Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Notes for Guidance: Export Health Certificate for entry into the European Union or Northern Ireland of domestic bovine animals intended for breeding and/or production 8446

September 2023

Contents

16. Disclaimer

No: 8446NFG

Export Health Certificate for entry into, or transit through, the European Union or Northern Ireland of domestic bovine animals (including *Bubalus* and *Bison* species and their cross-breeds) intended for breeding and / or production.

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

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Certifying Officers and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with the relevant export certificate applicable for the entry into the European Union or transit through the European Union of domestic animals of the bovine species intended for breeding and / or production. 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. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Commission Decision 2007/453/EC

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692

Commission Delegated Regulation Nos (EU) 2020/688

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/403

Any EU legislation referenced in the certificate must be complied with and EU legislation can be accessed on the following link. You should ensure you use the latest version: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html

Please note that Official Control Regulations 2017/625 have repealed Regulation (EC) No 854/2004, 882/2004 and Directive No 96/23/EC.

Consolidated legislation

Consolidated texts, which integrate the basic instruments of European Union legislation with their amendments and corrections in a single, non-official document, are available. Each

consolidated text contains a list of all legal documents taken into account for its construction.

You can search for consolidated texts by using the 'find results by document number' option on the European Commission website. Once you have selected the relevant legislation, click 'document information', and then scroll down to 'all consolidated versions' and select the most recent version.

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html

Please note that the consolidated text may not contain the latest amendment to the legislation, as it takes several weeks for this to be updated.

Texts provided in this section are intended for information only. Please note that these texts have no legal value. For legal purposes please refer to the texts published in the 'Official Journal of the European Union'.

2. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

This export health certificate can be used for the entry into the European Union or Northern Ireland of domestic bovine animals (including *Bubalus* and *Bison* species and their cross-breeds) intended for breeding and/or production.

This certificate may also be used for these animals transiting the European Union to another third country.

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

In **England, Scotland and Wales**, this certificate must be signed by a Government Veterinary Officer (e.g. APHA, FSA or FSS employed veterinary officers) or 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.

EHC in foreign language(s) of the EU Member States (MSs).

EHC should be in English and the foreign language of the Border Control Post (BCP) of entry in the EU. The original copy of the required EHC must accompany the consignment to the BCP of entry.

Listing of the EU MS BCPs can be found here:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/vet-border-control/bip-contacts_en

The foreign language certificate as received from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or via the Export Heath Certificates Online system (EHCO) and bearing the same unique reference number as the English certificate, should be considered an official and accurate translations of the English, as published in EU legislation.

The (sub-) paragraphs / options and how they are numbered and formatted is identical in the English and foreign language editions and to the legislation published by the European Commission. Therefore, the same phrases / sentences in the foreign language versions as in the English version should be struck through and these deletions should be stamped and initialled in both versions. Both versions must also be signed (as opposed to being initialled) and stamped by the OV, the foreign language certificate is deemed to be a genuine and properly authorised translation of the English version.

This also applies to any instructions in the guidance notes to strike out certain paragraphs or to certify statements that the country is free of certain notifiable diseases etc.

Additional information can be found in APHA Vet Gateway:

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/index.htm

UK approved establishments will be uploaded to Europa website in due course, until the establishments are in Europa website you can find the list of UK approved establishments in the link below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/businesses-approved-to-export-to-the-eu

Please check the guidance on completion of Part I of the EHC at the bottom of the EHC and in the links provided in the NFG. For completion of Box I.8 - Region of Origin Code, if applicable; the territory code should be as listed in the relevant legislation that is provided under the notes at the bottom of the EHC. This is only for species or products affected by regionalisation measures or by the setting up of approved zones in accordance with a European Community Decision. The approved regions or zones must be indicated as described in the Official Journal of the European Union.

