

EXPORT OF BREEDING PIGS TO GHANA - 7245EHC

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 7245EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7245EHC.

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

1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 7245EHC may be used for the export of breeding pigs from the United Kingdom to Ghana.

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 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 CIRC 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 in Great Britain must be identified in accordance with The Pigs (Records, Identification and Movement) Order 2007 or in Northern Ireland the Aujeszky's Disease Order (Northern Ireland) 1994. 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).

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

Paragraph I refers: A separate schedule may be used to identify the animals certified. This schedule must contain the same information as that required in Paragraph I and the table in Paragraph 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 Paragraph I must be deleted with diagonal lines.

6. OFFICIAL DISEASE CLEARANCES

Paragraphs IV(a), IV(c) and IV(f) 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(b) 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(d) (on progressive atrophic rhinitis (toxigenic *Pasteurella multocida* infection)) and IV(g)(ii) (on transmissible gastroenteritis) 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.

If necessary OVs should also carry out appropriate checks of the farm records including use of medicines and vaccines 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 these paragraphs.

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

Paragraph IV(g)(i) refers: While TGE is a notifiable disease in Northern Ireland (NI), TGE is not notifiable in Great Britain (GB). TGE has never been recorded in NI. TGE was last diagnosed in GB in 2001. This information is correct as at the date of these NFG.

If the OV requires an update on the lack of occurrence of TGE in the UK in order to certify this paragraph, the OV should contact DAERA in NI or in GB 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

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 Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) Laboratory, New Haw, Weybridge, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 3NB, (Tel: 01932 341111). Some tests are carried out at VLA Lasswade, 7245NFG (09/12/2010) (Revised 04/10/2023)

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. 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

12. 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.