

EXPORT OF BREEDING PIGS TO BAHAMAS

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT NOTE

These notes are not intended to operate as a standalone document but must be read in conjunction with Export Health Certificate 7119EHC.

We would also strongly advise exporters to verify the requirements of the importing country by contacting the appropriate veterinary authorities, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 7119EHC may be used for the export of breeding pigs from the United Kingdom to Bahamas.

2. REQUIREMENT FOR AN IMPORT PERMIT

The exporter/agent must be aware of the requirements of the importing country and in particular whether or not an import permit is necessary.

The number of any import permit should be entered at paragraph III (d) of the health certificate.

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

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 any ink colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

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

aPVPs certifying DECOL produced Export Health Certificates 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.

4. OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION

Paragraph I refers. All pigs must be identified in accordance with The Pigs (Records, Identification and Movement) Order 2007. Animals intended for export from the United Kingdom must be marked with an identification mark. The identification mark, usually in the form of an approved tamperproof ear tag, must include the letters 'UK', followed by the officially authorised herd mark and a unique identification number allotted to the pig by the keeper (e.g. UK AB1234 0001).

Official Veterinarians must be satisfied that each animal is individually identified in accordance with the schedule to the health certificate. The Official Veterinarian may wish to read the identification marks personally, or they may be read by a responsible person in the employment of the veterinary practice and under the direction of the Official Veterinarian. The terms "direction" and "supervision" are defined in the RCVS Guide to Professional Conduct.

5. SCHEDULES

Paragraph I refers. A separate schedule may be used to identify the animals certified. The schedule must contain the same information as that required in paragraph I of the certificate and this paragraph must be annotated "See Attached Schedule". Each page of the schedule must bear a page number and the health certificate reference number and be signed, dated and stamped by the Official Veterinarian. The schedule must be stapled inside the health certificate and the Official Veterinarian should "fan" and stamp over the pages of the schedule and certificate. The top stapled corner of the schedule and certificate should be folded over and stamped also. Any blank spaces in the schedule or in paragraph I should be deleted with diagonal lines.

6. OFFICIAL DISEASE CLEARANCE (FORM 618NDC)

7119NFG (Cleared 11/02/2010) (Reviewed 04/10/2023)

Paragraphs IV (a) and IV (b), and, in the case of breeding pigs exported from Great Britain, paragraph IV (c) (i) refer. Official Veterinarians may certify these paragraphs on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC issued by APHA CSC at Carlisle or from the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland.

7. LABORATORY TESTS

Samples must be sent for testing to the laboratories of the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA). The majority of pre-export tests are carried out at the Veterinary Laboratory Agency (VLA) New Haw, Weybridge, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 3NB, Tel:01932 357335). Some tests are carried out at the regional VLA laboratories. For operational reasons however, the laboratories involved may change periodically.

Accordingly, Official Veterinarians are advised to check with the VLA to determine to which laboratories samples should be sent for testing. Samples should always be received in advance of the export date. 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, Official Veterinarians should seek the advice of the relevant laboratory.

8. TRANSPORT DECLARATION

Paragraph IV (e) refers. The certifying Official Veterinarian must obtain a written declaration confirming these arrangements from the person in charge of transporting the animals.

The design of the containers, the recommended species requirements and preparation for transport must be in accordance with the recommendations of the OIE International Animal Health Code and International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animal Regulations. Please refer to paragraph 12 of these notes for further guidance.

9. 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

10. 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.