SIGNING AND STAMPING

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.
- We are aware of some BCPs demanding that all handwritten information in Part I of the EHC is initialled and stamped, including handwritten scoring out of otherwise blank boxes. There is no legal requirement in EU legislation that all the hand-written information entered in the certificate must be signed and stamped. It is only in the case of correction, in any part of the certificate, or in the case of statements to be crossed out, that the certifier must add signature (or initials) and stamp. This has been confirmed by the European Commission. The Commission noted however, in the case of a hand-written certificate, it is expected that the same one person completes the document. If not, the BCP might suspect that empty boxes were completed by another person after the certificate has been signed by the official

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. NFG will be updated with this new information in due course.**

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

You can also contact the Animal and Plant Health Agency's Centre for International Trade (CIT) on 03000 200 301.

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 a 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 Chapter 4 of Annex I to 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

The Official Veterinarian signing the export veterinary certificate must ensure that the public and animal health attestations set out in Part II of the veterinary certificate have been complied with.

The Official Veterinarian must ensure that they are aware of the relevant provisions of aforementioned regulations laying down the public/animal health requirements applicable to the dispatchment of domestic animals of the bovine species from the UK into the European Union.

II.1 Public Health Attestation [To be deleted if the European Union is not the final destination of the animals]

The Official Veterinarian signing the export veterinary certificate must ensure that the public health attestations set out in Part II of the veterinary certificate have been complied with.

The animals described in the certificate must meet the public health requirements of Directive 96/22/EC concerning the prohibition on the use in stock farming of certain substances having a hormonal or thyrostatic action, and of beta-agonists.

II.1.1 and II.1.2–

The national surveillance scheme implements Council Directive 96/22/EC (and 2017/625), which is transposed into national legislation by The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) (England and Scotland) Regulations 2015 and parallel legislation in the other devolved administrations. UK is listed in Decision 2011/163/EU. The Directive and Regulations prohibit the routine administration of the hormones mentioned to livestock. Administration for therapeutic and zootechnical reasons is allowed. The paragraph can be certified on this basis but a written declaration from the owner / exporter to this effect should be obtained as part of due diligence.

II.1.3 - The animals described in the certificate must meet the public health requirements with regard to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). See Section 13 on UK Animal Health Schemes for further advice.

Please note Great Britain at the time of publishing this guidance is regarded as controlled risk for BSE.

(a) - These statements can be signed on the basis of compliance and enforcement of the TSE Regulations, which requires the slaughter of the birth and feed cohorts of BSE cases.

(b) -

Please note that at the time of publishing of this NFG, GB is regarded as **controlled** risk for BSE:

eng-uk.png (3306×4803) (oie.int)

The animals being exported from GB must have been born after **14/02/2015.** This is the **date of birth** of the last indigenous case of BSE confirmed in September 2021 in GB. If this is the case, the **second option (b)** can be attested for.

If another indigenous BSE case occurs in future in these regions this will mean animals being exported must be born after the date of birth of the new case.

For animals that were imported into the United Kingdom from a controlled BSE risk region or country in which indigenous cases have been confirmed, the animals must be born after the date of birth of the latest born indigenous case in the relevant region / country of birth and residence.

II.2 Animal Health Attestation

The Official Veterinarian signing the export veterinary certificate must ensure that the animal health attestations set out in Part II of the veterinary certificate have been complied with.

Animals described in the certificate must also meet the animal health requirements listed in the certificate and in accordance with the relevant sections of Commission Regulation (EU) No 2020/692.

II.2.1 - Enter territory code. UK is listed for bovine animals. The relevant listing is in Part 1 of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2021/404 (as amended). Please note, “GB-1” code is for exports from the England and Wales and ‘’GB-2” is for exports from Scotland.

II.2.2 –

(i) and (ii) - These paragraphs may be signed based on a written declaration from the owner / exporter and following the examination of movement records and the holding registers to check the veracity of the declarations. If necessary, supporting certification from the veterinarian responsible for the holding should be obtained.

(ii) - If any susceptible animals introduced into the holding during the 40 days prior to dispatch or since birth of animals intended for export, then those animals introduced onto the holding must be held in isolation during this period. This means the animals should be kept isolated and separate, with no direct contact, from animals’ resident in the holding. The animals subject to isolation would not be considered as animals that have entered the establishment. Isolation must be authorised and supervised by an OV. A declaration maybe required by the owner too.

II.2.3 - This may be signed based on a written declaration from the owner / exporter.

II.2.4 - Can be certified on the basis of a declaration from the owner/exporter and Notifiable Disease Clearance, please check Section 5 on Notifiable Disease for more information. Diseases relevant to Bovine animals are listed in Annex I to Regulation 2020/692. This list refers to listed diseases for live animals in the Annex to Regulation 2018/1882. All listed diseases are notifiable/reportable in GB. Relevant diseases where there is a national eradication programme for bovines include: Foot and Mouth Disease, Rinderpest, Rift Valley Fever, Lumpy Skin Disease, Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, Brucellosis, Rabies, Bluetongue, Anthrax, Epizootic Haemorrhagic Disease, Tuberculosis and Enzootic Bovine Leukosis.

II.2.5 - Two 'either/or' options:

Either: The Official Veterinarian signing the certificate must ensure the animals will not stop or pass through any other establishment on export to the European Union. Declaration from the owner must be sought and, for example, the journey log can be provided as evidence.

Or: This may be certified when the Official Veterinarian has personal knowledge that the animals have been assembled in a single assembly operation, and that the assembly operation took place in an establishment which is listed by APHA as being approved for such operations. Documentation of such approval must be evidenced by the Official Veterinarian. The owner of the Assembly Establishment must provide a declaration that the assembly operation took no longer than 6 days. Approved assembly centres in UK can be found here. Animals exported from an assembly centre to a Member State must, for entry into the assembly centre, be accompanied by support health certification showing that they are eligible for exports to the EU. Further details of assembly centre approval may be obtained from APHA, Carlisle.

II.2.6 - This may be certified based on a signed declaration from the Owner / Transporter/ Exporter. And for example, the journey log can be provided as evidence.

II.2.7 - The certifying Official Veterinarian must ensure that the transport was cleaned and disinfected with an authorised disinfectant before loading in accordance with the relevant provisions of Retained EU Regulation No 1/2005. See section 7 on Animal Transport Attestation and gov.uk for further information on approved disinfectants. Every animal should be fit for the journey that is planned. A declaration from the owner / transporter must be sought.

II.2.8 - The certifying Official Veterinarian must perform a clinical inspection of the animals within 24-hour period prior to loading in the means of transport. The Official Veterinarian should ensure they check for clinical symptoms of diseases relevant to Bovine animals as listed in Annex I to Regulation 2020/692. This list refers to listed diseases in the Annex to Regulation 2018/1882. All listed diseases are notifiable/reportable in GB.

II.2.9 –

(i) - This may be certified based on the prohibition of the use of vaccines in the UK for diseases in point (i) in the absence of an outbreak.

(ii) - This may be certified on the basis that vaccination against Bluetongue Virus (Serotypes 1-24) with a live vaccine is currently prohibited. An inactive vaccine is however licensed for use in the UK.

II.2.10.1 –

(i) should be certified on the basis of UK notifiable disease clearances. See Section 5 Notifiable Disease Clearance.

(ii) may be certified as vaccination of animals against Foot and Mouth Disease is not permitted in the UK. The certifying Official Veterinarian may confirm with the owner / exporter as per written declaration that the no animals vaccinated against Foot and Mouth Disease have been introduced into the holding.

II.2.10.2 - This should be certified on the basis of UK notifiable disease clearances. See Section 5 Notifiable Disease Clearance. LSD has never occurred in UK.

II.2.10.3 - This should be certified on the basis of UK notifiable disease clearances. See Section 5 Notifiable Disease Clearance. Vaccination against these diseases are prohibited in the UK. The certifying Official Veterinarian may confirm with the owner / exporter as per written declaration that the no animals vaccinated against these diseases have been introduced into the holding.

II.2.10.4 – *Bluetongue attestations*

GB is officially recognised as a BTV free territory in Part 1 of Annex II to Regulation 2021/404 (as amended). Therefore, the first sub-option can be certified.

