

No:

PERMANENT EXPORT OF EQUIDAE TO JAPAN

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE EXPORTER AND OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

Important

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 119EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 119EHC. 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.

Scope of the Certificate

Export health certificate 119EHC may be used for the permanent export of equidae from the United Kingdom to Japan.

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.

1. Certification by an Official Veterinarian (OV)

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

OVs should sign and stamp the certificate with the OV stamp in any colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

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

Certified Copy Requirements - England, Wales and Scotland

Guidance concerning return of certified copies of EHCs has changed and only specific certified copies are required to be returned to the APHA. Certifying OVs must return a certified copy of EHCs only for

the following EHC types:

- if the exported commodity is cattle, pigs, sheep, goats or camelids;
- if the certificate was applied for manually and the application documents have been emailed to APHA and not applied for via the Exports Health Certificates Online (EHCO) system.

Certified copies should be emailed on the day of signature to the Centre for International Trade Carlisle (CITC) at the following address: certifiedcopies@apha.gov.uk.

For certificates that have been issued to the Certifying OV via the EHCO system, the Certifying OV must complete the certifier portal with the status of the certificate and the date of signature.

A copy of all EHCs and supporting documentation certified must be retained for two years.

Certifying OVs are not required to return certified copies of other EHCs issued, however CITC may request certified copies of EHCs and supporting documentation in order to complete Quality Assurance checks or if an issue arises with the consignment after certification.

DAERA Export Health Certificates: provision of certified copies

Authorised Private Veterinary Practitioners (aPVPs) certifying DAERA Export Certification On-Line (DECOL) produced EHCs must return a legible, scanned copy of the final EHC to the relevant DAERA Processing Office within 1 working day of signing.

Good quality photographic copies will be accepted by the Department where obtaining a scanned copy is not feasible - for example, where 'on site' certification is undertaken and scanning facilities are not available.

For record purposes, a copy of the final Export Health Certificate and associated Support documents should be retained by the aPVP for a period of 2 years from the date of certification.

The Department will carry out periodic audits of all aspects of export certification to ensure that a high standard of certification is being maintained.

2. Identification

Each time the Official Veterinarian visits the horse to carry out any of the examinations, treatments or tests required by the export health certificate the horse must be accurately identified. In the case of a registered horse the Official Veterinarian should consult the passport on each occasion and should note the passport number on any laboratory submission forms. If a passport is not available the Official Veterinarian should complete a silhouette of the horse on his first visit, and should refer to this silhouette on all subsequent visits.

3. Clinical examination

Paragraph IV (a) refers. The examination mentioned must take place within 24 hours prior to shipment.

4. Pre-export isolation

The isolation premises mentioned at paragraph IV (b) must be approved by the Official Veterinarian in accordance with the following conditions:

4.1 Construction and location

- a) The isolation premises must be a clearly demarcated area surrounded by a stock proof wall or fence and containing suitable facilities for the accommodation and exercise of the animals during the isolation period.
- b) The use of exercise facilities outside the premises may be permitted under the direction of the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN, after consultation with the DVM. The OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN must ensure that the isolation status of the consignment is maintained at all times. If the exercise facilities are used by non-export horses, the isolated horses must use the facilities first each day and must be cleared from the area before non-export status horses are allowed access to the facilities.
- c) The premises should have facilities for veterinary examination and collection of samples and facilities for the segregation of sick or suspect horses.
- d) The access to the premises should be controlled and secure.
- e) The location should be as remote as possible from other premises containing equidae. In making a decision as to the suitability of the location of the isolation premises, the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN should take into consideration the epidemiology of the diseases for which certification is being provided, in particular with respect to the distance and presence of physical barriers between the isolation premises and other premises.
- f) All drainage must be away from the isolation premises.
- g) Isolation buildings should be capable of being effectively cleaned and disinfected.
- h) An adequate supply of water must be available at all times for the isolated horses and for cleaning purposes.
- i) Adequate supplies of food and bedding material for the whole of the isolation period must be stored either within the isolation premises or in a nearby secure and separate store.
- j) Equipment and utensils used for feeding, grooming and cleaning must be used only in the isolation premises during the isolation period.
- k) Protective clothing and footwear to be used exclusively in the isolation premises must be available at the entrance to the isolation premises.
- l) There should be adequate facilities for the cleansing and disinfection of vehicles, either on or near to the isolation premises.

4.2 Procedures

- a) Immediately before the commencement of the isolation period, the

isolation buildings, all fixed and moveable equipment and utensils used for feeding, grooming and cleaning must be disinfected, unless new, using a disinfectant approved by DEFRA, to the satisfaction of the supervising OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN. Exercise areas/paddocks should be cleaned to the satisfaction of the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN.

