

EXPORT OF HORSES TO AUSTRALIA – 584NFG**NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER****IMPORTANT**

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 584EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 584EHC. We strongly suggest that exporters obtain full details of the importing country's requirements from the veterinary authorities in the country concerned, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

Each horse, other than an unweaned foal under six months of age travelling with its dam, must travel with its own 584EHC, duly completed and signed by an Official Veterinarian (OV). Certification applicable to unweaned foals under six months of age must be attached to the 584EHC of the foal's dam. Each page of the certificate 584EHC must be signed, dated and stamped by the OV. All original documents, e.g. laboratory reports, that form part of the extended veterinary certification, must be attached to the certificate 584EHC and fan stamped. Copies of any supporting documents must be endorsed with the original signature, date and stamp of the OV on every page.

1. Scope

Export health certificate 584EHC is in two parts, 584EHC – Part A, and 584CON – Part B. It may be used to accompany horses intended for export to Australia, whether on a permanent or temporary basis.

Horses have to be resident in the UK for at least 60 days prior to export, the final 14 days (at least) in isolation in an approved pre-export quarantine premises (PEQ). However, horses may be partly resident during the balance of the 60 day period in an Australian Department of Agriculture approved country. The following countries are currently deemed to be so approved: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Republic of Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Macau, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States.

In addition, all horses, regardless of the above, will have to be subjected to a pre-export test (CFT, in accordance with the OIE Manual) for Glanders while in PEQ.

Such horses may also be certified provided that the various disease freedoms in relation to the country/premises of residence/origin, and assurances in relation to the horse, can be complied with.

To facilitate such certification, additional documentation is available as follows:

- 584ANA:** Declaration of countries/premises in/on which horses have been resident prior to export.
- 584ANB:** Declaration in respect of horses resident on premises in the UK during the 60 days prior to export.
- 584ANC:** Additional certification in respect of horses resident in an approved country during the 60 days prior to export.
- 584AND:** Pre-export quarantine (PEQ) requirements.

It is not permitted to export horses and other equines from Great Britain for slaughter. This applies to journeys from, and transit journeys through, Great Britain to destinations outside the UK, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

2. Certification by an Official Veterinarian (OV) – Paragraph IV refers.

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.

Under the Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Act 2024, it is an offence to export horses and other equines for slaughter, beginning in or transiting through Great Britain to a third country.

If the OV has suspicions that the consignment is being exported for slaughter in contravention of section 1 of the Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Act 2024, this should be reported as soon as possible to APHA by calling 03000 200 301. In your report, please detail the following:

EHC and journey log reference number

Location and address of inspection, including CPH number

Name and address of transporter and journey organiser

Transporter authorisation number

Details of the animals in the consignment (number, species, age)

The reason for your concern

Any relevant additional information

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.

3. Identification of horses

Section I must be fully completed. In addition, the horse must be identified either by means of the silhouette and description in a passport in the case of a registered horse or by completing the silhouette and description at page 4 of the certificate. In the case of identification by means of a passport, the passport number should be entered where indicated on pages 1 and 7. The Official Veterinarian must ensure that during any examination of the horse or any collection of samples from the horse or during the administration of any drug to the horse which is required by this certificate, that the horse has been identified on each occasion by reference to its passport or if a passport is not available, the OV should complete a silhouette at the time of the first procedure, and compare it with the horse on subsequent procedures and examinations. The OV is advised to identify the horse on all laboratory submission forms by its name and passport number where available.

4. Pre-export quarantine (PEQ) and the 14 days' PEQ period

Paragraphs IV (a) and (p) refer. The standards required for pre-export PEQ are detailed at Annex D (584AND refers). **This document (584AND) must be attached to the certificate.** The premises at II b should have been inspected and approved by an official veterinarian before the commencement of the quarantine period. The date of inspection must be entered in this paragraph. Whenever the OV visits the premises during pre-export quarantine he should refer to Annex D and ensure the details in the Annex D and the corresponding SOP are being complied with.

Inspection / treatment for ecto and endo parasites / sampling and tests during PEQ

Ectoparasites

Paragraph IV (q) refers. Horses must be examined for ticks within 24 hours of the start of the PEQ. A systematic approach should be undertaken with a close examination of the animals' ears, false nostrils, under body areas (axilla, inguinal, under jawbone), perineum, mane and tail. If any horse in the consignment was found to have ticks all horses in the isolation premises must be treated again at least 7 days later with a parasiticide effective against ticks.

Endoparasites

Paragraph IV (r) refers. All animals **including unweaned foals** must be treated for endoparasites during the PEQ, using a licensed broad spectrum anthelmintic.

