

EXPORT OF BREEDING SWINE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF APHA/DAERA VETERINARY OFFICIALS, OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Veterinary Officials of the UK Competent authorities, Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 1196EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 1196EHC.

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 CERTIFICATE

This certificate covers the export of domestic swine (*Sus scrofa*) intended for breeding purposes from the United Kingdom to USA, including pigs from other EU Member States provided they meet certain residence requirements in the EU (if they have been imported from a Third Country) and they can comply with the disease assurances required by the 1196EHC certificate.

2. IMPORT PERMIT

The exporter must obtain an Import Permit from the following address:

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
Veterinary Services (VS)
National Center for Import and Export (NCIE) Unit 39
4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231.

Telephone: (301) 734-3277,

Facsimile: (301) 734-6402.

Website: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/importexport>

The application VS Form 17-129, 'Application for Import or in Transit Permit' can be obtained by writing or telephoning NCIE or by downloading it from the APHIS website.

A copy of the import permit must be attached to the export health certificate.

The importer must also reserve quarantine space at the following USDA animal import centre : New York Animal Import Centre (AIC), Rock Tavern, New York, Tel: (845) 564-2950.

3. CERTIFICATES AND SIGNATURES

This certificate must be issued, i.e. signed within 24 hours of export. All the signatures and the stamps in the certificate must be in a colour other than black.

Part D - Section A - 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 should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any 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

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.

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

Part D - Section B - Countersignature by WTVO

After Part D - Section A is signed, the certificate must then be presented to a Whole Time Veterinary Official (WTVO) of Defra/SG/WG/DAERA for countersignature at Part D - Section B.

The original will be returned to the exporter to accompany the consignment to the port of embarkation.

Part D - Section C - signature by the local whole time Veterinary Official or Official Veterinarian at the port of embarkation

This section of the certificate must be signed at the airport/port of embarkation from the UK to the USA by an Official Veterinarian. In practice, if the port of embarkation is also a Border Inspection Post (BIP), this can be a Veterinary Official employed by the relevant Department working at the BIP, but the exporter must arrange the inspection well in advance and note that this may be charged for.

The port VO/OV must send a certified copy of the final completed certificate to the Animal Plant and Health Agency (APHA) Centre for International Trade at Carlisle within seven days of signing, or in the case of Northern Ireland to DAERA, Dundonald House, Belfast and keep a copy for his/her own record.

4. COMPLETION OF THE CERTIFICATE

PARTS A, B & C

These sections may be prepopulated by the issuing office with the details provided at the time of application for export or may be populated by the Official Veterinarian completing Part D - Section A of the certificate, who is ultimately responsible to ensuring that the information in those sections is accurate before certifying the assurances contained in Part D -Section A. The details should match those of the import permit where relevant.

PART A

(3) Name and address of the consignor: this is the name and address of the exporter.

(4) Means of transport: this should include the type of transportation to be used for final shipping to USA, including registration no. of vehicle, flight no. of aircraft or name of ship.

(5) Name and address of embarkation quarantine facility: this is the name and address of the isolation premises.

PART B

(6). Name and address of the consignee: name of importer and address of the final destination of the pigs in the USA (as per import permit if stated).

(7) Port of entry into the United States: official point of entry on arrival at USA (as per import permit if stated).

PART C

(8) Number of swine: total number of pigs in the consignment.

(8.2 & 8.3)- Identification

All pigs must be identified in accordance with The Pigs (Records, Identification and Movement) Order 2011, 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 should also include an individual animal number.

OVs must be satisfied that each animal is individually identified in accordance with the schedule to the health certificate. This may be done by reading the identification marks personally, or by having the ear numbers read by someone in the employment of the veterinary practice and under the direction of the certifying veterinarian, or by the OV or an employee of the veterinary practice supervising the marking of the animals to be exported. The terms "direction" and "supervision" are defined in the RCVS Guide to Professional Conduct.

(8.4) Age

The age of each animal may be stated on the schedule to the health certificate as either the date of birth or age in days, weeks, months or years. In the case of large consignments, it is acceptable for the OV to give a range of ages, e.g. 5-6 months. Vague descriptions of age, e.g. over 5 months are not acceptable. The OV should obtain an owner's declaration of the age of the animals and check its validity on the basis of breeding records, when available, and the physical characteristics of the animals. If the OV has doubt as to the validity of the declaration, the Animal Plant and Health Agency (APHA) Centre for International Trade at Carlisle, or in the case of Northern Ireland DAERA, Dundonald House, Belfast should be consulted.

Schedules

Table at Section (8) refers. A separate schedule may be used to identify the animals certified. This schedule must contain the same information as that required in the table at Section (8) and the table at Section (8) must be annotated "see attached schedule". Each page of the schedule must bear a page number and the health certificate reference number. The schedule must be stapled inside the health certificate and the OV should "fan" and stamp over the pages of the schedule and certificate. One 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.