- b) No person may enter the isolation premises unless specifically authorised by the supervising OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN.
- c) No staff supervising the horses may come into contact with any other horses during the period of supervision.
- d) Any authorised visitor to the isolation premises must wear the protective clothing provided throughout the visit.
- e) When no staff are on duty, the premises must be securely locked to prevent the entry of unauthorised persons.
- f) The isolation period for all isolated horses shall be deemed to start from the time of entry of the last horse. Horses must not leave the premises during the isolation period except with the permission of the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN and DVM.
- g) Isolated horses must have no contact with any horses of lower health status during the isolation period.
- h) The supervising OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN should visit the premises when the horses enter at the start of the isolation period and at the end of the isolation period. At least one unannounced visit should be carried out during the isolation period.
- i) A health record should be kept of each isolated horse during the isolation period. This record should be available for inspection by the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN.
- j) The operator should report any illnesses or other problems to the supervising OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN. Where there is any cause for concern about the export certification of the consignment, the DVM should be consulted.
- k) If the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN is not satisfied that the conditions of approval are being met, the DVM should be notified.

5. Residency

Paragraph IV (c) refers. A written declaration must be received from the owner*/agent of the owner* listing all the premises where the horse has been kept during the 60 days prior to export and giving an assurance that there has been no clinical, microbiological or serological (except due to vaccination) evidence of the diseases listed in paragraph IV(c) within 3 months of export. Where necessary the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN should obtain written confirmation of the validity of the declaration from the veterinary surgeons responsible for those premises. In the case of horses which have visited Ireland and/or France within 60 days of commencement of pre-export isolation supplementary certificate, 119SUP should be completed. The OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN should also seek an owner's declaration in the format of paragraph IV(c), countersigned by a veterinarian in the country of origin.

6. Laboratory Tests

The laboratory tests at paragraphs IV (d) must be carried out within

30 days of shipment. Samples must be sent to the Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Weybridge. A whole blood non-clotted sample (EDTA) is required for the test at IV (d) (iii). A 5ml whole blood clotted sample is required for each of the tests at paragraphs IV (d) (i), (ii), (iv) and (v). The 2 samplings for CEM testing at paragraph IV (e) must be carried out within 30 days of shipment and must be submitted to VIC Penrith or the Lasswade laboratory. (CEM testing is not required for geldings, or horses less than 24 months of age).

Please note: In the case of the IFAT or cELISA for equine piroplasmosis, Defra recognises any laboratory in any other country that the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries also accepts results from e.g. Bose in Germany
<http://www.labor-boese.de/index/getlang/en>

7. Vaccination against Equine influenza

Paragraph IV (f) refers. The vaccination against equine influenza must be carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. A primary course of two injections 4-6 weeks apart or a booster dose must be given within 12 months prior to export.

8. Disease clearance

The certification contained in paragraphs IV (j) may be signed on behalf of the Department by an OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN provided written authority has been received on form 618NDC.

Where it is possible for the Official Veterinarian (OV) in Great Britain to obtain disease clearance themselves, the Centre for international Trade - Carlisle (CITC) will not issue a 618NDC notifiable disease clearance.

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

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

[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)

For Great Britain:

In the absence of a specific Notifiable Disease Clearance (618NDC) from CITC: OVs may certify that the UK has disease free status or region free status for those diseases mentioned in the health certificate, once they have checked the disease list(s) for the last occurrence of the disease and have ensured it complies with the time frames in the certificate.

In the event of a disease outbreak that affects an OV being able to

obtain their own disease clearance, CITC will notify OV's to make it clear which disease freedom statements should not be certified and where necessary, will issue a 618NDC notifiable disease clearance if the EHC can continue to be issued for certain regions that retain free status.

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

9. Feed/litter used during the isolation period and transport

Paragraph IV (h) refers. The Official Veterinarian should obtain a written declaration from the owner or agent of the owner giving details where and when feed and bedding (except treated wood shavings or sterilised peat) used during the isolation period and to be used during transport, were obtained. This declaration should be forwarded to the corresponding regional office for the Animal Health Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland or Scottish Government regional office, who will check that the premises were not under restriction at the time the material was obtained and then issue written authority (Form 618NDC) to sign paragraph IV (h).

10. Post import quarantine

Animals are subject to post import quarantine on arrival in Japan. Should an infectious disease be detected in an animal during quarantine the said animal may be re-exported or humanely destroyed.

11. Welfare

Exporters and transporters must comply with all the legislation for the welfare of live animals during transport. The welfare conditions required during transport, are set out in Council Regulation EC No 1/2005 (as retained), implemented in England by The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006, with parallel legislation in Scotland and Wales.

If transported by air, animals should also be transported in accordance with International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards.

Information about welfare during transport in Great Britain and the necessary requirements can be obtained from the Animal and Plant Health Agency:

Welfare in Transport Team
Centre for International Trade
Eden Bridge House
Lowther Street, Carlisle
CA3 8DX
Phone: +44 (0) 3000 200 301
E-mail: WIT@apha.gov.uk

Or, in the case of Northern Ireland, DAERA at Dundonald House, Belfast.

12. 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, Carlisle or DAERA, via the link or e-mail address below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-apha>

DAERA - Email: vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk