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EXPORT OF LIVE SHEEP TO THE ISLAND OF ST.HELENA

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7294EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7294EHC.

Exporters are strongly advised to verify the requirements of the importing country by contacting the veterinary authorities, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

1. Scope of the Certificate

Export health certificate 7294EHC may be used for the export of live sheep from the United Kingdom to St. Helena

It is not permitted to export sheep from Great Britain for fattening or 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. 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 must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in ink of a different colour to that of the printing.

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

If the OV has suspicions that the consignment is being exported for fattening or 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 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. Obtaining an import permit

The exporter/agent should be aware of the requirements of the importing country particularly with respect to the requirement for an import permit. The import permit number should be given in the health certificate at paragraph III c).

4. **Notifiable disease clearance (form 618NDC)**

Paragraphs IV c) and d) refer: OV's may certify paragraphs IV c) and (d) on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland.

5. **Scrapie.**

Paragraph IV e) viii refers. If necessary, details of the holdings of residence and origin of the sheep to be exported must be submitted to the local Animal Health Office so that it can arrange for the Scrapie Database to be checked to confirm the position.

6. **Laboratory tests**

The OV must ensure that any laboratory carrying out pre-export testing is officially approved for this purpose by Defra or DAERA.

In Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland), the majority of pre-export testing is carried out at the APHA Laboratory, New Haw, Weybridge, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 3NB, (Tel: 01932 341111). Some tests are carried out at APHA Lasswade, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik, Midlothian, EH26 0PZ, (Tel: 0131 445 6169). Certain specialist tests are carried out at regional APHA laboratories.

In Northern Ireland, the majority of pre-export testing is carried out at the Veterinary Sciences Division (VSD) Laboratory, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3SD (tel: 028 9052 0011).

For operational reasons however, the laboratories involved may change periodically. Accordingly, the OV is advised to check with APHA or VSD to determine to which laboratories samples should be sent for testing. Samples should always be sent to the laboratory concerned sufficiently in advance of the export date to enable the tests to be carried out and reported. If in doubt as to the procedures for collection, the requirement for transport medium if any, dispatch of samples and the length of time a test is likely to take, the OV should seek the advice of the relevant laboratory.

Para IV m) refers. The original laboratory reports must be attached to the certificate.

7. **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