry of Equine after

temporary export.

I.11

A registration number for the place of dispatch of the equine being sent to the EU, is required.

Equine establishments can get a CPH number from APHA if they don't already have one and that number needs to be included on the certificate. This does not only apply to equine holdings, but also racecourses, other sporting venues, sales yards and other locations from which equines are loaded to depart GB. OV's are able to use a letter of evidence from APHA provided to the owner when signing the certificate.

See guidance in regard to CPH here. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/export-or-move-equines-apply-for-a-county-parish-holding-cph-number>

Without CPH for the establishment of dispatch, you cannot certify equines to be exported to the EU or moved to Northern Ireland.

I.27 Under the **identification number**, there is enough space to include the name of the horse. Including the name of the horse, as well as the required identification number, will facilitate officials carrying inspection procedures at the BCP.

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 CN code is entered correctly and accurately reflects the product(s) being consigned.

Further information on CN Codes (Commodity Codes) for customs tariffs can be found online at:

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

PART II: CERTIFICATION

The UK has been assigned to Sanitary Group A therefore any attestations not relating to Group A can be deleted.

The certificate must be issued within the 48 hour period of loading or on the last working day before loading of the animal for dispatch to the Member State of destination in the Union.

II. Animal Health Attestation

The Official Veterinarian signing the export health certificate must ensure that they are aware of the provisions of [Regulation \(EU\) No 2016/429](#), [Commission Delegated Regulation 2020/692](#), [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/403](#) and [Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/404](#). These regulations outline the animal health conditions governing the movement and importation from third countries of Equidae, and list of countries and territories and zones thereof authorised to export Equidae to the EU.

II.1. - This may be certified on the basis of OV familiarity and declaration of the owner that the horse is a registered horse as defined in Article 2(30) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 not intended for slaughter in the framework of the eradication of infectious or contagious disease communicable to equine animals.

Having a passport does not necessarily mean that the horse is 'registered'.

II.1.2 - This can be certified with the result of clinical examination carried out within the 48 hour period or on the last working day prior to departure, that the animal for dispatch has not shown signs or symptoms of any diseases listed for equine animals in [Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1882](#).

Surra is officially a notifiable disease from 21 April 2021 in Great Britain, via the existing notifiable disease reporting routes. Enter the date of clinical examination.

Further information on the new reporting requirements can be found here:

<http://apha.defra.gov.uk/documents/news/New-disease-reporting-requirements.pdf>

II.1.4 - This can be certified on the basis of a written and signed declaration from the operator and the horse meets all attestations on this certificate.

II.2 Attestation on third country, territory or zone thereof an establishment of dispatch

II.2.1 - Enter the territory code. The relevant regulations are Implementing Regulations (EU) 2021/404. This regulation has been amended by Implementing Regulation 2021/634 adding the GB and the Crown Dependencies to the relevant lists. GB and the Crown Dependencies are assigned to Sanitary Group A.

The options for name of a country or code of territory are here:

GB-0	United Kingdom
GG-0	Guernsey
IM-0	Isle of Man
JE-0	Jersey

II.2.2 - This can be certified on the basis of the absence of notifiable diseases detailed in Section 4 And all listed diseases are compulsorily notifiable. If OV is in doubt, then contact APHA.

II.2.3, II.2.4, II.2.5, II.2.6, II.2.7, II.2.8 -

These diseases are notifiable in the UK and may be certified on the basis of disease clearance. The OV is to obtain disease clearance for relevant diseases as per Section 4 below.: Relevant diseases are African horse sickness, Venezuelan Equine Encephalomyelitis, *Burkholderia mallei* (glanders), Surra (*Trypanosoma evansi*), Dourine (*Trypanosoma Equiperdum*), Equine infectious anaemia.

Surra is officially a notifiable disease from 21 April 2021 in Great Britain, via the existing

notifiable disease reporting routes.

The certifying Official Veterinarian may seek further advice from APHA and written confirmation from the owner and veterinarian responsible for the holding that the relevant requirements have been complied with.

Further information on the new reporting requirements can be found here:

<http://apha.defra.gov.uk/documents/news/New-disease-reporting-requirements.pdf>

II.2.9.1 and II.2.9.2 - This can be certified based on the absence of notifiable disease as detailed in Section 4. Infection with Rabies virus and Anthrax is currently notifiable in GB. In addition, this can be attested also with receipt of written and signed declaration by the operator, that equine animal described in Part I comes from an establishment in which the above infection in kept terrestrial animals have not been reported during the period of days (referred in the certificate) prior to the date of departure of the animal.

II.2.10 - This can be certified on the basis of OV's personal knowledge and as declared by the operator, that the equine animal described in Part I has not been in contact with kept animals of listed species which did not comply with the requirements referred to in Points II.2.3. to II.2.8.1 during the last 30 days prior to the date of departure of the animal, and with the requirement referred to in point II.2.8.2. during the 15 days period prior to the date of departure of the animal.