5. PART D - HEALTH ATTESTATION

Section A (Official Veterinarian certification)

(9.1) Tuberculosis, brucellosis and Aujeszky's disease

Unless the certifying Official Veterinarian has personal knowledge of the disease status of the premises of birth/residence concerned, written assurance should be obtained from veterinarians responsible for the premises before signing this section.

(9.2) Pre-export isolation

The USDA regards the term 'quarantine' of swine intended for export to the United States to mean quarantine with no direct or indirect contact or exposure to other swine, or animal handlers in contact with animals other than those intended for export to the USA. A period of pre-export isolation for not less than 90days is required.

Section (9.2) of the certificate reflects this requirement, which should be carried out in premises approved by the Official Veterinarian on behalf of the UK Competent Authority as meeting the following standards prior to commencement of the isolation period:

(i) The isolation accommodation must comprise of an airspace separate from any airspace in which any other livestock are present and be as remote as practicable from any other livestock accommodation.

(ii) The interior of the isolation building must be capable of being thoroughly cleansed and disinfected. The building must be cleansed and disinfected using a Defra approved disinfectant immediately before entry of the animals to be exported.

(iii) No drainage or effluent produced by or derived from other livestock may pass through the isolation accommodation.

(iv) Any person who requires to enter the isolation accommodation must first put on overalls and boots reserved exclusively for use in

the isolation accommodation.

(v) 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.

(vi) Failure of one animal to the tuberculin test will render all animals in-contact animals ineligible for export to the USA. It may, therefore, be advisable to provide several self-contained isolation units for large numbers of pigs undergoing qualifying tests.

(vii) If pigs undergo the 90 day period of isolation in premises other than the premises of origin, the isolation premises must be free of pigs other than those in isolation for export to the USA.

(9.3, 9.4 & 9.5) - Disease clearances

The Official Veterinarian in charge of the isolation of the pigs is personally responsible for the attestation of the health of the pigs for export. He/she should visit the isolation premises in order to approve the isolation premises, at the beginning of the isolation, at the end of isolation prior to embarkation for export and as many times he/she considers necessary to ascertain the health of the animals. He/she should use any evidence (including clinical observations, information derived from herd mortality and production records, medicine records, laboratory test reports, pathological examinations, herd manager declarations etc) that he/she considers necessary for this purpose.

(9.6) - Pre-export testing

Testing of the pigs for export for tuberculosis, brucellosis and Aujeszky's disease is required within 90 days of the intended date of export. This effectively means that the animals could be tested prior to their entry in isolation for export. However, exporters and OVs are strongly advised to perform the tests during the isolation period.

Tuberculosis testing

All pigs to be exported to the USA must be tested for tuberculosis within 90 days prior to export. However, it is advisable that the test is carried out while undergoing isolation. This test must not be carried out within 30 days of a previous tuberculin test.

Tuberculin Testing Method

The preferable site is the loose skin at the base of each ear. Before proceeding with the test, both injection sites should be checked for the presence of any nodules resulting from previous injections or vaccinations. The site for the injection of avian PPD tuberculin should be the left ear, and the site for the injection of bovine PPD tuberculin should be the right ear.

Each site should be cleaned, the loose skin at the base of the ear raised into a fold and the skin thickness measurement recorded. Standard strength PPD, as issued for cattle, must be used and a dose of 0.1 ml injected intradermally into each raised fold taking care not to inject subcutaneously.

A useful aid for subsequently reading the test is, after cleaning, to draw a circle on the skin at each selected site with a black felt-tip pen and the injections are made within the encircled areas.

The owner or stockman in charge of the pigs must be advised to avoid giving injections to the pigs at the test sites between the initial and reading

visits.

Any palpable swelling or any swelling showing oedema or an increase of more than 2 mm at the site of injection should be regarded as a positive reaction. Necrosis, exudation or swelling of associated lymphatic ducts or nodes should also be regarded as positive reactions when read at 48 hours. Any pig with an increase in skin thickness to bovine PPD greater than the increase in skin thickness to avian PPD should be reported to the APHA Regional Veterinary Lead and to the APHA Centre for International Trade in Carlisle.

Failure of one animal to the tuberculin test will disqualify all pigs held in the isolation facility from export to the USA.

Exporters and OV's should note that, on arrival in the USA, post import testing for tuberculosis is carried out at least 45 days after a previous test.

Brucellosis testing

A buffered Brucella antigen test (card test, rose Bengal test or the buffered plate agglutination test) or an ELISA (indirect or competitive) test can be used.

