

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

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

1. SCOPE

Export health certificate 3444EHC should be used to accompany horses exported from Great Britain to Saudi Arabia on a permanent basis. Exporters wishing to export other categories of equidae should contact either the Local Animal Health Divisional Office or the Animal Health (International Trade) Unit, Page Street (Tel: 020 7904 6334).

2. Import requirements

Permission to import equidae into Saudi Arabia must be obtained from the Saudi Arabian Veterinary authorities before the shipment leaves the United Kingdom. An Import Permit Application form is available from the KSA Ministry of Agriculture and Water. The Permit application should be sent to the KSA Animal Quarantine Department at least 14 days prior to the intended date of shipment.

Consignments must arrive by air at one of the following approved International Airports: Riyadh or Jeddah unless prior permission is granted by the Saudi Arabian Veterinary Authorities to allow for landing elsewhere.

3. Identification

Section I (a) and (b) and in the case of registered equidae, sections I (c) and (d) should be fully completed. The silhouette on page 4 of the certificate must also be fully completed or in the case of registered equidae, the passport number inserted. The Official Veterinarian must verify the identity of all registered equidae by reference to the passport, even if the silhouette on page 4 of the certificate is also completed. The Official Veterinarian must be satisfied that each animal is adequately identified at the time of inspection and each time that samples are taken for pre-export testing.

4. Health examination

The inspection mentioned at paragraph IV (a) must be carried out within 48 hours of loading for export.

5. Disease clearance

Paragraph IV (c) (i) may be signed on behalf of the Department by an Official Veterinarian provided written authority (Form 618NDC) has been received from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle.

6. African horse sickness vaccination

Paragraph IV(c)(ii) refers. A written declaration must be obtained from the owner or exporter stating whether or not the horse has been vaccinated against 3444NFG (Regs 5/1/2000) (Revised 13/10/2023)

African horse sickness. The Official Veterinarian should check the validity of the declaration by reference to available records of treatment and vaccination and by considering the vaccination policies of the countries in which the horse has resided. In the case of a registered horse the Official Veterinarian should examine the horse's passport. If the horse has been imported into Great Britain the owner must give details of all countries in which the horse has resided. Horses which have been in Africa, the Middle East, Spain and Portugal may have been vaccinated against African Horse Sickness. At the time of vaccination the horse may have been brand-marked.

In the case of horses which are known to have been vaccinated, the date of the last vaccination against African Horse Sickness should be entered at paragraph IV (c) (ii) (b).

7. **Prohibitions for animal health reasons**

Paragraph IV (d) refers. If the Official Veterinarian has no direct knowledge of the disease status of the premises of origin or those of in-contact animals during the specified periods, then APHA CIT should be consulted.

8. Veterinary supervision

Paragraph IV (e) refers. "Veterinary supervision" means that the Official Veterinarian or another veterinary surgeon must visit the premises at the start or within 7 days prior to the start of the 15 day period, and at least every 7 days thereafter until the time of export and during these visits the Official Veterinarian must be satisfied either personally or by receiving supporting statements from other veterinary surgeons who visited the premises, that there were no signs of infectious or contagious disease which might affect equines, on the premises.

9. Written declarations

Paragraphs IV (c) (ii), (e), (f) and (m) refer. These written declarations must be retained by the Official Veterinarian. The Official Veterinarian should carry out any enquiry considered necessary into the validity of the declarations. If the Official Veterinarian has any reason to doubt the validity of any declaration the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle should be consulted.

10. Residency in the EU

Paragraph IV (f) refers. The horse must have been resident in the EU for at least 30 days immediately prior to export.

Paragraph IV (g) (i) refers. Paragraph IV (g) (i) may be certified in all cases except in the case of horses imported into the EU during the previous 90 days under the conditions for the temporary admission of registered horses laid down in Commission Decision 92/260/EEC from countries other than Australia and New Zealand, listed in Groups B and D of Annex I to the above Commission Decision.

Group B & D countries listed in Annex I to Commission Decision 92/260/EEC are as follows:

Group B

Australia, Bulgaria, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, New Zealand, Poland, Romania, Russia (regionalisation of the country as set out in Decision 92/160/EEC), Slovenia, Slovak Republic, Ukraine, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Group D

Argentina, Barbados, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil (regionalisation of the country as set out in Decision 92/160/EEC), Chile, Cuba, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay.