Last case of BTV was in 2008. Should an outbreak of Bluetongue Virus occur in GB, up to date guidance regarding its attestation should be sought from the Official Veterinarian Briefing Notes found on the APHA Vet Gateway. This can be accessed via the following link:

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/briefing%20notes.htm

II.2.10.5 - Certify the first option. GB is listed as a territory free of EBL. See Section 5 Notifiable Disease Clearance. Last case was in 1996. The relevant listing is in Part 1 of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2021/404 (As amended).

II.2.11.1 - Should be certified on the basis that the animal establishments are registered and under the control of APHA. The certifying Official Veterinarian should verify that records are kept for minimum of 3 years by the owner regarding the points stated in this attestation. Supporting evidence may be required from the owner / exporter.

II.2.11.2 - This should be certified if the establishment receive regular animal health visits from a private farm veterinarian or veterinary inspections from APHA or farm assurance schemes. Farms would be visited for several reasons, such as notifiable disease investigation, export certification, TB testing and herd health management. Frequency of such visitation is proportionate to the risk. Visitations from a Veterinarian should automatically include the purpose for detection of relevant diseases for Bovine animals as listed in Annex I to Regulation 2020/692. This list refers to listed diseases in the Annex to Regulation 2018/1882. All diseases listed are notifiable / reportable in GB. See here.

Assurances from the owner / exporter and private veterinarian responsible for the holding may be sought.

II.2.11.3 - This may be certified on the basis of notifiable disease clearances, as referred to in Section 5 of this guidance. The diseases of relevance are listed in Annex I to Regulation 2020/692. The Official Veterinarian should check disease freedom for relevant diseases in the Annex to Regulation 2018/1882. All diseases are notifiable/reportable in GB. Relevant diseases where national restriction measures for bovines can be imposed include: Foot and Mouth Disease, Rinderpest, Rift Valley Fever, Lumpy Skin Disease, Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, Brucellosis, Rabies, Bluetongue, Anthrax, Epizootic Haemorrhagic Disease, Tuberculosis and Enzootic Bovine Leukosis.

II.2.11.4, II.2.11.5, II.2.11.8 and II.2.11.9 - These may be certified based on Notifiable Disease Clearance BOV EEC NDC (Section 5). The applicable option should be certified, and the other options struck out.

Note: II.2.11.5. refers to Epizootic Haemorrhagic Disease (EHD) which asks that a zone within a 150km radius of the establishment is clear of the disease. This will require establishments on the south coast of England to establish the disease status for EHD of the Member States on the continental side of the English Channel, that fall within that radius. You can check OIE WAHIS database or seek further advice from APHA:

https://wahis.oie.int/#/dashboards/country-or-disease-dashboard

II.2.11.6 - Scotland and Isle of Man is recognised as free from bovine tuberculosis, the rest of GB or Crown Dependencies are not.

Although, Scotland is listed in EU legislation as an OTF country, cattle moving to the EU or NI would need to be certified as any other part of GB. Therefore, the second or third attestations can be certified only if the establishment is free of TB and the animals have been subjected to the intradermal tuberculin test as detailed in the certificate or are less than six weeks old. It is a listed test in Regulation 2020/689 and 2020/688. Owner/Exporter must demonstrate Officially TB Free (OTF) Status of their Establishment. This can also be certified on the basis of BOV EEC NDC, please check section 5 for more information.

Standard Operating Procedures for the tuberculin skin test in cattle can be found on the EU Reference Laboratory website:

https://www.visavet.es/bovinetuberculosis/databases/bt-protocols.php

II.2.11.7 - GB is recognised as free from brucellosis. The first option can be certified and the other options deleted. The relevant UK listing is in Part 1 of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2021/404 (As amended).. This can also be certified on the basis of BOV EEC NDC, please check section 5 for more information.

II.2.11.10 - First option could be certified if there has been no confirmed case of Surra in the holding the last 2 years. See notifiable disease clearance section 5 for further advice. Surra is notifiable from 21 April 2021 in Great Britain. Last recorded case was in imported camelids in Great Britain between 1970-1979 (exact date unknown). A declaration from the owner and veterinary responsible for the holding may be required. The second option can be deleted.

