



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Trade to Member States of the European Union in Cattle, Sheep and Pigs Destined for Fattening, Production or Slaughter

Pre-export inspection, certification and related procedures

July 2021



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APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

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Introduction

This document explains the role of the exporter, the Department, APHA Official Veterinarian in certifying live cattle, sheep and pigs for export from GB destined for fattening/production or slaughter to Member States of the European Union (EU).

Glossary

Glossary of terms	
TARP	The Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations 2011 for England and equivalent legislation in Scotland and Wales.
APHA	Animal and Plant Health Agency
CITC	Centre for International Trade – Carlisle
Destined for breeding	Means to be transported to a place of destination where the animals are intended for breeding.
Destined for fattening (sheep)	Means other than those destined for slaughter or breeding, which are intended to be transported to a place of destination where the sheep will be fattened with a view to meat production.
Destined for slaughter	Means intended to be transported to a place of destination which is either a slaughterhouse in order to be slaughtered there or assembly market or assembly centre from which they may only move to slaughter.
Member State of the EU	Member State of the European Union
Exporter	The exporter is the person who either owns, or is the consignor of, the animals and is responsible either directly, or through his agent, for applying for the export health certification.
Export Health Certificate	This expression covers the identification, inspection and certification of a consignment prior to the loading of the animals for transporting for export.
Relevant export list	Relevant export list is the list of names of Official Veterinarians who are appointed by the Minister to the Official Controls Qualification (Veterinarian) (OCQ(V)) for Ungulate Exports (UX) set up to deal with these types of export health certification.
Official Veterinarian	An Official Veterinarian appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural affairs, Scottish Government, Welsh Government –, on the appropriate OCQ(V) for export purposes, may sign the export health

	<p>certificate.</p> <p>Local Veterinary Inspectors are Official Veterinarians appointed by Defra to act as agents on the Minister's behalf to carry out certain duties. The duties and conditions under which Official Veterinarians are appointed are set out in the Memorandum of Conditions of Appointment of Local Veterinary Inspectors. The Memorandum also sets out the conditions and the training that a veterinary surgeon requires before he or she may be appointed to an Official Veterinarian panel or sub-panel.</p> <p>The panels list the specific duties a person holding an Official Veterinarian appointment may carry out. Official Veterinarians undertaking export certification work for this type of trade are appointed to OCQ(V) (UX) (ungulate exports).</p>
Member States	Member States of the EU: These are Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Transporter	Transporter is the person responsible for the vehicle to be used to carry the animals for a journey by road, or other means.
WATO	Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order 2006, as amended or equivalent legislation in Scotland and Wales.

Responsibilities of the exporter

1. The exporter (or the exporter's agent) is responsible for:
 - (a) establishing that the premises of destination in a Member State of the EU are appropriate to the category of stock for which export certification is being sought e.g. slaughter stock should be destined only to a slaughterhouse or slaughter market;
 - (b) ensuring submission to CITC – Exports, Carlisle well in advance of the proposed export date of:
 - a correctly completed application form for a health certificate,
 - any necessary journey log (paragraphs 4/5);
 - (c) ensuring that the place of inspection for the proposed certification of the consignment has available sufficient facilities and staff (paragraph 6);
 - (d) arranging with the nominated Official Veterinarian a time for the inspection/certification of the export consignment (paragraph 22) and paying the Official Veterinarian for this work (paragraph 3);
 - (e) informing APHA and the nominated Official Veterinarian immediately they are aware:
 - that an inspection prior to export health certification is no longer required (e.g. export cancelled, departure/loading date changed)
 - of any changes to the journey log before the journey commences;
 - (f) ensuring that the animals to be presented for certification inspection by the Official Veterinarian are:
 - individually identified and sorted ready for inspection by the Official Veterinarian,
 - fit to be loaded and to travel to their intended destination (paragraph 7(a));
 - (g) ensuring that movement records and declarations relating to the animals in the proposed consignment are available for inspection by the Official Veterinarian prior to the certification (paragraph 7(b));
 - (h) complying with any Notices served under:
 - the Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations 2011 in respect of animals reasonably suspected of being intended for export in contravention of Regulation 5 (paragraph 41),
 - the Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order 2006 in respect of animals rejected as not fit for transport (paragraphs 43-45), including any conditions relating to the necessary treatment, or other action, for the animals;

- (i) ensuring that animals which are to be loaded for export have been accommodated at the premises of loading for the stipulated period, watered and fed, and if necessary cared for (paragraph 8);
 - (j) ensuring that once animals are certified for export
 - their animal health and welfare status is not compromised;
 - the only animals loaded for export are ones which are individually identified on the Certificate and which are healthy and fit to travel on their intended journey (paragraph 8);
 - (k) notifying APHA if a consignment which has been certified is cancelled or its details change (paragraph 9);
 - (l) applying for another certificate if the export is delayed and **either** the validity of certificate has run out or the necessary inspection time prior to loading for export no longer applies (paragraphs 10-11).
 - (m) For Cattle exports, notifying BCMS and APHA of the actual number of cattle consigned for export by submitting Bovine-CON form and “Off” movement cards.
2. Certain Member State of the EU countries may have additional requirements. Prospective exporters should in the first instance contact CITC for advice. Copies of the application form Export Health Certificate and Notes for Guidance of Official Veterinarians and Exporters are all available from [Form Finder](#) on GOV.UK. Copies of this “procedures” paper and other support documents are also available on [Form Finder](#).
3. For the consignment which is to be exported, the certification work referred to in this document is that which is laid down in EU law. The Official Veterinarian who provides the export health certification service will require payment for this work. For the time being the payment of Official Veterinarian fees for this work is a private matter between the Official Veterinarian and the exporter, i.e. the exporter will be responsible for paying the Official Veterinarian directly. If the importer requires additional assurances over and above those laid down in EC law, the cost of that additional work will be a matter between the exporter and the Official Veterinarian carrying out the certification, as will the cost of any supplementary documentation provided by the Official Veterinarian at the farm of origin.¹

Submission of applications for certification and journey logs

4. To ensure that the necessary export certificate can be processed in time the application form for the export health certificate and any necessary journey log (see paragraph 6 below) should be received by the Centre for International Trade – Carlisle at least two working days before the intended date of shipment. Applications and journey logs received in less than two working days will be dealt with but no guarantee can be given

¹ This paragraph does not necessarily assume that the veterinary surgeon carrying out the additional assurances or checks sought by the importer has to be the same person as the one carrying out the inspection for the purposes of issuing the export health certificate. Where additional assurances or checks are sought by the importer, it is for the exporter to establish what is required on an individual consignment basis.

to meet the intended date of shipment - see also paragraph 16 below. Where new certificates have to be drawn up or existing certificates amended, considerably longer notice is required. Application forms for animals requiring pre-export isolation should be submitted at least 10 working days prior to the commencement of pre-export isolation.

