

**VETERINARY CERTIFICATE FOR PIGS FOR BREEDING, EXPORTED FROM THE EU INTO THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION (LIMITED TO BELARUS) - 8182EHC**

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

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**IMPORTANT NOTE**

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 8182EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with these documents.

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.

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**1. SCOPE OF CERTIFICATE**

Export health certificates 8182EHC may be used for the export of pigs for breeding from the United Kingdom **to Belarus**. Although this UK certificate is based on a model template for the whole of the Eurasian Economic Union (Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan), it has been only been shared and agreed for use with the authorities of Belarus. Please also note that there is a separate certificate for breeding pigs agreed between the EU and Russia which is in force and has to be used for export of pigs there.

**2. IMPORT PERMIT**

Although the certificate does not mention the need for an import permit, **the authorities of Belarus will issue an import permit for each consignment upon receipt of confirmation that all necessary pre-export testing has been carried out and the results of such testing are negative in all cases**. The import permit may lay down the conditions for quarantine and other export requirements/details that are not specified in the export health certificate. Exporters are required to provide a copy of the import permit to the issuing office with their application for the relevant export health certificate before it can be issued. Any significant requirements that are not in line with the conditions stipulated in the certificate or not mentioned either in the certificate or this guidance notes should be brought to the attention of the UK authorities via APHA/DAERA.

A copy of the import permit must travel with the animals being exported alongside the export health certificate, any schedules and additional documentation necessary for import into Belarus.

Prior to making final arrangements to export breeding pigs to Belarus, exporters are advised to contact their importers for up to date information on additional requirements included in import permits or other documentation required for export to Belarus.

**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](mailto: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.

#### **4. GENERAL INFORMATION (SECTIONS 1.1- 1.10 REFER)**

Certificate No: This must consist of the prefix 'GB' (ISO Country Code for the UK), followed by a unique number, i.e. year/issuing office number/sequential number. The prefix 'GB' and the unique number must be printed. If this number is entered in manuscript, the certificate will be INVALID.

Country of transit (Section 1.4): refers to the EU MSs or Third Countries through which the consignment will pass/transit until arrival at the border of the Eurasian Economic Union.

Country of origin (Section 1.6): this should be pre-printed as United Kingdom.

Country issuing the certificate (Section 1.7): this should be pre-printed as United Kingdom

Competent authority in the exporting country (Section 1.8): this should be pre-printed as Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Organisation in the exporting country issuing this certificate (Section 1.9): this should be pre-printed as Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA) for pigs exported from GB and Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) for consignments of pigs from Northern Ireland.

Point of crossing the border of the Eurasian Economic Union (Section 1.10): The OV must ask the exporter for this information.

**5. IDENTIFICATION OF ANIMALS (SECTION 2 and SECTION 4.6 OF THE CERTIFICATE REFER)**

In Great Britain, all pigs must be identified in accordance with The 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.

USE of SCHEDULES: a separate schedule may be used to identify the animals certified if more than five animals are shipped as indicated in the certificate. This schedule must contain the same information as that required in the table at Section 2. Section 2 of the certificate 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 must "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 2 must be deleted with diagonal lines

6. **ORIGIN OF THE ANIMALS (SECTION 3 OF THE CERTIFICATE REFERS)**

Place and date of quarantine (Section 3.1): the details of the establishment of quarantine and the date on which the animals entered

Administrative-territorial unit (Section 3.2): The Administrative-territorial unit is the APHA or DAERA Office responsible for the area in which the establishment of dispatch is located. The UK country in which is located (England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland) should also be included/mentioned in brackets.

7. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCES**

The OV may certify on behalf of the Department the assurances required in Section 4.1 relevant to the UK's freedom (or the premises of origin freedom where relevant) for the specified time taken from the expected day of export from the following notifiable diseases:

- African Swine fever (36 months at country level)
- Foot and Mouth, Classical Swine fever (12 months at country level)
- Swine Vesicular Disease (24 months at country level)
- Aujeszky's disease (12 months at premises level)
- Brucellosis (B. Suis), Teschen disease, tuberculosis (6 months at premises level)
- Trichinellosis (no recorded/reported cases at the premises for 6 months)
- Anthrax (no cases in the premises for the 20 days)

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.

**Important:** the certificate allows certification of freedom of areas regionalised in the event of outbreaks of notifiable disease. However, this option will only be allowed to be certified if explicit confirmation with agreement from the authorities of Belarus has been obtained by the UK authorities.

8. **PREMISES FREEDOM FROM OTHER DISEASES**

Section 4.1 (porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome - PRRS): OVs should take into account their personal knowledge of the disease status of the premises of origin, if necessary with the support of an owner declaration confirming freedom from PRRS.

Certifying OVs should also carry out appropriate checks of the farm records including use of medicines, fertility and birth records to verify freedom from PRRS and the notifiable diseases in Section 7 above which require clearance at farm/premises level, re-confirming the clearances provided in the 618NDC authorisation form.