If there has been a confirmed case of Surra, please see further advice from APHA. Any blood samples required to be taken must be sent to an APHA laboratory for tests, and the submission form clearly annotated to indicate the serological test required (ELISA or CATT). If any of the animals is found to have serological evidence of Surra, the seropositive animals

must be removed from the establishment, then all the animals must be re-tested at least 6 months after removal of the last infected animal. If necessary, it is advisable to contact the laboratory in advance of submitting samples and agree how the results should be communicated.

Further information on the new reporting requirements can be found here:

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/documents/news/New-disease-reporting-requirements.pdf

II.2.12 - This section is applicable when the Member State of Destination or Switzerland has disease free status or an approved eradication program regarding Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis/Infectious Pustular Vulvovaginitis (IBR/IPVV). The Relevant Member State listing can be found in Annex V to Regulation (EU) 2021/620. Otherwise the section may be struck out. UK is not free of IBR.

If applicable, the second option may be certified if animals comply with quarantine and testing requirements. Approved tests are listed in Annex III to Regulation 2020/689 or Annex I to Regulation 2020/688. The list includes the ELISA tests. The quarantine establishment should meet the conditions for approval in Article 14, and Part 8 of Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2019/2035. The OV can approve the quarantine establishment based on these conditions.

Any blood samples required to be taken prior to dispatch must be sent to an APHA laboratory or AFBI for testing, and the submission form clearly annotated to indicate the serological test required. If necessary / urgent, it is advisable to contact the laboratory in advance of submitting samples and agree how the results should be communicated.

II.2.13 – Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD)

This section is applicable when the Member State of Destination or Switzerland has disease free status or an approved eradication program regarding Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD). The Relevant Member States can be found in Annex VII to Regulation (EU) 2021/620 (as amended). This includes BVD free status Member States like Austria, Denmark, Finland, Sweden and certain regions in Germany. Republic of Ireland has an approved eradication programme for BVD. Where EU Regulations refer to 'Ireland, whole territory', this means Republic of Ireland only. The EU would state 'N Ireland' specifically when NI is to be included in Regulations as written in 'Notes' section of the certificate. Please check the Regulation for the latest list of EU Member States. Note, GB is not recognised as free of BVD so the first 'either' option of II.2.13.1 cannot be certified.

For exports to BVD free member states or EU member states with an approved BVD eradication programme, the animals must comply with the antigen testing requirements detailed in the 'or' option of the attestation, with antigen testing performed within 30 days prior to export, as well as either the serological testing or quarantine requirements outlined in the sub-options. **The animals must also not be vaccinated against BVD.** The OVs must check there is no record or evidence of vaccination. This could be through:

- The review of vaccination records for the animals. OVs should note that there is a legal requirement for keepers of food producing animals to keep records of vaccinations for at least 5 years as per the Veterinary Medicines Regulation 2013 part 3 article 20

- An attestation from a MRCVS with knowledge of the animals concerned stating they have not been vaccinated against BVD.

In **summary**, for exports to BVD free member states or EU member states with an approved BVD eradication programme, II.2.13 requires the animals have not been vaccinated against BVD. There are two 'either/or' statements:

First '*EITHER*' II.2.13.1 - cannot be certified as GB is not officially free from BVD virus.

Second '*OR*' II.2.13.1 - requires antigen testing with negative results within 30 days prior to export. There are also four II.2.13.1.1 options:

- Either the animal must be subject to at least 21 days of Quarantine; OR
- If the animal is pregnant, the dam must be subjected to at least 21 day Quarantine prior to dispatch and be subjected to a serological test for the detection of antibodies against BVD, with negative results carried out more than 21 days after Quarantine begins; OR
- The animal must be subject to serological test for the detection of antibodies against BVD with positive results prior to dispatch; OR
- If the animal is pregnant, the dam was subjected to a serological test for the detection of antibodies against BVD with positive results prior to artificial insemination preceding the current gestation.

If the first or second II.2.13.1.1 is certified then the quarantine establishment should meet the conditions for approval in Article 14 and Part 8 of Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2019/2035. The OV can approve the quarantine establishment based on these conditions.