Sampling and Tests

All samples for the various tests to be carried out during PEQ must be taken by an OV or a veterinarian authorised by the OV and submitted to an AHVLA laboratory. Such a laboratory is considered a laboratory monitored or recognised by Defra - paragraph IV (u) refers. In the case of the IFAT or cELISA for equine piroplasmiasis, Defra recognises any laboratory in any other country that the Australian Department of Agriculture also accepts results from eg Bose in Germany <http://www.labor-boese.de/index/getlang/en> , and of course the two OIE reference laboratories in the US and Japan - see <http://www.oie.int/en/our-scientific-expertise/reference-laboratories/list-of-laboratories/> . The OIE reference laboratories can be used to confirm any doubtful positive results (which occur or are likely to occur within 60 days of export) - second options in paragraphs IV. bb) ((ii) and iv) refer - but only with prior permission of the Australian Department of Agriculture.

Vaccination

Horses must receive no vaccinations (including killed/inactivated) during the PEQ period - paragraph IV (v) refers.

5. Clinical examination at the time of export and sealing of means of transport

Paragraphs IV (b) and (d) refer. The final pre-export examination to ensure that the horses are clinically healthy and fit to travel is required at the time of loading for export. The certifying OV must also oversee the sealing of the means

of transport.

6. **Pregnancy**

Paragraph IV (f) refers. The OV should check any available breeding records and, if considered necessary (to establish the veracity of the breeding records and owner declarations etc), examine the mare by rectal palpation to determine whether she is pregnant, and if so, that she is no more than 7 months pregnant.

7. **Residency**

Paragraph IV (g) refers. The owner/agent must provide a written declaration stating all countries and premises on which the horse has been resident in the previous 180 days and 60 days (i.e. prior to the intended date of export) - Annex A (584ANA) refers.

If the horse has been resident in an approved country other than the UK during the previous 60 days, then an additional certificate must be obtained from a veterinarian of the relevant approved country and must be attached to the 584EHC. A model format for this certificate is at Annex C (584ANC). This Annex was revised on 11/08/2014 as a test for vesicular stomatitis was considered to be no longer necessary if the horse had been resident in an approved country where the disease had been confirmed in the past 2 years, as long as the premises of residence was free in the preceding 90 days. Also, the assurances for Glanders were removed as it is not part of the DAFF protocol to have this certified by the approved country/countries of previous residence. The certifying OV may therefore certify this, having checked the Glanders status of the country/countries of previous residence on the EU Animal Disease Notification System (ADNS) and/or the OIE World Animal Health Information Database (WAHID) - see guidance on Disease Clearance below.

8. **Disease clearance**

Freedom from quarantine restrictions is assumed if the horses have been able to move from the countries/premises in which they resided.

Country of residence.

Paragraphs IV (h), (i), (j) and (k) refer. The certification relating to disease clearance (not on other matters eg residency or vaccination status) contained in these paragraphs may be signed on behalf of the Department by a Official Veterinarian provided written authority has been received on form 618NDC (revised 01/11/1990) in the case of horses resident in the UK during the relevant periods. Assurances for residences in an approved country - other than for Glanders in IV (h) - must be provided through additional certification (in the format of the model Annex C - 584ANC). If the assurances for Glanders (3 year freedom) are not covered in any other support certification, then the status of the other approved country/countries in which the horse has been resident during the past 180 days can be checked by consulting the following systems:

EU ADNS: http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/adns/index_en.htm . The status for the current year can be found by clicking on 'summary' and for the previous years by clicking 'page'.

OIE WAHID:
http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Diseaseinformation/statusdetail . The status for the past 3 years can be found by selecting the country and disease (Glanders) from the drop down menus and a period of at least 3 years.

Premises of residence

Paragraphs IV (l), (m), (n) and (o) refer. For residencies in the UK, the OV must obtain a written assurance from the owner/manager of each of the premises the horse has been on in the past 60 days (i.e. the 60 days prior to the date of export) stating that these diseases have not occurred during the periods indicated - Annex B (584ANB) refers. The declaration should be signed by the owner/manager of the premises, and countersigned by a Veterinary Surgeon. For horses which have been resident during the 60 day period in an approved country, the OV should receive additional certification in the format of the model Annex C (584ANC), identifying the horse to be exported and signed by a veterinarian.

9. **CEM testing**

Paragraph IV (y) refers. CEM testing is required **except in the case of geldings and unweaned foals less than 6 months old travelling with their dams.**

Two sets of swabs must be collected within the PEQ period and an interval of at least 4 days must elapse between each set of swabs. An owner/agents written declaration must state the date on which the animal was last covered or mated.

Mating must not take place following collection of the first set of CEM swabs (see annex A). All swabs taken while the horse is in PEQ and in the UK must be submitted to the AHVLA regional laboratory at Penrith to arrive within 48 hours of sampling.