If the certifying OV is not routinely responsible for the farm(s) of origin of the pigs, she/he must obtain a support certificate from the veterinarian responsible for the farm of origin and any other declarations, evidence as she/he considers necessary.

9. **EXPOSURE OF ANIMALS TO HORMONES and OTHER SUBSTANCES (SECTION 4.2) & FEEDING OF ANIMALS WITH BOVINE PROTEINS (SECTION 4.3)**

Section 4.2 refers. Council Directive 96/23/EC is implemented by the Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations 1997 and a programme referred to as the National Surveillance Scheme. On the basis of this scheme, it can be considered that the animals from which the meat was derived meet the requirements of this paragraph.

Section 4.3 refers. With certain exceptions, it is illegal to feed animal proteins to farmed animals, and there are strict controls on the storage and use of pet food and fish meal on farms.

[Regulation \(EC\) No.999/2001](#) introduced EU controls to combat the spread of BSE. The measures included a ban on the feeding of processed animal proteins to animals which are kept, fattened or bred for the production of food. In general terms, the only proteins of bovine origin allowed to be fed to non-ruminant animals are milk, milk-based products and colostrum. The OV must be satisfied that no proteins of bovine origin other than those have been fed to pigs on the farm, including on the basis of a declaration by the farm owner/manager/vet.

#### **10. QUARANTINE PREMISES**

Section 4.4 refers. The pigs must be held in an approved quarantine premises for at least 21 days (or as stipulated in the import permit) immediately preceding export. However, the Belarus authorities may not issue an import permit until confirmation that all the testing for pre-export testing has been concluded with negative results.

The certifying OV is responsible for the approval and supervision of the pre-export quarantine. The Eurasian Economic Union has not specified the approval standards and procedures for quarantine. However, the exporter and OV may wish to liaise with the importer and the authorities in Belarus to confirm and implement any requirements and instructions and if needed, agree the Quarantine protocols, preferably in writing, with the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) authorities prior to the commencement of the quarantine period. The standards below are those used for other countries, including Russia (a member of the EEU) and are provided as the minimum advisable conditions for approval and supervision.

##### **Requirements for Quarantine Premises**

The following conditions must be met before approval is given by the OV. APHA/DAERA must be consulted in case of any problems:

- (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, and must be cleansed and disinfected using a Defra approved disinfectant immediately before the animals to be exported enter the quarantine facility.
- (iii) No drainage or effluent produced by/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 manufacturers instructions, must be located at the entrance. Any person entering must first wash and disinfect footwear using the footbath.

#### **Individual Clinical Examination with Daily Thermometry**

Paragraph 4.4 refers. The OV will have to apply her/his professional judgment and discretion on how to comply with this requirement. However, it is accepted that this requirement should apply only in the case of animals that appear to be inappetent or otherwise unwell and that it does not apply to healthy animals.

#### **Visits and records of quarantine**

The OV must carry out a visit to the quarantine premises to approve it prior to the pigs moving onto quarantine. The OV must also visit the premises at the end of the quarantine and within 24 hours of certification and loading for export (if different dates) and carry out regular visits at least weekly or as she/he considers necessary.

Visits for blood sampling / TB testing (first injection), treatments specified in the certificate and verification of identification may be regarded as visits meeting the requirement for OV supervision of quarantine. However, it is advisable that sampling for pre-export testing is not carried out earlier than the animals being held in quarantine for at least 7 days.

The OV must keep a record of all the visits and the procedures/examinations/checks carried out during quarantine.

### **11. 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).

Certain specialist tests may need to be carried out at regional APHA laboratories or referred to the Pirbright Institute.

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.

**NB: please see section 12 below with regard to testing methods to be used and seek advice accordingly from disease consultants in the relevant laboratories on procedures for collection, the requirement for transport medium if any, dispatch of samples and the length of time a test is likely to take.**

Samples should be submitted in good time to allow reports to be received in advance of the export date.

In the case of pre-export testing of large numbers of animals making up an export consignment, laboratories should be given the maximum period of notice possible for receipt of samples.

## **12. TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPORT TO THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION**

The Eurasian Economic Union authorities have not specified the testing requirements for the diseases listed in Section 4.4 of the certificate, other than the testing methods used must be those approved by the OIE. Such tests are described in the [Terrestrial Manual](#) .

**NB: All results for all tests must be negative and the name of the laboratory, the date and the method of testing must be entered onto the certificate.**

Laboratories will be able to confirm which tests are available for use and advise on which ones would be more appropriate to provide the assurances required for each pathogen. This should take into account the possibility of inconclusive or positive results (including those due to cross reactions) for notifiable and/or non-notifiable diseases to be found in animals undergoing testing during the pre- export quarantine period. Therefore methods that are less likely to shed non-negative results should be chosen.

If the OIE does not have testing recommendations for a given pathogen, then the laboratory will be able to advise on tests available which are fit for purpose, e.g. chlamydia.