Health status of the holdings going back 15 days (which will mostly be competition venues and associated stables) must be supported with additional guaranties by the owner or the representative of the owner.

II.3 Attestation of residence and pre-export isolation

II.3.1 - This can be certified based on the written declaration by the operator responsible and, if applicable, import veterinary health certification or competent authority exit declaration for horses from NI.

II.3.2 - This can be certified based on the written declaration by the operator responsible and, if applicable, import veterinary health certification or Competent Authority exit declaration for horses from NI and the current Sanitary Grouping of the relevant territories/countries and on the OV's familiarity with accommodation arrangements for the horse since it exited the European Union and Northern Ireland and the procedures in place at any event in which the horse participated.

4. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

Some export certificates for animals and animal products will include statements that will require the OV to certify that specified zones or the entire country of origin are free from certain diseases.

Certifying Officers must check the following sources of disease information for the United Kingdom immediately prior to certification, to ensure disease freedom statements can be certified:

- the Notifiable Disease Occurrence List for Great Britain (ET171) available on the [Exports > Certification Procedures](#) page of the APHA Vet Gateway
- the UK Status for Non-Notifiable Diseases Relevant to Export Certification (ET152) available on the [Exports > Certification Procedures](#) page of the APHA Vet Gateway.

For Great Britain:

In the absence of a specific Notifiable Disease Clearance (618NDC) from CITC:

Certifying Officers may certify that GB has disease free status or region free status for those diseases mentioned in the health certificate, once they have checked the disease list(s) for the last occurrence of the disease and have ensured it complies with the time frames in the certificate.

In the event of a disease outbreak that affects a Certifying Officer being able to obtain their own disease clearance, CITC will notify Certifying Officers to make it clear which disease freedom statements should not be certified and where necessary, will issue a 618NDC notifiable disease clearance if the EHC can continue to be issued for certain regions that retain free status.

In the event of a disease outbreak after the EHC has been issued that affects the disease clearance, Certifying Officers must not certify the EHC and must contact CITC immediately for advice on whether certification can still take place. If a disease outbreak affects the disease clearance procedures for this EHC, a 618NDC will be reinstated by CITC which will be issued with the EHC until a time when disease clearance can be reinstated.

NOTE: This does not apply to Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) or Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) freedom statements.

5. COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE

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

6. CONSIGNMENTS OR PARTS OF THE CONSIGNMENT ORIGINATING FROM NI , EU MEMBER STATES OR FROM THIRD COUNTRIES (TRIANGULAR TRADE) [WHEN APPLICABLE]

NI origin:

Consignments could potentially contain animals or animal products which have originated in Northern Ireland. For Northern Ireland origin raw materials which have then been processed into a final product in GB, or are presented in their original state and bearing a UK(NI) identification mark, the Certifying Officer can certify certain matters relating to EU compliance at a national level.

Where the EHC refers to EU approval status of the premises of origin or manufacture in NI, this can be certified under the terms of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement and the Northern

Ireland Protocol (NIP). The NIP treats NI as if it is in the EU SPS zone (which includes the EEA/EFTA states). Approved and registered premises in NI continue to implement the full requirements of Regulation (EC) Nos. 852/2004 and 853/2004 and Regulation (EU) No. 2017/625 and all relevant supporting EU legislation as set out in Annex 2 to the Protocol. This compliance is indicated by the presence of the EU oval health and identification marks applied to the products.

Some examples, but not a complete list, of how assurance can be established at national level are listed below.

Compliance with the microbiological criteria set out in Regulation (EC) No. 2073/2015 can be certified if the products originate in an EU approved premises in NI, and bearing the EU oval ID mark.

Public health statements referring to compliance with EU requirements for testing for residues as set out in Regulation (EU) No_ 2017/625, Directive (EC) Nos 96/22 and 470/2009 can be certified by the Certifying Officer on the basis of a national residue surveillance programme implemented in NI under The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for residues and maximum Residues Limits) Regulation (NI) 2016. This forms part of the UK national surveillance programme.

With regards to controls for Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies, guidance provided in this document relating to statements about the method of slaughter of animals in GB also applies to animals slaughtered in NI and can be certified by the Certifying Officer on that basis.

Disease clearance for animals or products originating in NI can be completed using auto-clearance NDC found here:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/notifiable-diseases-northern-ireland>

Where regional or local level disease clearance is required, this can be certified upon request on the basis of information from NI in the form of a declaration or a supporting health attestation.

Animal health statements which refer to the prohibition of certain vaccination programmes e.g. against FMD or CSF or ASF can be certified at a national level by the Certifying Officer on the basis that NI also enforces a ban on such vaccinations in accordance with EU regulations.

Statements relating to implementation of a national system for identification and registration of bovine animals can be certified on the basis of the requirement to register all bovine animal births, moves and deaths on the DAERA database.

