

EXPORT OF HORSES TO NEW ZEALAND-5887NFG

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV) AND THE EXPORTER

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with a certificate for the permanent entry of horses into New Zealand from the UK. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with this 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.

1. Scope

The export health certificate should be used to accompany horses exported from the United Kingdom to New Zealand on a permanent basis. This includes breeding horses, racing horses, horses for non-competitive entertainment and horses for riding and pleasure. A separate 'Transporter's Declaration' - 5887TRA - must also accompany the horse/s and should be completed and attached to the certificate/s.

A support declaration / veterinary certificate - 5887SPT - is available to provide assurances related to non-veterinary matters as well as veterinary matters in respect of residencies outside the UK.

It is not permitted to export horses and other equines from Great Britain for slaughter. This applies to journeys from, and transit journeys through, Great Britain to destinations outside the UK, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

2. Disease clearance

Freedom from quarantine restrictions is assumed if the horses have been able to move from the countries/premises in which they resided.

Paragraphs II.1.1, II.1.2, II.3.1 (first option), II.3.2 (first option), and II.3.3 (first option) concerning notifiable diseases refer. For residencies in the UK only, these may be signed on behalf of the Department by an OV provided written authority from APHA/DAERA has been received on form 618NDC.

[OV Instructions \(defra.gov.uk\)](https://www.defra.gov.uk)

For residencies in other (eligible) countries, support certificate 5887SPT will be required to cover the disease status for remainder of the minimum residency period in those countries. Alternatively, then the status of the other country/countries in which the horse has been resident during the remainder of the period can be checked by consulting the following systems:

EU ADNS:

[Animal Disease Information System \(ADIS\) \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/adis/)

The status for the current year can be found by clicking on 'summary' and for the previous years by clicking 'page'.

OIE WAHID:

[OIE-WAHIS](https://www.oie.int/)

The status for the period in question can be found by selecting the country and disease from the drop down menus and the period in question.

Paragraph II.1.3 can be certified on the basis of the OV's own knowledge of the premises of origin and where required supporting statements from other OVs who may have the premises of origin under their care.

This can be backed up by reference to the official notifiable and non-notifiable disease occurrence lists ET171 and ET152 published on the Vet Gateway

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

This certificate may be signed by an Official Veterinarian authorised on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Scottish Government, Welsh Government or an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland (DAERA), who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation, or who is an Official Veterinarian (OV) on the appropriate panel for export purposes.

OVs/AVIs should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV/AVI stamp in a colour that must be different to the colour of the printing of the certificate

Under the Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Act 2024, it is an offence to export horses and other equines for slaughter, beginning in or transiting through Great Britain to a third country.

If the OV has suspicions that the consignment is being exported for slaughter in contravention of section 1 of the Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Act 2024, this should be reported as soon as possible to APHA by calling 03000 200 301. In your report, please detail the following:

- EHC and journey log reference number
- Location and address of inspection, including CPH number
- Name and address of transporter and journey organiser
- Transporter authorisation number
- Details of the animals in the consignment (number, species, age)
- The reason for your concern
- Any relevant additional information

Instructions on certified copies, retention and returning of the same can be found in APHA Vet Gateway, please make sure you follow the latest government guidance.

[OV Instructions \(defra.gov.uk\)](https://www.defra.gov.uk)

The OV/AVI should keep a copy for his/her own records.

4. **Issue of Import Permit**

Exporters should note that an application for an import permit must be sent at least 6 weeks prior to the intended date of shipment to: The Director of Animal Biosecurity, Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand.
<http://www.mpi.govt.nz/importing/live-animals/horses/steps-to-importing/>

[Contact MPI | MPI | NZ Government](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/contact-us/)
[animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz.](mailto:animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz)

5. **Identification**

The identification details in Box I.25 of the certificate need to be completed as explained in the Footnotes (Part I). The UK identification system consists of the passport and microchip, please include both in box I.25. If that is not possible, please include the number of the passport (it

is being assumed the passport contains details of the microchip number and the silhouette). The horse passport must also accompany the certificate but if this is not possible (because it is being couriered to the clearing agents), then a copy, with each page signed, stamped and dated by the certifying OV, must be attached to the certificate. OVs must be satisfied that the horse is adequately identified each time that samples are taken for pre-export testing, each time they are treated / vaccinated and at the time of the pre-export examination

6. Residency

Paragraphs II.1, II.2 and II.3 refer. The OVs should receive a written declaration (which could be part of 5887SPT) from the owner/representative of the owner providing details of each premises where the horse has been kept during the period leading up to Pre-Export Isolation (PEI) – to cover the periods that freedom is required, for the diseases mentioned in II.1 and II.3. OVs should check the validity of the declaration by inspecting the passport or other available records.