5. Journey log must be submitted to CITC for all journeys where the journey time exceeds 8 hours. The transporter of the animals is responsible for the submission of journey log. The journey log must give details of the whole journey from the point of departure to the point of destination. UK transporters wishing to transport live animals to Member States of the EU need to obtain Journey Logs from APHA and the European Union (EU) Member State that is the initial point of entry into the EU. Journey Logs submitted to APHA need to cover the whole of the journey. Journey logs submitted to the EU Member State of entry need to cover the journey from the Border Control Post (BCP) of entry to the premises of destination. Transporters need to present their approved Journey Logs at the BCP in the EU.

Provision of sufficient facilities and staff

6. The exporter (or the exporter's agent) will have to confirm that the premises on which animals are to be certified has sufficient facilities and will have sufficient staff available to enable the Official Veterinarian to carry out the export procedures fully (see **Annex 2**). The exporter (or the exporter's agent) will need to discuss this with the Official Veterinarian when making arrangements for the inspection (paragraph 22).

Failure to provide such facilities and staff could delay the consignment and increase the costs of certification.

Pre-inspection preparation by exporter (or agent)

7. To facilitate the inspection and certification the exporter (or the exporter's agent) should ensure that:-
 - (a) the animals which are to be included in the proposed consignment are;
 - (i) **held separately** from any other animals which are not part of that consignment. Un-castrated male adults should be held separately from each other and from females or castrated males unless they have been raised in compatible groups or are accustomed to one another. In the case of pigs they should preferably be held in the social groups in which they have been reared;
 - (ii) **individually identified** by means of a mark or tag as required by the legislation for the time being in force for the movement and identification of animals. It is unlawful under
 - Regulation 8 of the Cattle Identification Regulations 2007 (as amended) to consign an animal for trade to Member States of the EU unless it is tagged in each ear with an eartag approved by Defra in accordance with Article 4.1 of EU Council & Parliament Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 (formerly 820/97).

The animal must be accompanied by a full valid passport in accordance with Article 6 of the EU Regulation as enforced by Regulation 25(2) of the Cattle Identification Regulations 2007 (as amended).

- Article 5(1) of The Pigs (Records, Identification and Movement) Order 2011) to move a pig with a view to its being moved to a place outside GB unless before the movement commences it is marked with an identification mark (which should be legible for the life of the pig to which it is applied) in the form of an ear tag or of a tattoo.
- the Pigs (Records, Identification and Movement) Order 2011.
- Article 8 of the Sheep and Goat (Records, Identification and Movement) (England) Order 2009 to consign any sheep or goat for transport outside GB unless it is marked with two means of identification, one of which must be an eartag.
- Article 9 of the Sheep and Goats (Identification and Traceability) (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The above legislation specifies the information which should be contained on the mark or tag.

NB. More detailed information is contained in the guidance notes supplied with the relevant Export Health Certificate

- (iii) **fit to be loaded and to travel on the intended journey.** The exporter, or the person responsible for transporting the animals, commits a criminal offence if they transport an animal in a way which causes, or is likely to cause, injury or unnecessary suffering or if they carry an animal which is not fit for transport;
- (b) any necessary movement records, declarations or other **documentation necessary to ensure proper certification**, and to ensure the health status of the animals in the consignment is maintained, are available to the Official Veterinarian in a form which allows easy access and inspection **prior** to the certification. **Failure to provide such information could delay the consignment and increase the costs of certification.**

Animals: Care prior to journey and Post certification and procedural requirements

8. Exporters are reminded that animals which are to be loaded for export should have been accommodated at the premises of loading for at least 24 hours, watered, fed, and if necessary cared for. In addition, once the animals have been certified for export, exporters are responsible for ensuring that:
 - their animal health status is not compromised by contact with animals which have not been certified to the same animal health standard,
 - the only animals loaded for export are ones which are individually identified on the Certificate and which are healthy and fit to travel on the intended journey.

Exporters must not substitute animals in the consignment after the export health certificate has been signed. Exporters must ensure that only animals fit for transport are loaded for export. Any animal(s) becoming unfit following

health certification by an Official Veterinarian and/or during loading or transport must be separated/removed/unloaded at the earliest available opportunity and cared for as required by national legislation. If an exporter decides not to load certain animals certified for export e.g. due to lack of space on the vehicle or for commercial reasons, the number and identification details of these animals must be noted on the journey log. The health certificate must not, under any circumstances, be amended by the exporter/transporter to reflect the reduction in the number of animals being exported. See also paragraph 10 below.

Cancellation or changes to the consignment details Post certification

9. If the consignment is cancelled, or its date/time has changed significantly, or a different vehicle is used, or all the animals are not loaded, the exporter must notify CITC.

In particular the exporter must notify CITC of the relevant details if after the Official Veterinarian has issued the certificate the following occur:-

- (a) the vehicle registration number changes from that specified in the export health certificate;
- (b) a certified consignment is not loaded for export during the allowed period;
- (c) the export is cancelled;
- (d) not all the animals certified for export are loaded.