If the option of a buffered antigen test is used, exporters and OV's are advised to submit samples for testing using both Rose Bengal Plate Test (RBPT) and SAT for brucellosis. Any blood sample giving a reaction to RBPT or SAT in excess of 20 iu/ml may cause problems of interpretation when the pigs are re-tested on arrival in the USA. Samples that react positively must be retested with negative results using a suitable confirmatory test such as the complement fixation test.

Samples should always be submitted to the APHA Weybridge or DAERA AFBI Stormont laboratories in good time to allow reports to be received in advance of the export date and to obtain advice on procedures for collection and dispatch of samples for testing. If in doubt as to the length of time a test is likely to take, OV's should seek the advice of the relevant laboratory.

*Test records must accompany the shipment.

Aujeszky's Disease (AD) testing

Although the whole of the UK is officially free from AD (without vaccination), the USDA does not keep a list of USDA/APHIS recognised AD-free countries.

In addition to the attestation at Section 9.1 that the pigs must originate from premises that have been free from clinical and pathological evidence of AD during the 12 months (or since birth) prior to export, all pigs for export must undergo serological testing for AD within 90 days prior to export. However, it is advisable that the test is performed while the animals are in isolation.

Vaccination of pigs against AD is forbidden in the UK. The SNT (at 1:4 dilution) or ELISA (using all the Aujeszky's disease viral antigens) tests must be used.

Should the animals originate from countries where AD vaccination is allowed and the animals themselves are vaccinated (with a g1 (gE) deleted vaccine), then an ELISA test for the Aujeszky's disease g1 (gE) antigens in the case of swine vaccinated must be used.

*Test records must accompany the shipment.

**(9.7) Transport from the isolation premises to the port of departure
(Cleansing & Disinfection of vehicles and sealing of
vehicles/containers)**

Cleansing & Disinfection of the means of transport

Vehicles must be disinfected before the animals are loaded for Transport to the port of departure. Under EU Council Regulation EC/1/2005, implemented in Great Britain by the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 and its equivalent in the devolved regions, any vehicle carrying live animals must be cleaned and disinfected prior to loading.

A DEFRA/DAERA approved disinfectant must be used. Disinfectants are approved under the Diseases of Animals (Approved Disinfectants) (England) Order 2007 (as amended), or the equivalent Orders in Devolved Administrations. The list contains over 200 brands of disinfectant and a disinfectant listed for use under general Orders would be appropriate. DEFRA approved disinfectants carry a statement on the container, and other references to their approval may be found in their data sheets or label instructions.

The OV does not need to personally supervise the cleansing and disinfection of the means of transport and certification on the basis of a written declaration from the owner/exporter/haulier is acceptable.

Sealing of the means of transport

The USDA/APHIS requires that tamperproof seals be applied to the means of transport in such a way as to prevent interference with or substitution of the consignment during the journey to the final point of departure from the United Kingdom.

The OV is personally responsible for the correct application of seals to the vehicle and to enter the seal(s) number (s) at section 9.7 of the countersigned certificate at the isolation premises immediately after loading the consignment for the journey to the port/airport of embarkation. However, the exporter/ person in charge of transporting the animals may physically apply the seals under the direct supervision of the OV. The seals are subject to inspection and verification by the Official Veterinarian at the airport/port of embarkation.

To avoid difficulties, the OV/exporter / person in charge of transporting the animals is advised to discuss sealing procedures with the Official Veterinarian at the airport/port of embarkation well in advance. In cases where pigs are loaded into IATA-approved individual pens intended for direct loading onto the aircraft or vessel, each pen door must be sealed and the number of each seal entered on the health certificate. In cases where pigs are loaded together into pens on a vehicle and walk up a loading ramp onto the aircraft or vessel, all vehicle doors and inspection hatches must be sealed.

Failure to comply with sealing requirements may result in the loss of export status for the entire consignment.

Additional certification by OV

In addition to the certification requirements in Section A above, the OV must provide a veterinary attestation that the welfare provisions at 11.8 of the certificate are met (see certificate and guidance on section 11.8 below).

The OV may also be requested to provide other additional certification guarantees by the countersigning officer or the WTVO/OV at the port of embarkation.

Section B (Whole Time Veterinary Official/Official Veterinarian certification)

(11.1 to 11.7 inclusive) Notifiable disease clearances

The pigs will be exported directly from the UK (country of origin of the consignment where a minimum of 90days residency/isolation applies) but they may have been imported from the EU or Third Country or been in contact with imported pigs.

The countersigning officer must obtain a declaration from the exporter/owner or the OV that the pigs have been continuously resident in the UK since birth and that have not been in contact with imported pigs or a declaration and evidence/records of the origin (including a copy of the relevant ITAHC/CVED certificate), residency status of the animals if they have been imported or in contact with imported pigs.

