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**EXPORT OF ZOO RODENTS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO NEW ZEALAND  
NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND THE EXPORTER**

**IMPORTANT**

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The Notes for Guidance NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7757EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7757EHC. 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 OF THE CERTIFICATE**

Export health certificate 7757EHC may be used for the export of zoo rodents from the United Kingdom to New Zealand (NZ). The animals must comply with the New Zealand import health standard-"Zoorodicspec - Zoo Rodents from Australia, the European Union and the United States of America, dated August 2012" published by the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries.

Only the following zoo rodents can be exported from the UK to NZ using 7757EHC:

- African crested porcupine: *Hystrix cristata*, *Hystrix africaeaustralis*
- Brazilian agouti: *Dasyprocta leporina*, *Dasyprocta aguti*
- Capybara: *Hydrochaerus hydrochaeris* (*Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris*)
- Patagonian mara: *Dolichotis patagonum*.

For the purposes of exports of zoo rodents from the UK to NZ, the zoo rodents must originate from a European Union Member State and the rodents must originate from premises that are under veterinary supervision, and must not have been caught in the wild.

**2. IMPORT PERMIT**

An import permit must have been obtained from the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI), Animal & Animal Products, Animal Imports Team, New Zealand and must be attached to the export health certificate.

**3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)**

This certificate may be signed by an Official Veterinarian (OV) appointed by 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 and Rural Development Northern Ireland (DARDNI), 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 any colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to The issuing office, in GB - Animal and Plant Health Agency - Centre for International Trade (APHA -CIT) in Carlisle and in the case of Northern Ireland to the local DARD office within seven days of signing.

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

5. **IDENTIFICATION**

The animal to be exported must be individually identified by means of an ISO-compliant microchip, and the microchip type, its number and its site of implantation must be recorded at paragraph I of the certificate. In addition all other details in paragraph I must be completed.

6. **RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS**

Paragraph IV(a) refers. This paragraph can be certified on the basis of a written declaration from the exporter and further enquiries that the certifying veterinarian considers appropriate. A CITES certificate/permit can be taken as proof that the animal has not been caught in the wild.

7. **PREMISES DISEASE CLEARANCE**

Paragraphs IV(b) and IV(d) (i) and (iii) refer. The OV should certify these paragraphs on the basis of their personal knowledge of the premises of origin, supported by laboratory reports, pathological examinations and other records as appropriate. If the OV does not have personal knowledge of the premises he/she must obtain a written support statement from another veterinarian who does have such knowledge. If the animal(s) originate from premises in another EU Member State, the OV should contact the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or DARD.

8. **HEALTH INFORMATION**

Individual health records including details of all vaccinations, tests and treatments performed either during the last two years or since the birth of each animal, if the animal is under two years old, must be attached to the veterinary certificate.

If the animal(s) are female, they must not be heavily pregnant and must not be judged likely to give birth during transport to New Zealand.

See paragraph 11 below regarding declarations and testing for Babesia (Theileria) and *Trypanosoma evansi* (Surra).

9. **PARASITE TREATMENTS AND TREATMENT FOR LEPTOSPIRAL INFECTION**

Paragraph IV(d) (iv) refers. Two treatments for external parasites are required. The first external parasite treatment should be given 7-10 days prior to PEI and the last external parasite treatment should be given 10 days after entering PEI.

The Official Veterinarian should note that when examining the animals for evidence of parasitic infestation, evidence of the presence of weeds and weed seeds on the animals should also be excluded.

Paragraph IV(d) (ii) refers. Treatment with an antibiotic effective in clearing leptospire is required. The antibiotic used, the method of administration, the number of doses and the dosage used should be decided by the Official Veterinarian, if necessary in consultation with the Veterinarian responsible for the routine health management of the rodents. It is not necessary to carry out testing, for example for evidence of leptospiruria, to ensure that the treatment has been completely effective.

If the products used for treatment of parasites or leptospira do not have a valid UK licence marketing authorisation for the species concerned, the OV may use his/her clinical judgement to operate the 'cascade principle'. The OV must be aware that the use of a pharmaceutical preparation 'off data sheet' may entail a risk and owner of the animal should be aware of this risk and their agreement obtained before the substance is used.

10. **EXPORTER DECLARATIONS**

Paragraphs IV(a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) refer. Signed declaration(s) should be provided to enable certifying these paragraphs, particularly if the Official Veterinarian does not have first-hand knowledge of premises or animals to be exported. Each declaration should include a clause indicating that the signatory is aware that making a false declaration is an offence.

The Official Veterinarian should check records as necessary and where possible the Official Veterinarian should supervise activities such as cleansing and disinfection of accommodation and crates.

Paragraph IV (c) (v) and (vi) refer. The quarantine premises were treated with an acaricide and sprayed with an insecticide as required for efficacy to ensure sufficient spraying to eliminate live insects from the environment of the rodents for export to New Zealand.