Cattle Exports -Consignor confirmation following loading of consignment for export / passports and 'off' movement cards/cancellation or changes to the consignment details following certification

Positive confirmation by the consignor is required following loading of cattle for export. This is to enable details of the country of destination and the Export Health Certificate (EHC) number to be recorded on the Cattle Tracing System (CTS) / Livestock database against the exported animals. The consignor must complete form Bovine-Consignor Confirmation (Bovine-CON) and send it to the BCMS together with a **copy** of the EHC (and copies of additional schedules, if any) **and** 'OFF' movement cards in respect of the (GB) animals (issued with a passport by BCMS) eventually loaded for export. If any of the animals, although certified, have not been loaded for export (for whatever reason), the **copy** must be annotated by the consignor to identify these animals e.g. by crossing out the identification/passport entries in respect of those animals, and the number of animals entry at Box 1.25 (Part I) of the **copy** EHC updated by printing 'Only XXX loaded for export'. The number of 'OFF' movement cards enclosed with the copy EHC must equal the number of animals in Box 1.25 (and in the case of animals which have arrived directly from a Member State of the EU at an Assembly Centre) minus the number of animals which originated from a Member State of the EU, as updated by the consignor. All annotations must be signed and dated by the owner/consignor/assembly centre operator. **The original EHC (and any original additional schedules) must not be annotated / tampered with by the owner / consignor / assembly centre operator.**

The consignor must also send a copy of the completed Bovine-CON form to CITC, enclosing a copy of the EHC, annotated or otherwise. In the case of animals which have arrived directly from a Member State of the EU at an Assembly Centre, the consignor must

also include a copy of the ITAHC issued in the Member State of the EU, together with the schedule of identification numbers. If any of the certified animals is/have not been loaded for export, the consignor must also ensure that a copy of the completed Bovine-CON form and the annotated certificate/schedule is attached to the original EHC, and accompanies the consignment to its destination. If the consignment is cancelled, or its date/time of departure has changed significantly, or a different vehicle is used the consignor must notify CITC, giving details of these changes, too.

Validity of Export Health Certificates

10. All export health certificates contain a validity clause. The Period specified is that contained in EU rules which for these exports are 10 days (operative with effect from the date of the certifying veterinarian's signature on the certificate following inspection of the animals until the date they reach their destination). EU rules require that the **inspection and certification** should take place in the case of:

- **cattle, sheep and pigs within 24 hours of loading**

11. A consignment must be re-certified where

(a) the period of validity of a health **certificate** has, or is likely to have expired:

- **prior to the animals leaving Great Britain**
- **before the completion of the journey** to the **destination** shown on the export health certificate and journey log;

(b) animals have **not been loaded during the appropriate period** (see paragraph 11 above) after the certificate was issued.

Such circumstances will necessitate the exporter submitting to CITC, a new export health certification application and journey log (if applicable).

Responsibilities of the Department and Animal and Plant Health Agency

12. The CITC is responsible for:

- (a) **providing** any necessary **export certification** in accordance with the relevant rules;
- (b) **considering and**, where they are in order, providing the stamping **of journey logs** (paragraph 16);
- (c) **providing the Official Veterinarian** with the relevant training and supervision, Departmental documentation, and instructions (paragraph 18);
- (d) **appointing** (and suspending or terminating the appointment of) **Official Veterinarians** to the relevant export list;

- (e) **responding** to any of the **Official Veterinarian's queries** as necessary before, or during, the inspection/certification;
- (f) **nominating an Official Veterinarian** from the relevant export list to undertake the export certification procedures on behalf of the Department (paragraph 13);
- (g) **carrying out**
 - (i) additional non-discriminatory **inspections** of animals prior to loading and during transport to check that the requirements of animal health and welfare requirements have been complied with,
 - (ii) **follow up checks** on farms, as necessary, in relation to welfare problems identified during pre-export checks;
- (h) **liaison** with the relevant **local authority** about their responsibilities (including any prosecution action) under the animal health and welfare legislation (paragraphs 42 and 49);
- (i) **paying the Official Veterinarian** for any animal welfare related work necessary under the WATO;
- (j) carrying out **an audit** of Official Veterinarians' work on export certification and the related WATO work;
- (k) **notifying** via the TRACES computer system **the receiving Member State** of the details of the certified consignment, intended destination, replacement and cancelled messages etc;
- (l) where fraudulent activities are suspected, following up as appropriate. All communications with the authorities of Member States of the EU must be done via Imports and EU Trade team, Nobel House.

Nominating the Official Veterinarian

13. The exporter may choose an Official Veterinarian or Official Veterinarian practice to certify particular export consignments. The Official Veterinarian nominated by the Department will, where possible, be the same as requested by the exporter, provided that veterinary surgeon is on the relevant export list.

If the Official Veterinarian/ practice is known to have any direct commercial interest or conflicts of interest e.g. employed/related to exporter, (see also paragraphs 19 and 20 below) CITC will provide information for a different Official Veterinarian/Official Veterinarian practice not known to have such an interest or conflict.

Export documentation to Official Veterinarian

14. The CITC will send the following documents to the Official Veterinarian after a **valid** export application has been received from the exporter or the exporter's agent:-
 - (a) original health certificate, and supplementary certificate, if appropriate;
 - (b) export certificates for transit countries, if appropriate;
 - (c) a standard letter from CITC dealing with procedures, including a Departmental contact tel. no;
 - (d) the stamped journey log where journeys are for more than 8 hours.
15. The CITC will **aim** to send to the Official Veterinarian the documents referred to in paragraphs 14(a)-(d) above as soon as feasible and at the latest by 1 working day prior to the date of export. However, CITC ability to meet this aim will depend on whether or not a valid application and any necessary journey log has been received well in advance of the proposed shipment date.

If the exporter/transporter fails to submit the necessary paperwork in due time the Official Veterinarian may not receive the relevant documentation in sufficient time to exercise his/her functions as the certifying veterinarian prior to the intended date/time of export

Journey log

16. Only when the Department is content that the information on the journey log is complete and verifiable and that the log provides for feed, water and rest of the animals in accordance with EC requirements, implemented in WATO, will the journey log be stamped with an official Department stamp, signed and dated in red ink and the unique serial number of the export health certificate inserted on the journey log. Official Veterinarians will not inspect the animals until they are aware of the time and place of loading, journey details and destination for the animals. Where a journey log is necessary, the Official Veterinarian must not sign and issue an export health certificate for a consignment unless they have seen an officially stamped journey log with the corresponding health certificate number inserted by the Centre for International Trade - Carlisle. Where alterations are made to the date of export following the stamping of the journey log by the Department, the Centre for International Trade - Carlisle will be prepared to consider any necessary changes to the journey log, if submitted within the time constraints.

Official Veterinarians

17. Official Veterinarians are Local Veterinary Inspectors appointed by the Secretary of State to carry out certain official duties on his/her behalf and given specific training and instructions to help them carry out those duties.

18. Prior to the appointment of Official Veterinarians, they will be required to undertake relevant training. Information on training in Departmental procedures for the various OCQ(V) duties can be found on [Improve International](#). It is the responsibility of the veterinary practice to ensure there is someone who holds the relevant panel(s) to carry out the certification duties.
19. Official Veterinarians are reminded that whilst undertaking export health certification work they are acting on behalf of the Minister. They are required to act in a manner which ensures the integrity of the export health certification. In particular they must ensure that they undertake those duties in an impartial manner in accordance with the relevant procedures and instructions issued by the Secretary of State in relation to their appointment as Official Veterinarians and the export health certification work. They must also take account of guidance issued by RCVS/Defra/BVA on certification work.
20. Neither the Official Veterinarian nor an employee of the Official Veterinarian's veterinary practice should have a direct commercial or conflict of interest in the animals being certified for export or in the holdings or establishments from which they originate. If such an interest exists, the Official Veterinarian must notify CITC immediately. Where it is known that an Official Veterinarian or an employee of the Official Veterinarian's veterinary practice has such an interest in relation to a particular application, the Department will not nominate the Official Veterinarian concerned.

Neither the Official Veterinarian nor an employee of the Official Veterinarian's veterinary practice should sign the application form for certification as the exporter's "agent" as this introduces a conflict with the Official Veterinarian's responsibilities to the Department.

Responsibilities of the Official Veterinarian

21. In accordance with the procedures described in this document and any other instructions issued by the Department, e.g. Notes for Guidance, the Official Veterinarian is responsible for;
 - (a) **checking** that the **documentation** received from the Department or the exporter for the purposes of facilitating the export health certification is relevant to the consignment;
 - (b) **certifying** that the **health conditions of the export certificate** have been complied with (paragraphs 24-29, 33-35);
 - (c) **checking** that the **relevant animal welfare requirements are met** when undertaking the export health certification of a particular consignment (paragraphs 24-32);
 - (d) **notifying** CITC if, following the **rejection of animal(s)** due to clinical signs, incorrect identification or contact with animals from a holding with specified diseases, there is reason to suspect that the animal(s) are **likely to be exported** (paragraph 40);

- (e) **taking** any necessary **action under WATO** following inspection of animals for export certification (paragraphs 43-47);
- (f) **notifying** CITC of any **animal welfare problems** identified during pre-export checks (paragraph 46).

Pre-inspection

- 22. On receipt of the export paperwork from the Department, the Official Veterinarian makes arrangements with the exporter, or the exporter's agent, as to the date/time to carry out the inspection of the animals required as part of the export certification procedure.
- 23. Official Veterinarians should not undertake an inspection of the animals unless they are aware of the time and place of loading, the journey details, destination for the animals and any necessary documentation relevant to the certification procedure. In order to carry out the inspection and certification, amongst other things it is necessary for the Official Veterinarian to be aware of:
 - the planned time for the start of the journey, because EU rules lay down the period prior to loading during which an inspection for certification is to take place,
 - the length and nature of the journey on which the animals are to be transported because this could have a bearing on the animals' fitness to travel on the intended journey.

Inspection of the animals

- 24. The wording prescribed for certificates by EU rules varies according to species/category of animal: some certificates state that animals have been inspected and others that animals have been examined. For the purposes of export certification, EU legislation does not separately define the terms 'inspection' and 'examination' and for practical purposes inspection and visual examination are synonymous.
- 25. Each animal subjected to an inspection is appraised as an individual. The pre-export inspection initially consists of a visual appraisal of each of the animals intended for export. Where as a result of this initial visual appraisal there is doubt about the health status or fitness for transport of an animal, the Official Veterinarian may, if deemed appropriate, conduct a physical examination of the animal(s) concerned.
- 26. Some export procedures have different inspection or examination requirements. Official Veterinarians use their professional judgement to decide what is required in order to ensure that:
 - no animal is exported which shows signs of infectious or contagious disease or otherwise does not comply with the requirements for export, and
 - each of the animals is fit to travel to its intended destination. Fitness of the animals to travel on the intended journey is a paramount consideration.

Veterinary inspectors have power under WATO to prohibit the transport of animals which in their professional judgement are unfit or which are likely to be

caused injury or unnecessary suffering during transport. The Government has made clear its intention that Official Veterinarians must be able to perform this statutory function.

27. This inspection process is not a detailed examination of each animal but a visual appraisal of each animal's
- health status, and
 - an assessment of its fitness to be loaded and to travel on the intended journey without being caused injury or unnecessary suffering.
28. The inspection technique adopted by the Official Veterinarian will differ according to the type of animal involved. It is up to the Official Veterinarian to determine how best this inspection should be performed. The Official Veterinarian will use her/his clinical expertise in recognising those animals showing signs of abnormality and in need of individual examination. The normal procedure would be to appraise animals visually from both sides while they are walking slowly past the Official Veterinarian. The speed at which animals pass must be capable of being regulated and assistance should be available to separate and catch animals which require further examination. Calves may either be gathered loosely in a pen so that they can be adequately observed and inspected and if necessary individually restrained or be walked slowly through a race or appropriate calf handling system and observed whilst walking through. Adult bovines should be inspected by observing them walking through a race or observed walking at a steady pace slowly around a loosely stocked barn or across an enclosed yard.