Any blood samples required to be taken prior to dispatch must be sent to an APHA laboratory for testing, and the submission form clearly annotated to indicate the serological or antigen test required. If necessary/urgent, it is advisable to contact the laboratory in advance of submitting samples and agree how the results should be communicated. Approved tests are listed in Annex I to Regulation 2020/688. The list includes serological tests such as, I-ELISA and B-ELISA, and antigen tests such as, RT-PCR and BVDV antigen detection ELISA.

II.3 Animal Transport Attestation ***[This attestation has not been included in the certificate, but Defra still request all OVs to ensure continued compliance to animal welfare legislation]***

The Official Veterinarian signing the export veterinary certificate must ensure that the animals described in the certificate have been treated before and at the time of loading in accordance with the relevant provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005. See section Animal Transport Attestation below. A written declaration should be requested from the Owner/Exporter/Transporter stating that the animals would be so treated and that any animals which may become unfit to travel following certification will not be loaded if the OV is not able to inspect the animals at the time of loading. Every animal should be fit for the journey that is planned.

4. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

For guidance on certifying paragraphs relating to Avian Influenza see APHA guidance for "Certifying Officers Obtaining Clearance for Avian Influenza" available here:

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/Guidance/exports/ehc-online.htm

Certifying Officers (Official Veterinarians (OV) and Environmental Health Officers (EHO)) can certify certain disease clearances paragraphs within this EHC, on behalf of the Department, provided written authority to do so has been provided/obtained on form 618NDC from APHA's Centre for International Trade – Carlisle (CITC).

The clearance will be provided by CITC on form 618NDC. It will specify the statements on the certificate that it covers, and is only in relation to the official GB disease status specified in the relevant paragraphs. 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 Certifying Officer to check and verify, obtaining support certification where necessary including support certification for products of animal origin that have originated in Northern Ireland.

Veterinarians may certify the following paragraphs of this certificate on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained from APHA's Centre for International Trade – Carlisle (CITC) on form BOV EEC NDC (Cattle Export Eligibility and Notifiable Disease Clearance – PASS) [which covers the Bovine-OFC in relation to TB clearance of holdings that the animals were previously resident in].

NB. The BOV EEC NDC provides disease clearance for the specific animal identifications listed in Appendix 1 of the BOV EEC NDC. Any animals presented for certification that are not listed on the BOV EEC NDC Appendix 1 are not eligible for export and must not be certified.

For the purposes of trade to the European Union, the herds / holdings of origin – i.e. where the animals have been resident for at least 40 days or since birth - must be officially free of tuberculosis, brucellosis and leukosis. This means that the herds, ***and individual animals in the herds***, must not be under any official tuberculosis, brucellosis or leukosis related restrictions at the time of certification. This includes, in the case of tuberculosis, whole herd restrictions (TB2) served e.g. following the discovery of reactors, **or individual animal restrictions (TB34) served e.g. following the discovery of inconclusive reactors (IRs)**, or any other TB-related restrictions served e.g. because routine herd tests are overdue or because of zero-tolerance.

The BOV EEC NDC must bear the same certificate reference number as the EHC or CBAS to which it relates.

5. COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE

Certification Support Officers may not be utilised for gathering evidence relating to this certificate.

6. CONSIGNMENTS OR PARTS OF THE CONSIGNMENT ORIGINATING FROM NI, EU MEMBER STATES OR FROM A THIRD COUNTRY (TRIANGULAR TRADE) [WHEN APPLICABLE]

NI origin:
Consignments could potentially contain animals which have originated in Northern Ireland. The certificate/documentation which the animal arrives into GB with may not contain sufficient information for the GB CO to sign the EU EHC.
Disease clearance for animals originating in NI can be completed using auto-clearance NDC found here:
https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/notifiable-diseases-northern-ireland
Where regional or local level disease clearance is required, this can be certified upon request on the basis of information from NI in the form of a declaration or a supporting health attestation.
Animal health statements which refer to the prohibition of certain vaccination programmes e.g. against FMD or CSF or ASF can be certified at a national level by the CO on the basis that NI also enforces a ban on such vaccinations in accordance with EU regulations.
Statements relating to implementation of a national system for identification and registration of livestock (cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry) can be certified on the basis of the requirement to register all livestock animal births, moves and deaths on the DAERA database.

