

No:

EXPORT OF HORSES TO BAHRAIN

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 2185EHC, and 2185SUP. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 2185EHC and 2185SUP. 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
2185EHC is a single document. Additionally, the **2185SUP will need to be completed in all cases**, even if horses have been sent directly from the premises of origin to the airport of dispatch.

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.

IMPORTANT

In all cases, we strongly suggest exporters to contact the Competent Authorities of Bahrain in advance in order to get additional information on how to complete the 2185SUP (for example when the horses are directly sent from the premises of origin to the airport of dispatch, and timings of isolation) and if the animals need to undertake additional tests as required (see below).

Additional tests

All horses entering the Green Zone (The Area around the Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHRC) including the REHRC Quarantine) are required separately by the REHRC to do Strangles/Flu testing. The Bahrain Defence Force stable their horses in the green zone which is why the tests are asked.

2. 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 health 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

Important: All pages of the certificate must be endorsed (initialled, stamped and dated, in ink other than black) by the certifying Official Veterinarian.

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 OV's 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 OV's 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.

3. **Identification**

Paragraph I. must be fully completed. The Official Veterinarian must verify the identity of the horse by reference to its passport. The Official Veterinarian must be satisfied that the horse is adequately identified each time that samples are taken for pre-export testing and at the time of inspection.

4. **Disease clearance**

The authorisation (618NDC) referred to below, which enables various paragraphs to be signed, is in relation to the official disease status specified in the relevant paragraphs, and only within the UK; all other matters such as residency, vaccination status, status of premises in respect of other diseases not covered by the 618NDC and disease status of countries/areas/premises outside the UK are for the OV to check and verify, obtaining support certification where necessary.

Notifiable disease - country/area/premises clearance

Paragraphs IV. c) and d) may be signed on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained from the AHVLA Specialist Service Centre at Carlisle on form 618NDC.

5. **Laboratory tests**

Paragraph IV h) refers. Blood samples for these laboratory tests should be sent to the APHA laboratory in Weybridge (or for horses exported from NI to the VSD Belfast), allowing time for the tests to be completed and for results to be received before the proposed export date.

6. **Transport from premises to airport**

Paragraph IV. l) refers. If the horse is unloaded at any premises en route supplementary certification will be required and the 2185SUP completed.

We strongly suggest the exporter contacts in advance the Bahrain Competent Authorities to discuss on how to complete the 2185SUP when the horses travel directly from the premises of origin to the airport, and when the 2185SUP needs to be completed in all cases.

7. **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

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

9. **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).

10. **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