Where inspections of bovines, sheep or pigs during previous exports from the same premises have reported finding unfit animals, (e.g. animals were too young and/or the navel was not completely healed), future consignments from the same unit must be subjected to much greater checks on age and fitness to travel (agreed with CITC) until the Official Veterinarian is satisfied that the rules are being complied with and CITC agrees that inspections may be reduced to normal levels.

29. In inspecting for export health certification and assessing the animals' fitness for transport (see also paragraphs 30-32), the Official Veterinarian will use her/his clinical expertise in looking for signs indicating, for example:-
- Abscesses
 - Abnormal or unnatural behaviour
 - Debility
 - Emaciation
 - Hernias
 - Infectious diseases e.g. pneumonia, enteritis
 - Injuries or lacerations
 - Lameness
 - Pre- or post- natal conditions
 - Skin conditions
 - Unilateral or bilateral blindness
 - Any other condition that is likely to cause unnecessary suffering (e.g. ingrown horns)
 - Prolapse
 - Navels not completely healed
 - Unhealed wounds from dehorning or castration

This list provides examples only. It is not a comprehensive list of all animal health or welfare (see also paragraphs 30-32) problems which an Official Veterinarian using his professional judgement needs to consider when determining whether or not to reject an animal from certification.

Guidance on lameness is contained in “*The Casualty Sheep*” and “*The Casualty Pig*” published by the British Veterinary Association Animal Welfare Foundation, 7 Mansfield Street, London W1M 0AT.

Welfare

30. Council Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport Article 3 (a) lays down the provisions with respect to fitness of animals to be transported on the intended journey. Annex I, Chapter I states that:

- no animal shall be transported unless it is fit for the intended journey, and all animals shall be transported in conditions guaranteed not to cause them injury or unnecessary suffering.

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, lambs of less than 1 week old and calves of less than 10 days of age, unless they are transported less than 100km.

Official Veterinarians must also be aware that if animals are being exported, they must have been on the premises and rested, cared for, and fed and watered as stipulated under WATO, as follows:

In the case of departure (certification) from a holding:

Animals must have been accommodated (rested, fed and watered) at the place of departure for at least 48 hours prior to the start of an export journey.

In the case of departure (certification) from an assembly centre:

- (i) Animals can begin their export journey as soon as they have been certified if they have travelled in from a holding (and been rested, fed and watered on that holding for 48 hours) within 100km of the assembly centre/assembly market.
- (ii) Animals which have travelled from holdings more than 100km from an assembly centre must be rested, fed watered and if possible untied for at least 6 hours at the assembly centre/assembly market before the export journey commences.

It is recommended that animals travelling any distance into assembly centres be given a rest of 24 hours to let them recover fully from their journey before further transport.

31. Official Veterinarians are reminded that the Department advises exporters that they should not transport newly-shorn sheep in circumstances where they are likely to be exposed to adverse weather conditions, either during loading, unloading or any other part of the journey. This advice applies to any journey during a period of cold weather. Exporters have been reminded that it is an offence to transport animals in a way which causes or is likely to cause injury or unnecessary suffering and newly shorn animals transported in low temperatures might fall into this category.
32. **The rejection of unfit animals is a key objective of the inspection arrangements. Official Veterinarians are expected to reject animals where in their professional judgement there is any doubt over their fitness for the proposed journey.**

Identification of the animals

33. The marking or tagging of animals (governed at present by the Pigs (Records, Identification and Movement) Order the Cattle Identification Regulations (CIRs) 2007 as amended and the Sheep and Goat (Records, Identification and Movement) (England) Order 2009, and equivalent legislation in the Devolved Administrations) is required for the purposes of identifying individual animals which are the subject of export health certification. In addition, Official Veterinarians need to be satisfied that each animal is individually identified in accordance with the Schedule to the health certificate.
34. The “Official Veterinarian practice”, if necessary with assistance from a lay employee in the practice (NOT someone in the employ of the exporter, transporter or agent) will be responsible for reading and recording the identification marks, and ear tags, as well as other details, of each individual animal, for the purposes of the Schedule to the certificate. In the case of animals which have not been fully identified for export, the “Official Veterinarian practice” will be responsible for supervising the marking/tagging of the animals by the exporter or his agent during the inspection for the purpose of export health certification. The exporter and/or his agent or their staff should assist the “Official Veterinarian practice” by handling or holding animals to facilitate the identification and inspection process.

“Official Veterinarian practice” means the Official Veterinarian, or a lay person in the employment of the veterinary practice acting under the “direction” of the Official Veterinarian

“Direction” means the Official Veterinarian gives his/her employee directions in regard to the checks to be carried out

35. Either the Official Veterinarian or if necessary with assistance from a lay employee of the Official Veterinarian practice should carry out the identification procedures of the animals (paragraph 34). If Official Veterinarians carry this out, they should undertake the identification procedures for all the animals in the consignment. If a lay employee of the veterinary practice carries out the identification procedures of the animals, the Official Veterinarian should conduct a check on the identity of a portion of the consignment selected at random to verify the accuracy of the data recorded by the lay employee for the Schedule to the certificate. Where the initial check is carried out by the lay employee, the level of check carried out by the Official Veterinarian will be

statistically based using the guidance contained in Annex 3. However, if incorrectly identified animals are found during this sample check, the Official Veterinarian should conduct a full identity check on the whole consignment.