10. Vaccination against equine influenza

Paragraph IV (aa) refers. All horses except unweaned foals less than 6 months old travelling with their dams must have been vaccinated during the 14 – 90 days prior to commencement of PEQ. The animal must either receive a primary vaccination of 2 doses of vaccine or if the animal has previously had a primary course, must receive a single booster vaccination. Australia has provided guidelines on which scenarios are acceptable – see Appendix – and these must be followed. The Official Veterinarian must verify the dates of vaccination by reference to the animal's passport or vaccination certificate.

The use of any vaccine with a marketing authorisation containing the most up-to-date virus strains is acceptable.

11. EVA testing/vaccination

Paragraph IV (cc) refers. Entire males **except unweaned foals less than 6 months old travelling with their dams** need to be tested and/or vaccinated for equine viral arteritis in accordance with paragraph IV (cc).

Horses seropositive due to pre- or post-pubertal vaccination could be certified, provided the necessary virus neutralisation tests to confirm non-infectious status – stable/decline titres in the case of pre-pubertal and negative results accompanied by 21 days' isolation in that case of post-pubertal vaccination – have been carried out.

Virus neutralisation tests on serum and/or virus isolation tests on semen collected while the horse was outside the UK may be submitted to a laboratory recognised by Defra – paragraph IV (u) refers. SSC Carlisle should be contacted to establish whether this is the case.

12. Transport to the port/airport of embarkation

Paragraphs IV (c) and (ee) refer. The Official Veterinarian should not only receive a written declaration from the owner or agent of the owner (e.g. shipping agent or transporter) stating that the transport vehicle has been cleansed and disinfected prior to loading but the OV must also satisfy him/herself that this is the case. Also, a declaration that the horse will not come into contact with animals not similarly certified during transport direct to the port/airport of embarkation (see Annex A) is also required, even though the means of transport has to be sealed.

13. Aircraft/Vessel disinfection certificate – by Government Officer

Paragraphs IV (ff) and V refer. The exporter is responsible for making arrangements for the loading compartment, loading ramps and any removable equipment on the aircraft/vessel to be cleaned and disinfected under the supervision of an authorised government official who should certify paragraph V of the certificate. A certified copy of the fully completed certificate, including Paragraph V, should be sent to SSC Carlisle within 7 days of issue. For the names of officials in the vicinity of the airport/port, the exporter should contact the SSC, Carlisle.

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 Official Veterinarian 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.

14. Transport to Australia

The horse may only be accompanied by other animals during shipment if authorised by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS). The horse must be

shipped to Australia by a route approved by AQIS and if shipment involves routing via other countries then approval from the relevant Veterinary Authorities in these countries should also be sought. 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 Animal Health Cod and International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animal

Regulations, unless otherwise agreed by AQIS.

The use of hay and straw as bedding during transport is not permitted. Instead, treated wood shavings, sterilised peat and soft board may be used.

15. Post-arrival quarantine

All imported horses must undergo post-arrival quarantine for at least 14 days. For further details the importer should consult the import permit and conditions issued by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS).

16. 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.

17. 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

Guidelines for Equine Influenza vaccination of horses to be exported to Australia.

For all horses:

- A primary course is considered to be two vaccinations 21-90 days apart.
- Booster vaccinations should be routinely given at intervals of 12 months (or less) of the previous vaccination. A booster may be any registered vaccine.
- All horses must receive a pre-PEQ booster vaccination 14-90 days before commencement of PEQ. This can be the whole of the primary course, the second of the primary course or a booster to a primary course.
- Specific strains in vaccines are no longer required but we do **recommend** that the most up to date strains be used.
- Any horse that does not meet these guidelines will require additional vaccinations or SRH results confirming appropriate antibody levels.

For young horses up to and including 2 years of age:

- If they have only had a primary course and no boosters, the same vaccine must be used for both primary course injections.
- If two different vaccinations were used for the primary course, there must have been an additional booster administered within 12 months.

For horses over 2 years of age:

- A primary course with 2 different vaccines is acceptable.
- Horses with a sporadic vaccination history (for example a lapse between boosters) are acceptable with a minimum of 4 vaccinations as long as the last 2 vaccinations are no more than 12 months apart (the last one being the pre-PEQ booster).

Some explanation for these guidelines:

- Young horses are less likely to have had exposure to EI. Using the same vaccine for a primary course will result in the most reliable immunological response.
- Through mingling, older horses will have had a greater potential for EI exposure and are more likely than younger (and more immunologically naive) horses to have an adequate immunological response to variable vaccination protocols.
- All EI vaccine strains provide some cross-protection between other strains.