7. Pre-export isolation (PEI)

Paragraphs II.2.1, & II.2.2 refer. The pre-export isolation premises (which will be the place of origin mentioned at I.11) must be approved and supervised by an OV in accordance with the MPI standard at [Horses - Import Health Standard \(mpi.govt.nz\)](https://mpi.govt.nz/Horses-Import-Health-Standard)

(schedule 2 refers). This link can also be found in the footnote of the certificate.

The PEI premises must be approved at the beginning of each PEI by an OV. It must be audited annually by an OV, unless this is carried out as part of the approval of PEI at least once during the year. Records of inspections and management must be retained for audit purposes for at least 2 years.

MPI reserves the right to audit facilities and their standard operating procedures on a case-by-case basis in countries approved to export horses to New Zealand.

While in PEI, natural mating or artificial insemination of the horses is not permitted.

8. Clinical examination

Paragraph II.2.3 refers. The examination mentioned at paragraph II.2.3 must be carried out within 48 hours of export. Test results should be attached to the certificate along with all other relevant supporting papers.

9. Tests for glanders and dourine if country/zone in which horse was resident during the past 6 months is not free.

Paragraphs II.3.1 and II.3.2 refer. In the unlikely event that the first option cannot be certified because a country in which the horse was resident in during the past 6 months is not free, a negative CFT at 1:5, within 30 and 15 days respectively, prior to export is required.

10. CEM assurances/tests. These are required in the case of stallions and mares over 731 days of age. In the case of pre-pubertal colts and fillies under 731 days of age, the dam must be subjected to similar tests.

Paragraphs II.3.4 & II.3.5 refer. The horse must not have been mated or inseminated by a horse which was infected by CEM or been on a premises on which CEM had been confirmed. However, if that was the case, the horse must have been treated (if topically, at least 21 days before CEM swabs are taken). Treatment used must be approved by MPI but as this is not mentioned on the MPI website at <https://mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/2040>, CIT in Carlisle must be contacted for advice on how to proceed.

The horses must be swabbed on two occasions at 4-7 day intervals for CEM testing within 30 days of the date of export and must not undergo natural

service, artificial insemination or semen collection from the time of sampling.

Swabs must be taken from the exact sites specified in the health certificate, and the laboratory submission form must use the same nomenclature. In the case of a mare/pubertal fillies, the swabbing sites are the mucosal surfaces of the clitoral fossa and the clitoral sinuses. In the case of a stallion /colt, they are the penile sheath (prepuce), the urethra and the fossa glandis. The nomenclature used by the OV on the submission form will be copied exactly by APHA on the laboratory report form.

In the case of pre-pubertal colts and fillies under 731 days of age, the dam may be sampled as above regardless of whether the dams are travelling with them or not, in which case the pre-pubertal colts/fillies do not have to be sampled/tested. If the dams are not available for sampling, then the pre-pubertal colts and fillies under 731 days of age will need to be sampled/tested.

Moistened mini swabs should be used. A separate swab must be taken at each of the specified swabbing sites. It is not permissible to use one swab applied to several sites, except in the case of the lateral clitoral sinuses, when the swab MUST be placed into BOTH sinuses.

All swabs must be submitted to the APHA laboratory in Penrith.

All swabs must arrive at the laboratory within 48 hours of sampling. Swabs must be refrigerated (NOT frozen) with a cool pack included in the parcel. The maximum transmission time of 48 hours must be confirmed by reference to the laboratory report form. If more than 10 swabs are to be submitted, prior notice should be given to the laboratory. **An official copy of the lab report showing the result of the test must be attached to the certificate.**

If the horse is undergoing any form of antibiotic treatment swabbing for culture must not take place until a minimum of 7 days after the last administration of antibiotics if systemic or 21 days if local/topical.