Factors affecting time for inspecting/identifying animals for certification

36. Different ages and types of stock will require different degrees of inspection and the time taken will vary accordingly. A range of factors will affect the time taken by the Official Veterinarian to complete pre-export procedures. It is important to note that such factors may be beyond the control of the Official Veterinarian and the amount by which the time varies is not necessarily related to the number of animals to be exported. For example:-
- (a) **more** time will be needed if those presenting the animals have not checked them thoroughly for health and fitness and as a result some of the animals have to be subjected to a physical examination in addition to the visual appraisal;
 - (b) if the facilities for inspection are not optimal for the task, it will take the Official Veterinarian longer to do her/his job. The area must be well lit. There should be sufficient staff on hand to assist;
 - (c) different ages, classes and species of stock require different techniques of inspection;
 - (d) the weather and the time of year may affect inspection times;
 - (e) insufficient or incorrect documentation, e.g. failure of exporter to provide necessary supporting documentation, will also result in delay or the export being prevented;
 - (f) changes to export times, cancellation of shipments taking place either just before, during or after certification inspection visit. Changes affecting the time of the export which take place after certification of a consignment may necessitate a further inspection visit and reconsideration of the journey log in consultation with CITC;
 - (g) mechanical failure of vehicles or other factors resulting in changes to the vehicles in which the consignment is to be exported either on the day of the certification inspection visit or after certification may necessitate a further inspection visit and reconsideration of the journey log in consultation with CITC;
 - (h) whether or not sheep are horned or shorn;
 - (i) distance from pens to inspection/loading pen e.g. if the animals to be inspected for certification have to be brought from different places on a large site to the inspection pen.

Minimum inspection/identification time indicators

37. The following are suggested as indicators for the minimum time to be spent [by an Official Veterinarian] on **inspection** and **identification** for the purposes of export health certification:-

Identification time indicators	
Type of Animal	Numbers per hour
<u>Sheep</u>	
Rams and Ewes	200
Lambs	400
<u>Pigs</u>	
Adults	30
Weaners	80
<u>Cattle</u>	
Pigs	
Calves up to 6 weeks	120
Calves 6 weeks to 4 months	60
Bovine 4 to 12 months	30
Bovine over 12 months	30

The considerations set out in paragraph 36 and any others affecting a particular consignment could result in a considerably longer time being required to carry out the inspection of the animals.

It is important for the Official Veterinarian to use his/her professional judgement to ensure that the inspection is consistent with the instructions laid down in this document, and any other instructions which the Department may have issued. Additional time will of course be required for the purposes of completing the necessary paperwork.

Enforcement under the Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations (TARP)

Animals rejected by the Official Veterinarian on the grounds suspected of having a contagious or infectious disease, or incorrect identification or contact with animals from a holding with specified diseases

38. Animals which are suspected of having a contagious or infectious disease should be rejected. If the Official Veterinarian suspects that the disease is such that the remainder of the consignment should not be certified, they should not sign and issue the certificate and consult CITC. If animals have had contact with ones from holdings

with specified diseases (e.g. Brucellosis, Anthrax, Rabies), they should also be rejected. In addition, if animals are incorrectly identified they should be rejected.

39. Where the Official Veterinarian rejects animals on these grounds, they should make a colour mark cross (of about 1 foot or 35cm in size) on the back of the animal and make a note of the identification of the animal concerned and the detailed reasons for its rejection. Before leaving the premises, the Official Veterinarian should ensure that:
- the animal(s) concerned are separately confined from any other animals on the premises;
 - the person in charge of the animals at the premises is aware that the animals concerned have been rejected for export.
40. In addition, the Official Veterinarian should inform CITC if they have grounds to suspect that the animal(s) concerned may be exported.

Service of Notices

41. It will be for CITC, and not the Official Veterinarian, to take forward any necessary follow up action, including where appropriate using the powers under Regulation 5 of the TARP to serve a Notice on the consignor, his representative, or person in charge of the animals under Regulation 5. Such a Notice may
- (a) prohibit that exportation
 - (b) require the person to take
 - (i) the animals to such a place as may be specified in the Notice
 - (ii) such further action in relation to them as may be specified in the Notice.

Liaison with relevant Local Authority

42. While Department inspectors have powers of enforcement, enforcement of these Regulations rests primarily with Local Authorities. The CITC will inform local authorities about any Notices which have been served, and liaise closely with local authorities about any incidents or potential offences. For cattle, CITC must also inform BCMS.

Enforcement under the Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order (WATO)

Animals rejected on the grounds that they are unfit to be transported to their intended destination

43. Animals which are unfit to be transported to their intended destination should be rejected. Where the Official Veterinarian rejects animals on these grounds, they should make a colour mark cross (of about 1 foot or 35cm in size) on the back of the animal and make a note of the identification of the animal concerned. (The detailed

reasons for rejection on welfare grounds and action to be taken should be contained in the WATO Notice - see below.) Before leaving the premises, the Official Veterinarian should ensure that

- the animal(s) concerned are separately confined from any other animals on the premises;
- the person in charge of the animals at the premises is aware that the animals concerned have been rejected for export.

Service of Notices

44. In addition, the Official Veterinarian acting as an inspector under the Animal Health Act 1981 serves a written Notice under WATO on the person appearing to be in charge of the animals requiring that person to take the action which the inspector considers necessary to protect the welfare of the animal. In the case of unfit animals presented for an export health certification inspection, the person in charge of the animals will usually be the exporter, agent or a member of their staff present during the inspection. Under WATO, the Inspector may:

- (a) prohibit the transport of the animal, either indefinitely or for a period specified in the Notice;
- (b) specify the conditions under which the animal may be transported;
- (c) require the animal to be held in suitable accommodation with appropriate care until the problem is resolved; or
- (d) require the humane slaughter of the animal.

45. The Inspector must give reasons for serving such a Notice. Where appropriate, one Notice may be served in respect of more than one animal provided all those animals are subject to the **same** conditions/requirements on their treatment or other action. Where the requirements to be imposed are different for more than one animal, a separate Notice should be served in respect of the animal(s) concerned.

46. These Notices should be copied to CITC and, where chronic animal welfare problems have been identified, the Official Veterinarian should notify CITC.

Care for animals prior to journey

47. After making due enquiries, Official Veterinarians must be satisfied to the best of their knowledge and belief that the animals have been, or will be, accommodated at the premises for at least 24 hours before the start of the journey, and have been watered, fed and cared for. In some cases, the Official Veterinarian will be aware from his/her own knowledge that this is the case. In other cases, they may not have direct knowledge. However, **if there is doubt** as to whether any of these requirements have been complied with, or if records are not available to verify this, the Official Veterinarian will contact CITC and, if necessary, serve a Notice under WATO.

