

IMPORTANT NOTE

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7601EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7601EHC.

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 THE CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 7601EHC may be used for the export to Mexico of breeding pigs that have been born and raised in the United Kingdom.

2. IMPORT PERMIT AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

In addition to agreed health certificate 7601EHC for exports of breeding pigs into Mexico, the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development, Fishery and Food of Mexico (SAGARPA) have advised the Department that further protocols for inspection procedures at the farm of origin must be implemented.

Summary of Additional Protocols

- In advance of any exports of breeding pigs from the UK to Mexico, there must be an exchange of letters between Defra and the Mexican authorities inviting Government officials from Mexico to carry out inspections of the pigs intended for export at the UK farm(s) of origin.
- The Mexican authorities have stipulated that the facilities at UK farms of origin where inspection of the animals takes place must meet certain infrastructure specifications.
- The Mexican importer is required to notify in advance the Mexican authorities of the intention to import breeding pigs from the UK and to provide details of the consignment, transport and contacts. The importer is also required to make arrangements to pay the fees of the Mexican Government official(s) for visiting the UK and for daily attendance at an agreed rate.

The full text of the document received from SAGARPA is at **Annex 1** to these notes. This document describes the required order of procedures, inspection facilities required at the UK farm of origin, information that must be provided by the importer to the Mexican authorities and the division of responsibilities between the various authorities in Mexico and the UK. After all the above information has been received and processed, the final version of the zoo-sanitary requirements will be sent to the Department by SAGARPA for forwarding to exporters.

In view of the complex nature of the above requirements, exporters of breeding pigs must contact the Animal Plant and Health Agency (APHA) Customer Service Centre (CSC) at Carlisle, or in the case of Northern

Ireland to DAERA, Dundonald House, Belfast well in advance of exports being planned, in order that the necessary notifications can be made to the Mexican authorities in accordance with their specifications.

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

In Great Britain, all pigs must be identified in accordance with The 7601NFG (Breeding Pigs to Mexico) (11/12/2017) (ECL) (Revised 04/10/2023)

Pigs (Records, Identification and Movement) (England) Order 2011 and parallel legislation in the devolved administrations of Wales and Scotland. In Northern Ireland, all pigs must be identified in accordance The Pigs (Records, Identification and Movement) Order (Northern Ireland) 2012.

Animals intended for export from the United Kingdom must be marked with an identification mark. The identification mark 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 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 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 should be deleted with diagonal lines.

6. **COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR NOTIFIABLE DISEASE - 618NDC**

OVs may certify paragraphs IV(g), IV(h) and IV(i) 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**

Paragraphs IV(d) and IV(e) re. PRRS, IV(f) re. TGE and IV(j) re. PED refer.

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 the above-mentioned diseases for the time periods stated in the certificate.

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

8. **APPROVED ISOLATION PREMISES**

Paragraph IV(l) and **Annex 1** refers. The pigs must be held in approved isolation premises for a period of not less than 30 days prior to shipment, or until completion of all of the serological tests, and must be transported only with animals of equal health status. The following conditions must be met by the isolation premises 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.

The officially approved quarantine premises must comply with the following requirements, **together with the extra facilities as specified by SAGARPA in Annex 1 to these notes.**

(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 entering 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.

The isolation premises, if different to the premises of origin, must also comply with the requirements regarding freedom from the diseases referred to in paragraph 7 of these notes.

9. 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 APHA Laboratory, New Haw, Weybridge, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 3NB, (Tel: 01932 357335). Some tests are carried out at APHA Lasswade, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik, Midlothian, EH26 0PZ, (Tel: 0131 445 6169). Certain specialist tests are carried out at regional APHA 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 APHA 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.

10. INSPECTION AND LOADING UNDER VETERINARY SUPERVISION

The wording of paragraph IV(o) reflects the requirement that final inspection and loading of the consignment must take place under the direct supervision of the Official Veterinarian, who must be present at the time of loading.

11. 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.

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

Annex 1

I. PROCEDURE FOR REQUESTING VERIFICATION AT ORIGIN

Scope: Director General of phytozoosanitary Inspection		Page 1
Procedure: Procedure for importing pigs for breeding, under the scheme of verification at origin.		
Date: June 2015	Revision:	
Responsible	No.	Activity
		Description
HEALTH AUTHORITIES IN COUNTRY OF ORIGIN		<p>Issue a letter addressed to SENASICA (National Service of Agri-food Health, Safety and Quality) General Directorate of Phytozoosanitary Inspection (DGIF) with a copy to the General Directorate of Animal Health (DGSA), which communicates that there is no problem for SENASICA officials in carrying out the inspection in the country of origin of the animals and that the facilities in which the inspection procedure is conducted have the necessary infrastructure specifications, which consist of the following:</p> <p>SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE FACILITIES FOR THE INSPECTION AT ORIGIN OF PIGS FOR BREEDING</p> <p>a) The facilities must have equipment and personnel for the reception, unloading, boarding and inspection of the animals.</p> <p>b) The facilities are located outdoors, they must have perimeter fencing made from wire mesh or its equivalent at a minimum height of 1.8 meters (6 foot), in order to avoid direct contact between the farm animals and wildlife.</p> <p>c) They must have biosecurity measures aimed at preventing the entry and spread of disease to the farm.</p> <p>d) They must have electric lighting.</p>

