

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Veterinary certificate for exports of live lagomorphs from Great Britain into Northern Ireland, to premises not approved under Council Directive 92/65/EEC.

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No: 8644 NFG

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

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Certifying Officers and exporters.

The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with the veterinary certificate.

We strongly suggest that exporters obtain full details of the importing country's requirements from the veterinary authorities in the country concerned, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

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

1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Veterinary certificate for exports of live lagomorphs from Great Britain into Northern Ireland, to premises not approved under Council Directive 92/65/EEC.

2. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

In England, Scotland and Wales, this certificate must be signed 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.

Additional information can be found in APHA Vet Gateway:
[http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External OV Instructions/Export Instructions/Certification Procedures/index.htm](http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External%20OV%20Instructions/Export%20Instructions/Certification%20Procedures/index.htm)

Signing, stamping and pagination

When signing a certificate, the CO 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 initialled 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 initialled 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 CO signs, stamps and dates that action.

You should consider checking with the specific BCP regarding their preference when it comes to the stamping and initialling 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.

COs are reminded to consult the Notes for Guidance prior to the certification of each EHC.

Further Information COs 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>

PART I: DETAILS OF THE CONSIGNMENT

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

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

Please complete all the boxes in Part I of the certificate in accordance with the guidance laid down in 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>

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

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

Further information on HS Codes can be found online at:

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

PART II: CERTIFICATION

II.1 Animal Health Attestation

1. This may be certified as the UK is an OIE member country.

2. If the animals have been in the UK since birth, both a) and b) should be deleted, however first line of point 2 should be certified.

If the animals have been imported, then one of option (a) or (b) must be completed and the other deleted. This may be certified based on a written declaration from the owner/exporter and following examination of the movement records. If coming from a third country, the certifying Official Veterinarian must be satisfied that the animals were imported under conditions at least as strict as those set out in this certificate.

3. This may be certified based on the OV's has personal knowledge of the establishment or based on a declaration from the establishment owner.

4. This may be certified based on the OV knowledge of the premises.

5. This may be certified based on the OV knowledge of the premises or a declaration from the veterinarian supervising the holding of origin.

6. An Official Veterinarian must perform an examination of the animals within 48-hour period prior to loading in the means of transport. The Official Veterinarian should ensure they check for clinical symptoms of diseases relevant to the species. They must be satisfied the animals are fit to travel.

7. A written declaration stating that the animals will not be released into the wild at any time in Northern Ireland must be received from the exporter.

II.2 Animal Transport Attestation

1. The container used for the transport, and the watering and feeding of animal comply with international standards and/or the provisions in Regulation 1/2005.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/animal-welfare#animal-welfare-during-transport><https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32005R0001>

2. A written declaration from the person in charge of the transport of the animals must be gained to prove that suitable provisions have been made for the feeding, watering and care of the animals during the journey.

3. Anyone transporting any live vertebrate animals inside the European Union, and between Member States and third countries on journeys of over 65 kilometres (approximately 40 miles) as part of an economic activity, must hold a valid Authorisation to do so.

There are two types of Authorisation available: a short journey Authorisation (Type 1) for journeys over 65km and up to and including eight hours duration or a long journey Authorisation (Type 2) for all journeys over 65km including those that exceed eight hours duration.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/export-live-animals-special-rules#export-or-move-live-animals-to-the-eu-or-northern-ireland>

4. The certifying Official Veterinarian must ensure that the transport boxes are used for the first time or have been cleaned and disinfected with an authorised disinfectant before loading in accordance with the relevant provisions of retained EU Regulation No 1/2005. See Section 4 below. Animal Transport Attestation and gov.uk for further information on approved disinfectants.

5. The means of transport should not allow the escape of any faeces, urine, litter or fodder during transport.

3. ANIMAL TRANSPORT ATTESTATION

The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 and parallel legislation in Scotland and Wales implement Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005. If transported by air, animals should be transported in accordance with International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards.

Every animal should be fit for the journey that is planned. Animals should be in good health, free of illness, free of significant wounds and able to walk without pain on all legs. Animals that are in sufficiently good health, should be able to withstand the stress of a journey without experiencing any unnecessary pain or distress, and should arrive at their destination in good health. Animals that are injured or that present physiological weaknesses or pathological processes shall not be considered fit for transport and in particular if:

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

If the place of loading and holding of origin is different, then the OV must obtain a written declaration from the

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

4. ADDITION OF SCHEDULES

When the space in Part I or Part II of the certificate is insufficient to accommodate full details of the consignment a schedule may be used. In the relevant section of the certificate the certifying officer should annotate the certificate 'see attached schedule'. A new schedule should be created (typed or clearly written) containing the same information as that required in the certificate. The schedule must include the certificate reference number on each page and must be signed, dated and stamped by the certifying officer in a colour other than black on each page and under the last entry. 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](http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External%20OV%20Instructions/Export%20Instructions/Certification%20Procedures/index.htm)

6. CERTIFIED COPIES OF EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATES

When completing export certification the CO 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/>

COs 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 COs.

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

5. 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).

6. DISCLAIMER

This certificate and NFG are provided on the basis of information available at the time and may not necessarily comply fully with the requirements of the importing country. It is the exporter's responsibility to check the certificate against any relevant import permit or any advice provided by the competent authority in the importing country. If these do not match, the exporter should contact the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) in Carlisle.