

**EXPORT OF BREEDING PIGS TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE  
- 7506EHC**

**NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS**

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**IMPORTANT NOTE**

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7506EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7506EHC.

**CERTIFICATE 7506EHC HAS NOT BEEN FORMALLY AGREED WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN THE IMPORTING COUNTRY.**

Exporters are therefore strongly advised to verify the requirements of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe by contacting the veterinary authorities, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment. They should obtain an import permit and check this certificate against the requirements of the import permit.

**If the health requirements do not match, the exporter may choose to proceed with the export using certificate 7506EHC BUT STRICTLY AT THE EXPORTERS RISK AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ANY POTENTIAL PROBLEM THAT MAY COMPROMISE THE WELFARE OF THE CONSIGNMENT.**

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**1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE**

Export health certificate 7506EHC may be used for the export of breeding pigs from the United Kingdom to the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe.

Exporters and certifying OVs must take particular note of the information contained in the disclaimers at paragraph 12.

**2. 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](mailto: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.

### **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 entered at paragraph III (d).

### **4. OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION**

Part I refers: All pigs in Great Britain 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 bearing the letters "UK" and the official herd mark of the holding on which the mark is applied. This 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 (e.g. UK AB1234 0001). Exporters and OVs should note that the use of tattoos as a means of identification is not acceptable to the importing country.

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**

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

**6. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE (FORM 618NDC)**

Paragraphs IV (a), IV(b), IV(c) and IV(e) (with regard to area freedom from African swine fever) 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. PREMISES FREEDOM FROM OTHER DISEASES**

Paragraph IV (d) refers. OVs should take into account their personal knowledge of the disease status of the premises of origin, if necessary with the support of a written declaration from the person in charge of the animals, confirming freedom from certain diseases.

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

**8. PREMISES FREEDOM FROM PORCINE BRUCELLOSIS**

OVs may certify paragraph IV (h) on the basis that porcine brucellosis caused by infection by *Brucella suis* has not been recorded in the United Kingdom.

**9. APPROVED ISOLATION PREMISES**

Paragraph IV (f) refers. The pigs intended for export to the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe must be held in approved isolation facilities, which may be located on the premises of origin, for a period of not less than 30 days immediately prior to embarkation.

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.

**10. TRANSPORT DECLARATION**

Paragraph IV (n) 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.

**11. OMISSION OF PARAGRAPH IV 'i'**

The omission of a paragraph IV (i) is deliberate to avoid any confusion between the letter 'i' used alphabetically and 'i' used as a Roman numeral in sub-paragraphs.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:WIT@apha.gov.uk)

Or, in the case of Northern Ireland, DAERA at Dundonald House, Belfast.