EU origin:
It is possible that some consignments may contain animals that are of EU origin and were imported into GB on a GB Export Health Certificate. The GB EHC may not contain enough information to allow the CO to sign an EU EHC.
In such cases, the CO will need further information from the EU member state regarding particular attestations on the EHC that cannot be signed by the CO without support documentation. Thus, the GB exporter must request from the EU exporter an attestation or written declaration from an EU registered vet. The GB exporter may wish to obtain these directly from the EU vet who has inspected the animals before export from the EU.
This supporting information must be in writing and kept by the GB CO. The GB CO is not required to attach it as a supporting document to the EHC, unless requested by the EU Border Control Post or told otherwise.

Third country origin:
It is also possible that some consignments may contain animals that have been imported to GB from non-EU countries and fulfilled a residency period in GB, and GB exporters intend to export then to the EU. In these cases, COs may obtain a copy of the EHC for the import of such animals from the Third Country to GB.
GB COs are not required to attach a copy of the Third Country EHC as a supporting document to the EHC, unless requested by the EU Border Control Post or specifically instructed in the NFG.

It is the GB exporter's ultimate responsibility to obtain any necessary support documents (from the EU member state exporter/Third Country exporter), to enable GB COs to be able to certify the live animals in good time before the export to the EU.

7. DECLARATION BY MASTER OF THE SHIP

A declaration by the master of the ship, as set out in Annex III of Commission Regulation (EC) No 403/2021, shall be attached to veterinary certificates for imports into the EU of terrestrial animals where the transport of those commodities includes transport by ship, even for part of the journey. You can find the Master of the ship declaration here: www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates/master-of-the-vessel-declaration-8466

Consignments of live animals usually have to arrive at the EU Border Control Post of introduction within 10 days of the date of issue of this certificate.

In the case of animals transported by sea, that period of 10 days shall be extended by an additional period corresponding to the duration of the journey by sea, as certified by a signed declaration of the master of the ship. This declaration must be drawn up in accordance with article 14 to regulation (EU) 2020/692 (as amended) and attached in its original form to the certificate. The declaration states any ports of call en route and that the animals have not been in contact with animals of a lower health status and have remained on board.

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32020R0692

8. DECLARATION BY CAPTAIN OF THE AIRCRAFT

Where consignments of live animals are transported by air, the crate or container in which they are transported and the surrounding area shall be sprayed with an appropriate insecticide.

That spraying shall be carried out immediately prior to the closing of the aircraft doors after loading, and after any subsequent opening of the doors in a third country, until the aircraft reaches its final destination.

The captain of the aircraft shall certify that the spraying has been carried out by signing a declaration, drawn up in accordance with Part 4 of Annex I of Regulation (EU) No 206/2010 and attached in its original form to the veterinary certificate.

9. 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.

Except for animals which are accompanied by their mother, long journeys should only be permitted for domestic animals of bovine species if **calves** are older than fourteen days.

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.

OVs 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.

10. CLINICAL EXAMINATION

The inspection must be carried out within 24 hours prior to loading. The pre-export inspection should consist of a visual appraisal and, if deemed appropriate, physical examination of the animals for export. Each animal subject to an inspection must be assessed as an individual.

OVs must use their professional judgement to determine the level of inspection required in order to ensure that no animal is exported which shows signs of infectious disease and that animals are fit to travel to their intended destination.

11. LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION

Official ISO codes for the United Kingdom of Great Britain are 'GB' (or 'GBR') and the numeric code '826'. Livestock intended for dispatch to the EU or NI must therefore be identified with an ear tag which meets this ISO identification requirement.

For cattle: Use an additional export tag which includes ISO country code and ID number

Cattle are currently double tagged with ear tags which bear the country code UK and the animal's individual ID number. Cattle for export to the EU or NI will need an additional export tag bearing the ISO country identifier as well as the animal's individual ID number.

In England, for cattle the ISO code must be GB. In Wales and Scotland, GB or 826 can be used.