11. **DECLARATIONS AND TESTING FOR BABESIA AND TRYPANOSOMES.**

Paragraphs IV(d) (i) and IV(d) (iii) refer:

Regarding Babesia, the significant strain in rodents is *Theileria (Babesia) microti*. *T. microti* does occur in the UK and other species of *Babesia* also occur in other animals in the UK. New Zealand is apparently free of major strains of *Babesia* including *B. microti*.

The Official Veterinarian can certify premises freedom from *Babesia* species exotic to New Zealand in any resident animals in the previous 3 years based on their personal knowledge and as necessary by examination of laboratory records or a written declaration from another Veterinarian responsible for the premises involved.

If premises freedom from *Babesia* species exotic to New Zealand in any resident animals in the previous 3 years cannot be certified the Official Veterinarian should contact APHA Carlisle or DARD for advice.

There is not an OIE described test for this specific organism nor does APHA list a serological test for use in rodents. The OIE manual Chapter on Babesiosis in cattle includes direct microscopy of a stained blood smear as a test for *Babesia* see: [http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health\\_standards/tahm/2.04.02\\_B\\_OVINE\\_BABESIOSIS.pdf](http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health_standards/tahm/2.04.02_B_OVINE_BABESIOSIS.pdf). However this test is relatively insensitive in particular in chronically infected animals. If such testing is required, the Official Veterinarian should seek advice from APHA Carlisle or DARD.

Regarding *Trypanosoma evansi* (Surra), as at the time of writing this disease has never been recorded in the UK. UK freedom from Surra can be certified, Official Veterinarians may certify paragraph IV(d) (iii) on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has

been obtained from the Animal and Plant Health Agency - Centre for International Trade (APHA -CIT) in Carlisle on form 618NDC.

If country freedom from Surra cannot be certified, testing should be carried out using an OIE described test such as direct microscopy of a giemsa stained blood smear see:

[http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health\\_standards/tahm/2.01.17 T RYPANO SURRA.pdf](http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health_standards/tahm/2.01.17_T_RYPANO_SURRA.pdf)

If the animals originate from another country, the Official Veterinarian should contact APHA Carlisle or DARD for advice on Surra and Babesia.

The appropriate samples must be submitted to a Government authorised laboratory APHA laboratory for testing.

12. **TRANSPORT CRATE**

Paragraphs IV (e) (ii) and (iii) refer. The owner/exporter is responsible for ensuring that the conditions of transport for his/her animal(s) meet the standards laid down by the International Air Transport Association (IATA). He/she should ask the transporting airline to confirm this, and if necessary provide a copy of the relevant conditions.

The Official Veterinarian should confirm by inspection that the container is either new, or else suitably cleaned, dry and free from pests and dirt. If there is any doubt about it having been suitably disinfected, it may either be disinfected again prior to placing the rodents into it, or a written statement may be sought from the owner/exporter.

Regarding paragraph IV (e) (iii) and bedding, if another product must be used for bedding, it is the responsibility of the exporter to obtain written approval from the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries before the product can be used.

13. **C.I.T.E.S**

This certificate does not provide exemption from other legislation laid down for the protection or conservation of certain wild species, e.g. the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (C.I.T.E.S.). Information about the necessary requirements may be obtained from the Department at the following address:

Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service (WLRS)  
Zone 1/17, Temple Quay House, No.2 The Square, Temple Quay,  
Bristol, BS1 6EB. Tel: 0117 372 8774. Fax: 0117 372 8206

14. **WELFARE**

Welfare conditions during transport are laid down by Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005, implemented in England by The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) order 2006, and parallel legislation in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Exporters must comply with the UK welfare laws relating to the export of animals. If transported by air, animals should be transported in accordance with International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards.

Further information on OIE and IATA transport recommendations may be obtained from the following offices;

England, Scotland & Wales

Welfare in Transport Team at the Animal  
& Plant Health Agency (APHA), Centre  
for International Trade (CIT), Hadrian  
House, Wavell Drive, Rosehill,  
Carlisle, CA1 2TB. Tel 01228 403600  
E-mail: [CentralOps.carlisle@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:CentralOps.carlisle@apha.gsi.gov.uk)

Northern Ireland

Department of Agriculture and Rural  
Development Northern Ireland, Dundonald  
House, Upper Newtownards Road, Ballymiscaw,  
Belfast, BT4 3SB. DARD Helpline number 0300  
200 7852. DARD Helpline email  
[dardhelpline@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:dardhelpline@dardni.gov.uk)  
DARD Textphone 028 9052 4420

15. **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:  
<http://animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/about/contact-us/tradeexports.html>

In Northern Ireland, contact the DARD trade administration team:  
E-mail: [tradeadminpost@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:tradeadminpost@dardni.gov.uk). Tel: 0289 0520989