Animal welfare statements can be certified by the Certifying Officer on the basis that relevant inspections, monitoring and controls are implemented in NI through The Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing Regulations (NI) 2014 as amended, in compliance with Regulation (EC) No. 1099/2009.

Animal By-Products are handled in accordance with EU Regulation 1069/2009, which is implemented by the EU Implementing Regulation 142/2011, and ABP statements for materials originating in NI, can be certified on that basis.

When the certificate requires specific information to be included, such as the date of slaughter or the date of introduction into NI, the GB exporter/Certifying Officer must request this information from the NI exporter. This NI exporter may forward the request to the relevant NI Certifying Officer to provide this information. This supporting information must be in writing and kept by the GB Certifying Officer. The GB Certifying Officer is not required to attach it as a supporting document to the EHC, unless requested by the EU Border Control Post or told otherwise.

EU origin:

It is possible that some consignments may contain animal products that are of EU origin and were imported into GB on a Commercial Document or EU Intra-Trade Animal Health Certificate (ITAHC). The Commercial Document may not contain enough information to allow the Certifying Officer to sign an EHC.

In such cases, the Certifying Officer will need further information from the EU member state regarding particular attestations on the EHC that cannot be signed by the Certifying Officer without support documentation. Thus, the GB exporter must request from the EU exporter an attestation or written declaration from an EU registered vet. The GB exporter may wish to obtain these directly from the EU vet who has inspected the animal products before export from the EU.

When the certificate requires specific information to be included, such as the date of slaughter or the date of introduction into the EU, the GB exporter/Certifying Officer must request this information from the EU exporter. This EU exporter may forward the request to the relevant EU vet to provide this information. This supporting information must be in writing and kept by the GB CO. The GB Certifying Officer is not required to attach it as a supporting document to the EHC, unless requested by the EU Border Control Post or told otherwise.

Third country origin:

It is also possible that some consignments may contain animals or POAO that have been imported to GB from non-EU countries, which GB exporters intend to export to EU (known as Triangular Trade). These could have been subject to further processing in GB. In these cases, Certifying Officers may obtain a copy of the EHC for the import of such commodity from the Third Country to the GB.

GB Certifying Officers are not required to attach a copy of the Third Country EHC as a supporting document to the EHC, unless requested by the EU Border Control Post or specifically instructed in the NFG.

It is the GB exporter's ultimate responsibility to obtain any necessary support documents (from the EU member state exporter/Third Country exporter), to enable GB Certifying Officers to be able to certify the products in good time before the export to the EU.

7. DECLARATION BY THE OPERATOR RESPONSIBLE FOR ENTRY INTO THE UNION OF THE CONSIGNMENT OF EQUINE ANIMAL NOT INTENDED FOR SLAUGHTER

This declaration can be found at the end of the certificate and must be signed separately by the owner or representative of the owner (operator) and provided to the certifying OV before the certificate is required to be signed.

8. ANIMAL WELFARE ATTESTATION

This attestation has not been included in this Model Certificate but the Declaration by the operator responsible contains declaration regarding the health and welfare of the equine animal. Defra request all OV's ensure compliance to animal welfare legislation.

Animal Welfare

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 and all animals should be transported in conditions guaranteed not to cause them injury of unnecessary suffering. The conditions related to fitness of animals for transport during the intended journey are set out in Article 3(b) and Annex I, Chapter I of Council Regulation 1/2005. 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 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;
- Long journeys:
 - Except if animals are 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.

9. CLINICAL EXAMINATION

The inspection must be carried out within the 48 hours period or on the last working day prior to departure from the registered establishment. 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.

10. 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 the printed text on each page and under the last entry. The schedule forms part of the certificate. All pages of the certificate, including the schedule, must be sequentially numbered. Any blank spaces in the schedule or the certificate should be struck through with diagonal lines.

Further guidance is available here:

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

11. CERTIFIED COPIES OF EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATES

When completing export certification, the Certifying Officer must make photocopies of, or scan and save all documents they certify. OV's must retain copies of certification documents in accordance with RCVS Certification principles.

<https://www.rcvs.org.uk/setting-standards/advice-and-guidance/code-of-professional-conduct-for-veterinary-surgeons/supporting-guidance/certification/>

Certifying Officers must retain copies of all export documentation for a period of two years. A certified copy of this EHC does not need to be returned to the APHA CITC. For the purposes of completing routine Quality Assurance checks on export certification, CITC may request certified copies of certification from Certifying Officers.

Further details on Post Certifying Procedures, 'certified copies' of certification and the types of documents that should be retained by Certifying Officers can be found on the [APHA Vet Gateway](#).

12. LEGAL STATEMENT

The existing EU legislation that the UK complied with prior to the end of the Transition Period has been 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". The EU standards that this legislation includes continue to remain in force, without substantive amendment, as part of UK domestic law (apart from corrections to make the EU legislation fully operable).

13. 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 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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