

No:

EXPORT OF BREEDING PIGS TO NIGERIA - 7233EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV's) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7233EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7233EHC.

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

1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 7233EHC may be used for the export of breeding pigs from the United Kingdom to Nigeria.

2. 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. If applicable, the import permit number should be entered in 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 EHC 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 OF EXPORTED PIGS

Paragraph I refers. All pigs must be identified in accordance with The Pigs (Records, Identification and Movement) Order 2007 (as amended) or in Northern Ireland the Aujeszky's Disease Order (Northern Ireland) 1994, with an ear tag or tattoo bearing the letters "UK" and the official herd mark of the holding on which the

mark is applied (which need not necessarily be the premises from which the pigs are being exported if pigs were marked on a previous holding). The mark must also include an individual animal number. 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).

OVs must be satisfied that each animal is individually identified in accordance with the schedule to the health certificate. The OV 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 certifying veterinarian. The terms "direction" and "supervision" are defined in the RCVS Guide to Professional Conduct.

5. SCHEDULES

Section I refers. A separate schedule may be used to identify the animals certified. This schedule must contain the same information as that required in Section I and the table in Section I must be annotated 'See attached Schedule'. Each page of the schedule must bear a page number and the health certificate reference number and must be signed, dated and stamped by the OV.

The schedule must be stapled inside the health certificate and the OV 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 Section I must be deleted with diagonal lines.

6. OFFICIAL DISEASE CLEARANCES

Paragraphs IV(a), IV(b), IV(d) and in Northern Ireland paragraph IV(f) (i) refer. OVs may certify these paragraphs on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA CSC at Carlisle or from the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland.

7. ORIGIN AND RESIDENCY

Paragraph IV(c) refers. The certifying OV should check farm movement and other records to verify that the animals have been born and raised in the United Kingdom. The OV may also wish the owner / exporter / agent of the exporter to provide a signed statement as additional verification of origin and residency.

8. PREMISES FREEDOM FROM OTHER DISEASES

Paragraphs IV(e) (i) and IV(f) (ii) refer. OVs should take into account their personal knowledge of the disease status of the premises of origin, or isolation premises if different. If necessary, this may be supported by discussion with the local office of APHA or DAERA.

OVs should also carry out appropriate checks of the farm records including use of medicines, fertility and birth records and also returns from slaughterhouses to verify freedom from the named diseases.

The certifying OV may also wish the owner / exporter / agent of the exporter to provide a signed statement as further evidence attesting to the freedom of the holding of origin from the diseases listed in this paragraph.

9. INCIDENCE OF TRANSMISSIBLE GASTROENTERITIS (TGE) IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Paragraph IV(f) (i) refers. TGE is Notifiable in Northern Ireland where TGE has never been recorded. TGE is not notifiable to the GB veterinary authorities, however no cases of the disease have been recorded in the United Kingdom since a limited outbreak in the north of England in 1999.

In order to certify this paragraph, OVs are advised to verify the continued freedom of the UK from TGE by contacting the APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-apha>

10. **SUBMISSION OF TESTS TO GOVERNMENT LABORATORIES**

Paragraphs IV(e) (ii) and, if applicable, V(f) (ii) refer. The OV must ensure that any laboratory carrying out pre-export testing is officially approved for this purpose by Defra or DAERA.

OVs should also note the timing of blood sampling of the exported animals, which must be carried out not less than 21 days after commencement of the isolation period.

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

11. **APPROVED ISOLATION PREMISES**

Paragraph IV(g) refers. The pigs must be held in approved isolation facilities, which may be located on the premises of origin, for a period of not less than 28 days immediately prior to shipment. The following conditions must be met by the isolation facilities before approval is given by the OV. The OV is advised to consult the local office of APHA or DAERA in case of any problems:

- (i) Any vehicles used to transport the animals for export from the farm of origin to the approved export quarantine facility must be cleansed and disinfected with an approved disinfectant prior to use;
- (ii) The isolation accommodation must comprise airspace separate from any other airspace in which livestock are present and should be as remote as practicable from any other livestock accommodation.
- (iii) The interior of the isolation building must be capable of being thoroughly cleansed and disinfected. The building must be cleansed and disinfected using an approved disinfectant immediately before entry of the animals to be exported.
- (iv) No drainage or effluent produced by or derived from other livestock may pass through the isolation accommodation.
- (v) Any person entering the isolation accommodation must first put on overalls and waterproof footwear reserved exclusively for use in the isolation accommodation.

(vi) A footbath containing an approved disinfectant, diluted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, must be located at the entrance to the isolation premises. Any person entering must first wash and disinfect their footwear.

12. 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

13. 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.