You can use any type of tag (e.g. flag tag, button tag) for this additional export tag, but it should be easily read from a distance.

If you export livestock from Great Britain you will need to return the passports to BCMS within 7 days of export.

You should add a third tag with the GB country code to cattle who are already double tagged.

All tags must include the animal's individual ID number.

For unidentified calves you're tagging for the first time, you can choose to either:

- use double UK tags with the GB suffix (UK-GB)
- add a third tag with the GB country code - you must add this if your UK double tags do not state GB

You should use a plastic flag or button tag, of any colour, for your third tag.

If you export cattle for slaughter, they must be freeze-branded on the hind quarters with an L mark.

Cattle passports

You do not need to send passports with your cattle when you export them to the EU from 1 January 2021, **however cattle passports are still required for all cattle being exported to NI.**

You must return any existing passports to the British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS) within 7 days of exporting your animals.

Ear tagging guidance after 1st of January 2021 can be found on GOV.UK here:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/exporting-animals-and-animal-products-to-the-eu-from-1-january-2021#identify-animals

https://www.gov.uk/topic/keeping-farmed-animals/cattle-identity-registration

12. ANIMAL HEALTH SCHEMES

BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE) ATTESTATION: BSE control is enforced under the:

- The Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (England) Regulations 2018;
- The Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (Wales) Regulations 2018;
- The Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (Scotland);
- The Bovines and Bovine Products (Trade) Regulation 1999.

Animals born or reared in the UK before the 1st August 1996 must not be certified for export. In addition, the following bovine animals cannot be certified for export if they are, under the UK TSE Regulations, subject to restrictions/slaughter at the time of consignment for trade:

- Offspring born within 24 months of clinical suspicion or confirmation of BSE in the dam;
- Cohort of a BSE case.

Defra IT systems would identify and trace these (offspring and cohort) animals as soon as a suspect BSE case is identified or a bovine tested under the BSE active surveillance programme receives a positive result from a rapid test, and therefore for all practical purposes, if an animal is not subject to a BSE related restriction at the time of certification, it can be certified for trade.

Bluetongue Statement

On 5 July 2011 Great Britain was officially declared free from Bluetongue. Since then vaccination of animals in GB was not permitted.

However, Directive 2012/5/EU amending Council Directive 2000/75/EC now allows inactivated bluetongue vaccine to be used in free areas. This has been transposed in Great Britain through amendments to Bluetongue Regulations (England - SI 2012/197), (Scotland - SSI 2012/199) and (Wales SI 2012 2403).

As a result, bluetongue free areas are allowed to vaccinate against bluetongue serotypes 1, 2, 4 and 8 using inactivated vaccine made permissible, in England from 24 August 2012 and in Wales from 10 October 2012. But in Scotland, vaccination against all bluetongue serotypes is permissible from 24 September 2012 provided the vaccine is inactivated vaccine.

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/documents/traces/cattle/bovinebluetongue-nfg.pdf

13. 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 CO 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 CO in a colour other than the printed text 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

14. CERTIFIED COPIES OF EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATES

When completing export certification, the CO and, if applicable, FCCO must make photocopies of, or scan and save all documents they certify. OVs 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 will need to be returned to the APHA CITC on the day of signing. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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.

https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency

This publication is available at: www.gov.uk/government/publications

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to:

livestockexports@apha.gov.uk

8446NFG

Version History

NFG

Version 12: Published 01 September 2023:

Section II.2.13 - Updated to clarify references to NI/ROI in EU legislation.
Sections II.2.12 and II.2.13 - Updated to describe quarantine and isolation requirements.

Version 11 Published 12 May 2023:

Section 7: Declaration by Mater of the Ship: Link to Regulation (EU) 2020/692 is added as it has replaced the Regulation (EU) 2010/206.

Version 10 Published 01 March 2023:

Section 14- Amended added guidance advising that a certified copy of the certificate needs to be returned to APHA CITC on the day of signing.

S**ection II.2.13-** Amended as the BVD transitional agreement ended on the 01 March 2023 and the BVD supplementary attestation can no longer be used.