Follow up action

48. It will be for CITC to check on compliance by the person(s) on whom the WATO Notices have been served.

Liaison with the relevant Local Authority

49. While Department inspectors have powers of enforcement, enforcement of this Order rests primarily with Local Authorities. The CITC will inform local authorities about any Notices which have been served, and liaise closely with local authorities about any incidents or potential offences.

Completion of inspection/identification/certification

Where a journey log is necessary (for journeys of more than 8 hours), the Official Veterinarian must not sign and issue an export health certificate for a consignment unless they have seen a stamped journey log with the corresponding health certificate number inserted by CITC. Where an Official Veterinarian becomes aware of changes in the plans for the journey of the animals, they should notify CITC because this could have a bearing on the validity of the certificate and/or the journey log.

50. Following the signing of each export health certificate for exports to Member States of the EU, Official Veterinarians will complete the Completion of Export Certificate - Confirmation Form CONF-WEL. This form includes a statement requiring the Official Veterinarian to provide the number(s) of animals inspected, certified and which have been rejected as being unfit to travel to the intended destination and/or on animal health grounds respectively. The Official Veterinarian will complete this section, and show any other changes in the details of the consignment, before sending the form to CITC. This form will also require the Official Veterinarian to provide information as to the time etc. they have spent at the premises.
51. **Completion of certification** - once the Official Veterinarian is entirely satisfied that all animals to be exported are properly and correctly identified, meet all the certification and welfare standards, they complete, signs and copies the appropriate paperwork, and gives the original health certificate to the exporter. Having completed the Form CONF-WEL, the Official Veterinarian sends it to CITC (on the same day on which the health certificate is signed). The Form CONF-WEL also acts as a claim form to enable payment to be made to the Official Veterinarian for the time spent serving Notices under WATO for animals rejected from certification as being unfit for transport to their intended destination. For the time being the exporter is responsible for paying the Official Veterinarian directly for the cost of inspection, identification and certification work (see paragraph 3 above).

Completion of service of relevant WATO Notices

52. **Service of WATO Notices** - once the Official Veterinarian has completed the certification of the animals to be exported, acting as an inspector under the Animal

Health Act they complete signs and serves any relevant Notices under WATO and faxes copies of the Notices to CITC.

53. **Record of time taken** - the Official Veterinarian will also be required to provide CITC with information on Form CONF-WEL about the time spent on serving WATO Notices to enable payment to be made. The cost of WATO work is borne by the Department.

Record keeping by Official Veterinarians

54. Official Veterinarians will maintain a record of the time periods for which (a) they, and (b) their lay staff have attended premises for inspection/certification and retain it for 12 months. This record should be available to be checked by the Department. The considerations set out at paragraphs 36 and 37 will be taken into account by the Department when auditing Official Veterinarians' operation of the inspection arrangements.

Responsibility for consignments once they leave GB

55. The competent veterinary authority of either the country through which the animals are transiting or for the place of destination is responsible for conducting random non-discriminatory checks on imported consignments to ensure that they fully meet the requirements of Community animal health and welfare rules.

Annex 1

Completion of Export Health Certificate (EHC) for cattle, sheep and pigs destined for fattening, production or slaughter

Confirmation of details

Certificate Reference Number

...../.....

Part 1: details

Declarations by Official Veterinarian

I, the undersigned, hereby confirm that, with reference to the above mentioned Export Health Certificate (EHC);

- (a) (i) * The enclosed Part 1 of the EHC has been amended as indicated;
- (a) (ii) * The enclosed Part 2 of the EHC has been completed as indicated and signed.

- (b) * Of the animals in this consignment, I rejected (insert number) animals as not fit to travel and on which WATO notices have been served;

- (c) * I rejected (insert number).....animals on animal health grounds.

- (d) Journey log present? Yes / No

Official Stamp

Signed

.....

Name

Block Capitals

Date

* delete if not applicable

Notes

1. This document, a copy of the Part 1 of the EHC (if amended) and a completed copy of Part 2 of the EHC must be delivered or e-mailed on the same day on which the EHC is signed to the Centre for International Trade – Carlisle (CITC).
2. In the case of an export not proceeding, this form must be returned to CITC with the unused EHC

3. If the consignment is cancelled, the exporter must advise CITC
 4. If the departure date / time changes or a different vehicle is used, the exporter must advise CITC
-

Visit details to be completed by the Official Veterinarian

1. Official Veterinarians must complete all the details below and send the **original** signed version of this page to the SSC;
2. It is not necessary to resend Page 1 (the export confirmation) where this has already been sent to the SSC;
3. Where an inspection visit covers multiple consignments and more than one EHC is issued, only one Page 2 should be completed, indicating the work done in relation to all the consignments inspected/certified on that visit.

Date of inspection / certification:No. of EHCs issued:

.....

EHC Reference

No(s).....

.....

Part 2: Claim for WATO work

SP No. CPHH/...../...../..... Visit
No.....

Task of Time spent on WATO:hrs
mins

Notes on part 2

1. Defra will pay for time spent on work directly related to the Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order 2006. This will usually mean the time spent completing and serving Article 18 notices under the Order in respect of those animals unfit for transport on their intended journey. Where necessary, time spent in establishing that animals have undergone adequate pre-export rest (and in serving Article 18 notices where this is not the case) will also be payable by Defra.
2. Time spent on inspection, identification and certification, together with associated costs (e.g. travel) is subject to arrangements between the exporter and the Official Veterinarian. These include the rejection and marking of rejected animals and for ensuring that such animals are separately confined and that the person in charge is made aware that they have been rejected for export.

Part 3: Management information

Please complete time spent on the following:

Inspection/identificationhrs.....mins; Certification
.....hrs.....mins

Total number of animals inspected Did lay staff assist with identification?
Y/N

I declare that the visits recorded in this form were undertaken and incurred by me while on
official business. To the best of my knowledge and belief, the information provided is
correct.

Official Stamp

Signed

Name
Block Capitals

Date

Additional Comments (if any)
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Annex 2

Sufficient staff and facilities

1. Exporters must provide adequate facilities and assistance in order that the Official Veterinarian can undertake the export certification procedures in an efficient and effective manner. Exporters must provide a declaration to this effect when application is made for the export health certificate.