Only registered horses may be imported into the EU under the conditions laid down in CD 92/260/EEC. The maximum period of residency in the EU under these conditions is 90 days. The Official Veterinarian should inspect available records of the horse's movements during the previous 90 days including the record made in the passport. If the horse has been imported into the EU in the previous 90 days, the Official Veterinarian should seek a copy of the border crossing certificate issued on entry into the EU and of the authenticated copy of the health certificate which accompanied the horse on importation. If the health certificate specifies temporary admission from a Group B or D country other than Australia or New Zealand, then paragraph IV (g) (i) cannot be certified.

If the Official Veterinarian has any reason to doubt that the status of the horse, the DVM should be consulted.

Horses imported from Australia and New Zealand or from any approved country not on the Group B or D list will be eligible for export to UAE after 30 days residency in the EU and within 90 days of importation into the EU, whether imported under temporary or permanent import conditions.

If paragraph IV (g) (i) cannot be certified, the horse must be tested for dourine and glanders in accordance with paragraph IV (g) (ii).

11. Laboratory tests

Sampling for the tests at paragraph IV (g) (ii), (h) and (j) (i) and (ii) as applicable must be undertaken within 30 days of export and if the horse was imported into the EU, at least 14 days after entry. The samples should be sent to the Veterinary Laboratories Agency laboratory, Weybridge for testing.

Where semen samples are submitted, the Official Veterinarian should contact the laboratory in advance to make arrangements for testing and to seek advice on

the submission of samples. The semen sample submission must be clearly marked for "testing according to OIE with 3 x passaging".

12. Horses not moved directly from the premises of origin to the airport of departure

Paragraph IV (m) (ii) (b) refers. Where horses are not moved directly from the premises of origin to the airport of departure, supplementary certification must be provided with respect to the isolation of the horse at each intermediate premises (resting place or staging point).

In the case of resting places in GB, certification may be provided by an Official Veterinarian using supplementary certificate 3444SUP provided that suitable arrangements are made so that horses certified for export to the UAE do not come into contact with animals of lower health status. The Official Veterinarian should obtain a written declaration from the owner or manager of the premises confirming that there has been no evidence of infectious or contagious disease of equidae at the premises during the 15 days immediately prior to the entry of the export horses and should make due enquiry as to the validity of this declaration.

In the case of resting places outside GB, arrangements should be made with the veterinary authorities of that country for an official veterinarian to provide certification in accordance with the model at Annex I. N.B. Where English is not understood by the certifying veterinarian, the certificate must be in English and the language of the country where the certificate is issued. The exporter/transporter is responsible for making arrangements for the appropriate certification to be obtained with respect to each intermediate premises.

13. Completion of the health certificate

After completing all the necessary check and examinations, the Official Veterinarian should ensure that all sections of the certificate are completed and that the certificate is signed and stamped using the Official Veterinarian stamp, both signature and stamp to be in ink of any colour other than black.

14. 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.

15. Post-Import Isolation in Saudi Arabia

Upon arrival in Saudi Arabia the horse will be subjected to a minimum of 6 days isolation in an officially approved isolation centre and will be subjected to further tests at the discretion of DEFRA

16. Post-Import Testing in Saudi Arabia

Should the horse fail any of the post-import tests in Saudi Arabia, or fail to comply with the conditions of the import, including failing to provide the correct certification, the horse may be re-exported from Saudi Arabia or destroyed at the owners expense.

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), 3444NFG (Regs 5/1/2000) (Revised 13/10/2023)

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

Appendix I

MODEL SUPPLEMENTARY HEALTH CERTIFICATE

I, the undersigned Certify that:

- i)** The horses identified in the accompanying Health Certificate 3444EHC
and serially numbered..... were held in isolation at:

 (address)
 from (time and date)
 until (time and date)
- II.** to the best of my knowledge, and based on a written declaration of the
 owner*/manager* of the premises, there has been no evidence of
 infectious or contagious diseases of equines during the 15 days
 immediately prior to the entry of the said animal.
- *** **Delete as applicable**

Signature:.....

Date:.....

Official Stamp

Name and Qualifications

(in capitals):