In most cases, the pigs would have been born and reared in the UK. In any case, the CSF, FMD, Rinderpest, ASF and SVD status of the country of birth / residence of the pigs should be checked using the following links before these paragraphs are certified.

Classical Swine Fever

The APHIS-defined European CSF region and the list of the countries/regions that APHIS has declared free of classical swine fever (CSF) can be consulted at the following link:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/animal-health-status-of-regions/!ut/p/z1/lZDLDoIwEEW_xS_oTK08lqU20IiASAW7MV2ZJooujN8vGjdqeDibySTnzEwuMaQhprV3d7Q3d2ntqZv3xjtkKGIIGKYgKIMNwyJgZUGZBfK_gDRnAqMtdF1GwGXpr6VUFHBOZH_LvE6v9JVfMckQjrNh57iMM0fAMzw-pqYzxOxXCLwJFSrxPcg54s30BdRSUeAZ4ZfwG9IY29ez1rrBpxyfPYA2RuKPw!!/#collapse0c77fada-f496-4080-99c8-790cfd3eebac

FMD, Rinderpest, ASF and SVD

The list of APHIS-recognized animal health statuses of regions regarding specific animal diseases can be consulted at the following link:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/animal-health-status-of-regions>

(11.8) Welfare provisions

The countersigning officer must obtain support certification from the OV that the watering, feeding and fitness to travel requirements are met.

(11.9) OV authorisation

At the time of application the issuing office must have checked that the signatory OV is appointed to the appropriate panel for export purposes or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation.

The countersigning officer must corroborate that the certificate has been appropriately completed and that the appointment, details, signature and stamp of the signing OV appear to be genuine.

Section C - (Whole time Veterinary Official or Official Veterinarian certification at the port of embarkation)

(13.1 & 13.2) Checks on arrival at port of embarkation

The WTVO/OV at the airport/port of embarkation must verify on arrival that the seals applied at the premises of departure are still intact prior to loading the consignment on to the aircraft/vessel and that no animals other than those intended for export were inside the vehicle.

The WTVO/OV must enter the original seal number in section 13.1 of the

certificate.

(13.3) & (13.5) - Cleansing and disinfection of the aircraft/vessel and materials used in transport to USA

The exporter is responsible for making advanced arrangements with the WTVO/OV at the port of embarkation for the loading compartment, loading ramps and any removable equipment on the aircraft/ vessel to be cleansed and disinfected prior to the loading of the consignment.

The interior of all aircraft must be thoroughly cleaned of all foreign matter and then disinfected using methods acceptable to the aircraft management before being loaded with animals.

Details of suitable disinfectants are provided in the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals Regulations 1998 chapter 10.7.3 to which the OV should refer. Such disinfectants include 4% sodium carbonate mixed with 0.1% sodium silicate, or a solution of 0.2% citric acid. It is not necessary to flood the surfaces to effectively deodorise and disinfect areas.

All removable equipment, penning and containers including loading ramps must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. It is advisable that no equipment with which the animals will come into direct contact be replaced in the aircraft until it has been washed with clean water after disinfection to remove any trace of disinfectant which might cause damage to the aircraft structures.

(13.4) Origin of hay, straw, forage, feed and bedding

The WTVO/OV may certify this paragraph based on his/her personal knowledge or on the basis of a declaration by the exporter or supplier(s). The list of APHIS-recognized animal health statuses of regions regarding specific animal diseases (including FMD, Rinderpest, ASF and SVD) can be consulted at the following link:

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/ct animal disease status](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/ct%20animal%20disease%20status)

6. INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT TO UNITED STATES

Shipment to the United States must be by the most direct route, without stopping in countries considered by the United States Department of Agriculture as affected with foot and mouth disease, rinderpest, swine vesicular disease, African swine fever, or classical swine fever.

It is a requirement that the pigs must not be accompanied by other animals not certified for export to the United States during shipment. The animals must also be shipped to the United States by a route approved by USDA.

The design of the containers, the recommended species requirements, the preparation for transport and the disinfection of the interior of the aircraft, removable equipment, penning and containers must be in accordance with the recommendations of the OIE International Animal Health Code and International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animal Regulations, unless otherwise agreed by USDA.

Concerning IATA transport regulations, the owner/exporter is responsible for ensuring that the conditions of transport for his/her animals 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. Published copies of the IATA conditions can be bought from the following companies:

Freight Merchandising Services, c/o Vidap Freight Services Ltd.,
Shield Road, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 1AU.

Tel: 01784 240840 Fax: 01784 240824
Label Line, Hollyhouse, 14 Tenby Road, Frimley, Surrey GU16 5UT.
Tel: 01252 836472 Fax: 01252 838094

7. 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.

8. 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