Failure to provide suitable and sufficient facilities and personnel could delay the consignment and increase the costs of certification.

If the Official Veterinarian is not satisfied that the facilities and operational practices are adequate to allow the inspection and certification procedures to be completed within a reasonable time, the Official Veterinarian should consult CITC for advice.

Suitable and sufficient facilities

2. The suitable and sufficient facilities required as a minimum for the purposes of inspection for export health certification are set out in **paragraphs 3 to 8 below**.
3. The pens, enclosures and passageways should be so constructed and maintained as to:
 - (a) ensure animals are not injured or caused unnecessary suffering (e.g. there should be no sharp edges or projections);
 - (b) be suitable for holding the species and numbers of animals concerned and each pen must have direct access so that animals can be removed from the pen as necessary;
 - (c) provide that when more than one consignment is being rested on the premises at the same time, each consignment can be separately accommodated so as to avoid disturbance through the arrival and departure of other consignments;
 - (d) provide a suitable non-slip floor surface or litter or other suitable material to prevent animals slipping. In inspection areas such as raceways, the floor surface should be of hard (e.g. concrete) construction;
 - (e) enable the animals to be inspected as required and provide for the movement of animals in a controlled manner for the purposes of facilitating proper inspection. Adequate facilities, e.g. a race and if necessary a crush, must exist to enable the

animals to be handled and inspected as necessary for certification purposes. The facilities must be so arranged as to allow the Official Veterinarian to view all animals from at least both sides, as well as the legs/hooves of the animals, and must be suitable for the age/size and type/class of animal being certified for export. There must be sufficient lighting to enable the Official Veterinarian to identify and carry out the inspection of animals, in particular to be lit in such a way that all parts of the animal, including the feet, can be viewed without difficulty;

- (f) provide separate accommodation for animals rejected as **either** unfit for transport **or** on animal health grounds.
4. Prior to, and post, the inspection paddocks may be used for holding the animals, provided the animals are kept in such a manner as to ensure that their animal health and welfare status is not compromised. Post-inspection the animals in the consignment must be treated and retained as a separate group containing only animals listed on the Export Health Certificate. Once the health certificate has been issued by the Official Veterinarian, the animals certified should not come into contact with animals other than those similarly certified until the consignment reaches its final destination.
 5. Animals which are to be consigned for export are subject to the requirements of the Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order 2006 (WATO) which governs the welfare of animals in transport. They must have spent 24 hours at the premises of departure. Suitable and sufficient facilities should be provided to enable the animals to be offered liquid and food before the start of the journey. Guidance Notes on this Order are available from CITC. In general the facilities for the animals should include:-
 - (a) adequate floor space, bedding and trough/rack space or feeding/ drinking positions taking account of the age and type of animals to be exported. Suitable racks and troughs for foodstuffs must be easily accessible to the animals and should be of sufficient number and size to enable all the animals to eat simultaneously. The premises should be able to provide an adequate supply of wholesome water easily accessible to all the animals.
 - (b) adequate loading and unloading facilities for the animals without risk of causing them injury or unnecessary suffering.
 6. Easy access to adequate personal cleansing facilities should be provided for those working with the animals (e.g. hot water, soap, towels, boot washing facilities, WC, etc).
 7. Adequate facilities to enable the livestock accommodation, fittings, equipment and vehicles to be effectively cleansed and disinfected must be provided. The premises must have a satisfactory supply of water available for this purpose and adequate drainage. Equipment capable of effective cleaning and disinfection must be provided, for example, power washer/steam cleaner or pressure hose. It is the transporter's responsibility to ensure that proper vehicle wash facilities are available. These can be either on the premises or available for use within a reasonable distance.

8. Suitable arrangements must be made for the copying of export health certificates and despatching of copies of certificates and CONF-WEL documents (by e-mail or courier) to CITC.
9. The Official Veterinarian should be allowed access to the premises at all times in order to carry out such checks, tests and inspections as are required for the purpose of export certification. The exporter should make available to the Official Veterinarian the movement records required by national legislation and any other information reasonably required by the Official Veterinarian in support of the export certification process in a form which allows easy access and inspection. **Failure to provide any necessary records or information could result in the Official Veterinarian being unable to certify the consignment.**

Suitable and sufficient staff

10. There should be suitable and sufficient staff available to assist the Official Veterinarian during his inspection of the animals for the purposes of export health certification. Sufficient numbers of experienced and competent stockmen should be available to assist the Official Veterinarian and the Official Veterinarian's staff with the restraint of animals necessary for their identification and inspection.

Annex 3

Identification of animals carried out by lay employees: indicators of check levels to be carried out by Official Veterinarian

The 'Official Veterinarian practice' is responsible for reading, identifying and recording the eartags and marks **of each individual** animal in the consignment (paragraphs 34 and 35 of the "procedures" paper). Official Veterinarians may use lay employees of the veterinary practice to assist with identifying the animals.

Where the identification of the animals is carried out by lay employees, paragraph 36 of the "procedures" paper states that the Official Veterinarian should undertake a sample check on the identification. In such circumstances, the following table sets out the **minimum** number of animals which need to have their identities checked by the Official Veterinarian depending on the population size of the consignment:

Indicators of check levels to be carried out by Official Veterinarian			
Population size of consignment	Minimum no of animals to be checked by Official Veterinarian	Population size of consignment	Minimum no of animals to be checked by Official Veterinarian
10	10	300	28
20	16	350	28
30	19	400	28
40	21	450	28
50	22	500	28
60	23	600	28
70	24	700	28
80	24	800	28
90	25	900	28
100	25	1000	29
120	26	1200	29
140	26	1400	29
160	27	1600	29
180	27	1800	29
200	27	2000	29
250	27		

Example: If the population size of the consignment is 110, the Official Veterinarian should use the 120 category for which a sample of at least 26 animals selected at random will need to have their identity checked by the Official Veterinarian.

If incorrectly identified animals are found during this sample check, the identity of all the animals in the consignment should be checked by the Official Veterinarian.