	<p>1</p> <p>Yard</p> <p>a) It must be wide enough to allow the free movement of vehicles within the facility.</p> <p>Pig Pens</p> <p>a) The pens should be designed to keep the animals cool and safe, made of materials that are easy to clean and disinfect.</p> <p>b) There must be identified pens for the reception and housing of animals to be inspected, inspected animals and rejected animals.</p> <p>Inspection Area</p> <p>a) Handling sleeve made of materials that allow the secure hold of animals, preferably with the following specifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Variable length - Width of 1.6-2.7 feet (0.5-0.8m) - Height of 4.0 feet (1.2m) - Floor that is easy to wash and disinfect. <p>Administrative Area</p> <p>a) It should provide an area where officials can carry out administrative activities, as such it should have a desk, chairs, computer equipment, telephone line, internet access and be multifunctional.</p> <p>Equipment and Material</p> <p>a) Cleaning equipment for floors, walls and ceilings, and a manual or pressure sprayer for disinfection</p> <p>b) First aid kits for staff</p> <p>This letter will be sent once to SENASICA and will be used for future inspections of pigs for breeding in the United Kingdom, provided that the terms for the request for inspection at origin are the same, if any changes occur with this a new letter should be sent specifying the new conditions.</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">DGIF</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p>	<p>Respond in writing to the health authority of the country of origin with a copy sent to the DGSA, stating that they agree to carry out inspection activities at origin, thereby attaching the inspection procedure to the document. This letter will be sent once to the health authorities of the country of origin and will be used for future inspections of pigs for breeding in the United Kingdom, provided that the terms for the request of inspection at origin are the same.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">IMPORTER</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p>	<p>Presents a written request to the General Directorate of Fitozoosanitary Inspection (DGIF) with a copy to the General Directorate of Animal Health (DGSA) and the state delegation of SAGARPA (Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fishery and Food) twenty days prior to the date required for the service of inspection and checking at origin (Art. 40 LFSZ, 55 RLFSA)</p> <p>The request should include the following data:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Name of the company b. Means of transport c. Period that the inspection procedure will cover according to the logistics of the importer. d. Date and place where the revision of the document will take place. e. Date when the physical inspection of the animals will be carried out (specifying the name and location of the farm(s), as well as the name of the person responsible). f. Date and likely timetable for the shipping of the animals. g. Date of departure of the animals to Mexico (departure schedule) h. Likely arrival schedule of the animals to Mexico (day, time, place, flight, etc.) i. Name and location of the destination farm(s) in Mexico. j. Likely route to follow to reach the destination farm. k. Number of animals for inspection (species, breed, age, zootechnic purpose and sex) and proposed programme of inspection. l. Number of shipments (cages or containers) m. Number of animals per shipment (cage or container). n. Customs where the animals will enter. o. Name, telephone number, e-mail and address of the Exporter and the Customs Agent who will carry out import procedures. p. List what biosecurity measures official personnel must

		<p>comply with, before entering the farm(s) where they will carry out the inspection procedure.</p> <p>q. In the event of any change or modification, the importer or person responsible must report it to the DGSA and DGIF at least 3 days before the start of the commission.</p> <p>r. Name and details (email, telephone number etc.) of the person responsible for the development of logistics and support of inspection activities in the country of origin and at the point of entry into Mexico.</p> <p>In the event of any change or modification, the importer or person responsible must report it to the DGIF and the DGSA at least 3 working days before start of the commission.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">DGIF</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p>	<p>Send a written reply, within ten working days of the receipt of the demand from the importer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the event that the response is positive the following will be attached to the document: the procedure for inspection at origin, names of the officially commissioned Veterinarians, copies of their passports, length of the commission and the work plan, financial plan and procedure for deposits by way of travel allowance that the importer should make, indicating the name of the Bank, account number, interbank CLABE number and its name (the pigs for breeding to be imported will be inspected at origin by Official Mexican Veterinarians whose travel, food and accommodation costs will be covered by the importer). <p>Should there be any changes in the management of the inspection procedure at origin (before or during), on the part of the importer, the DGIF shall be immediately notified, they must cover the additional costs that may arise due to the increase in or change to the days of commission of official personnel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the importer does not provide complete information for the resolution of the request, written notification of the prevention will be issued, once, within a period of five working days, giving in return five working days to provide the missing information. On fulfilling the requirement, the Secretariat will resume the processing of the request, immediately from that working day.

<p style="text-align: center;">IMPORTER</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6</p>	<p>Receive a positive response from the DGIF. Make a deposit for travel expenses (486 USD per Medic per day) to IICA (Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture).</p> <p>Send to the DGIF a copy of the proof of deposit of travel expenses as well as electronic receipts in the name of the official personnel commissioned within 5 working days of receiving the response.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">DGIF</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p>	<p>Receive the deposit and check it.</p> <p>Make the transfer to the people commissioned.</p> <p>Notify the official medics of the work plan, the biosecurity measures that they must implement, in advance and on arrival at the farm of origin, as well as the deposit form for their travel expenses, electronic receipts and the list of specifications for infrastructure that they must review before carrying out inspection activities.</p> <p>They will be sent contact details of personnel who will deal with the process on the part of the importer at origin and the Official Personnel in central offices who will coordinate during the process.</p>

Contact details for submitting applications:

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