11. Pre-export tests

Blood and other samples (e.g. equine influenza nasal swabs) for the various tests (other than for CEM, for which see above) must be collected within the timeframe stated on the certificate (most of them need to be collected during PEI) and sent to the APHA laboratory in Weybridge (or for horses exported from NI, to the VSD Belfast), with clear instructions as to which test is required (where there are options available). In the case of equine piroplasmosis, however, Defra recognises any laboratory in any other EU Member State that MPI also accepts results from e.g. Bose in Germany <https://labor-boese.de/phpversion/en/index.php> , and samples may be sent to those laboratories.

12. Pre-export vaccinations

For equine influenza, all horses (but in the case of foals less than 6 months old, their dams) must have been vaccinated during the 35 - 90 days prior to export. The horse must either receive a primary vaccination of 2 doses of vaccine or if the animal has previously had a primary course, must receive a single booster vaccination. If primary vaccination was administered in accordance with the UK Jockey Club recommendations, then this is acceptable (i.e. it does not have to be in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions). So, if the equine influenza vaccination history is up to date as per the Jockey Club recommendations, then the horse does not have to be revaccinated with a fresh primary course. The booster will need to be given as stated on certificate i.e. within 35-90 days prior to export. The OV must verify the dates of vaccination by reference to the animal's passport or vaccination certificate. The use of any vaccine with a marketing authorisation containing the most up-to-date virus strains is acceptable.

Vaccinations of any other disease, if administered, must be at least 35 days prior to export.

13. Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA) options

Paragraphs II.3.9, II.3.10 and II.3.11 refer. Options II.3.9 and II.3.10 are for uncastrated stallions: the former option is for stallions which were seronegative or were seronegative prior to vaccination and have been regularly vaccinated since; the latter option is for seropositive stallions whose vaccination history is not available or is not up to date. Option II.3.11 is for geldings and mares. Sub-options under each of these options are available and require careful interpretation. For example, II.3.9.1 essentially requires isolation for at least 28 days prior to export and a sample/test at least 7 days later (i.e. during the 21 days PEI). For paired serology, VN titres are considered stable as long as the rise is less than 4-fold.

14. Ectoparasite and Endoparasite Treatment

Paragraphs II.3.17 and II.3.19 refer. Treatment must be carried out twice, firstly on immediate entry into PEI and then secondly, within 48 hours of export using products with marketing authorisations (or under the cascade). The [NOAH compendium](#) lists these products. The horses must be examined by a registered veterinarian to ensure there was no evidence of ticks or tick infestation. If ticks were found then the horse would be re-treated and then re-inspected to ensure that ticks were no longer present - in which case the second II.3.17.1 option should be certified. Paragraph II.3.18 does not exist in the certificate due to oversight and this is being looked into by the European Commission.

15. Welfare

Paragraph II.4. refers. The certifying OV must be satisfied that the horse is fit to travel on the intended journey.

If the horse is a mare which is pregnant, it must be less than 300 days into gestation. The OV should check any available breeding records and, if considered necessary (to establish the veracity of the breeding records and owner declarations etc), examine the mare by rectal palpation to establish that she is no more than 300 days pregnant.

The horse must be at least 1 month old.

Most horses and ponies exported from United Kingdom also need certification to satisfy British export welfare legislation IN ADDITION TO the export health certification. Information about the necessary requirements and application forms may be obtained from the Animal Welfare Department at the following offices:

**ENGLAND, SCOTLAND
& WALES**

Welfare in Transport Team at the Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA), Centre for International Trade (CIT), Eden Bridge House, Lowther St, Carlisle CA3 8DX
Tel: 03000 200301
E-mail: WIT@apha.gov.uk

NORTHERN IRELAND

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Northern Ireland, Animal Welfare Section, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3SB
Tel: 028 9052 4580 / Fax 028 9052 5012

16. Transporter Declaration

Paragraph II.5 refers. The certifying OV must ask for a signed Transporter's Declaration - 5887TRA is a template that can be used - before signing the certificate. MPI require a transporter's declaration to ensure the disease status of the horse during transport to New Zealand is not compromised. The transporter is required to ensure that the aircraft/vehicles and containers

are adequately disinfected and that the aircraft vehicles are also treated with effective insecticides. It is the responsibility of the exporter to ensure that the transporter carries out these steps.

17. 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 APHA Centre for International Trade, in Carlisle, via the link below:

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