### **Non-negative results at pre-export testing**

In such cases, the supervising OV should carry out appropriate investigations, which may include re-sampling of the animals and their in-contacts, to confirm or rule out the presence of disease.

Further actions to meet the requirements of the certificate may vary from retesting of samples that gave a non-negative results with another alternative testing method, a simple exclusion of certain animals from the export consignment through to removal of all animals showing a positive/inconclusive result from the quarantine premises and a recommencement of the 21 day quarantine period, together with a re-sampling programme to confirm the absence of disease and re-establish the disease status of the animals in pre-export quarantine.

NB: please note that the authorities of Belarus may not issue an import permit until they receive confirmation that all pre-export testing is concluded with negative results.

### **Notifiable / Reportable Disease**

Exporters should be aware that positive results may be obtained with the CSF ELISA when pigs are infected with other viruses such as bovine virus diarrhoea (BVD) and border disease (BD) viruses. Inconclusive results for SVD and swine brucellosis may also be notified by APHA, DAERA or The Pirbright Institute.

In cases where inconclusive or positive serological results to notifiable disease are detected, in addition to the above procedures, official movement restrictions may be applied to the isolation premises and the holding(s) of origin whilst official investigations to confirm the presence or absence of disease.

If notifiable disease is confirmed, national disease control measures will be implemented.

13. **TUBERCULIN TESTING OF PIGS FOR EXPORT**

The comparative intradermal test using avian and bovine PPD tuberculin should be carried out. The test must be read after 72 hours.

**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.

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 who is 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 increase in skin thickness of more than 2mm at the site of injection or any oedema, necrosis or swelling of associated lymph nodes, should be regarded as a positive reaction. If any animal has a reaction at the bovine site greater than at the avian site, the Regional APHA/DAERA office must be informed.

14. **TREATMENTS**

Sections 4.5 refers: the certificate does not require any treatments of vaccinations to be administered but the import permit may specify any additional requirements, including for treatment or vaccination. In any case, if any treatment or vaccination is given to the animals prior to export, then OV's must ensure that the relevant vaccinations / treatments that have been carried out are included in the certificate indicating the method of treatment, date of vaccination / treatment and the dose of the vaccine / anthelmintic / ectoparasiticide / antibiotic.

**Leptospirosis Treatment**

There is a pre-export testing required for L. Pomona the results of which should be negative.

No treatment for Leptospirosis is required but if exporters/OV's wish to reassure importers in connection with Leptospiras by treating the animals, then pigs should be injected with streptomycin / dihydrostreptomycin at a dose rate of 25mg/kg live body weight once during the 21 day pre-export quarantine period.

15. **TRANSIT OF OTHER COUNTRIES EN ROUTE TO THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION**

Exporters are advised to ascertain any additional animal health requirements that may be required with respect to the transit of consignments of breeding pigs from the UK through other EU Member States and/or third countries en route to their destination in Belarus.



The consignment must fully comply with the health requirements for transiting such countries in addition to those required by Belarus, i.e. the consignment must also travel with the appropriate ITAHC certificate for intra-Union trade. Exporters should be aware that, if the consignment is intended to transit EU countries and meet EU trade requirements for breeding pigs, a minimum period of 30 days residency in the quarantine premises will be required.

Only in cases where animals from a single holding are moved to a pre-export quarantine premises co-located on the same holding would the certifying OV be able to sign the EU breeding pigs certificate without the animals having carried out the full 30 day residency period in the quarantine premises.

Exporters should also bear in mind that consignments of live pigs will not be allowed to transit ASF restricted areas and take this into account when planning and obtaining the necessary route plan.

**16. MEANS OF TRANSPORT & ROUTE PLAN (SECTION 4.7 AND SECTION 4.8 REFER)**

Treatment of the means of transport (Section 4.7 refers): Pigs must be moved in accordance with the General Licence for the movement of pigs, made under The Disease Control (England) Order 2003 (as amended).

Rules for the cleansing and disinfection of livestock vehicles are contained in the Transport of Animals (Cleansing and Disinfection) (No.3) Order 2003. The main requirements in the Order are as follows:

After unloading animals, the vehicle must be fully cleansed and disinfected as soon as is reasonably practicable, before the vehicle is used again and in any case within 24 hours after it is unloaded. Wheels, wheel arches and mud flaps must always be cleansed and disinfected whenever the vehicle is cleansed and disinfected.

Section 4.7 of the certificate may be certified provided the certifying OV is satisfied that the conditions of the General Licence for the movement of pigs have been complied with.

Route plan (Section 4.8 refers): a route plan is required for transit through the EU in connection with the ITAHC certificate and until the point of entry in Belarus. The exporter/OV must also confirm with the authorities in Belarus and the importer if the route plan should also cover the leg of the journey from the entry point in Belarus/EEU until the final destination.

**17. 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.

**18. 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)