

EXPORT OF DOGS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 6256EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 6256EHC. 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.

1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 6256EHC may be used for the export of dogs from the United Kingdom to the Republic of South Africa.

2. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

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

Certifiers are only required to return a certified copy of EHCs for the following EHC types:

- if the commodity is cattle, pigs, sheep, goats or camelids
- EHCs where the certifier cannot submit certifier feedback

If you are required to return a certified copy to CITC, email a scanned copy to certifiedcopies@apha.gov.uk.

Retain a copy of all EHCs and supporting documentation certified for two years.

Certifiers 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. **MICROCHIPPING**

All dogs must be individually identified by means of a microchip. Information regarding the microchip number, microchip scanner and location of microchip must be recorded on the export health certificate. The South African veterinary authorities require that microchips which can be read by Avid, Destron, Trovan or another ISO compatible reader be implanted.

4. **IMPORT PERMIT**

The importation of dogs is subject to obtaining an import permit from **The Director of Animal Health**, Import/Export Control, Private Bag X138 Pretoria, 0001, South Africa, or fax: 00-27-12-329-8292. This permit must accompany the animal. The South African Department of Agriculture may make a charge for the import permit - details should be obtained from the **Permit Office**, Tel: 00-27-12-319-7514, 00-27-12-319-7414 or 00-27-12-319-7415.

NOTE: The South African import permit contains a model health certificate (IMP.DOG.UK JR 03/10). **OVs ARE NOT required to complete or sign the South African model because the Defra official health certificate 6256EHC replaces it.**

5. **OWNER/EXPORTER'S DECLARATIONS**

Paragraph IV. a), c), and k) refer. These paragraphs may be certified provided written declarations have been obtained from the owner/exporter. OV's should retain copies of these declarations for record purposes.

6. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE**

Paragraph IV. b) refers. This paragraph may be certified provided written authority to do so has been obtained from the issuing office on form 618NDC.

7. **RABIES VACCINATION**

Paragraph IV. d) refers. Rabies is a controlled disease in South Africa, therefore all indigenous/resident dogs must by law be vaccinated. It is advisable that dogs are vaccinated before being exported.

Where dogs have been vaccinated prior to export:

the **primary** vaccination must have been carried out **not more than 12 months prior to export**, and not less than 30 days prior to export. If it is not possible to wait 30 days, then a dispensation to reduce to 15 days is available from the authorities in South Africa.

In the case of **booster** vaccination, this must have taken place **less than 12 months prior to export**. (The 30 day waiting period for the primary rabies vaccination does not apply to the booster vaccination).

If vaccinated accordingly, paragraph IV. d) i. should be completed and the vaccination certificate should be attached to the export health certificate.

Where dogs are less than 3 months of age at export, paragraph IV d) i. can be completed with the vaccination details of the animal's dam. Evidence must be produced that the animal's dam was vaccinated against rabies at least 30 days, but not more than 12 months prior to giving birth. Such animals must be vaccinated against rabies at 3 months of age in South Africa, and the owner/exporter must provide the South African veterinary authorities with proof of vaccination.

For non-vaccinated dogs, or dogs under 3 months where the dam cannot be shown to have been vaccinated, paragraph IV. d) ii. should be certified. The animals will have to be vaccinated after importation

into South Africa, or if less than 3 months of age at import they must be vaccinated against rabies at 3 months of age in South Africa.

8. **TESTING**

Paragraph IV. e), f), g), h) and i) refer. Samples for **all** the diseases (including smears for *Trypanosoma evansi* and *Babesia gibsoni*) must be sent to the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA), Weybridge. If a test is not available at the VLA, the sample(s) will be forwarded to a government authorised laboratory in another Member State /third country with which the VLA has arranged a sub-contract for testing/examination. OV's should bear this in mind and submit samples in good time to ensure the result/report is available well before the date of export.

The laboratory reports on the results of the tests must be attached to the certificate.

The samples should be submitted to the VLA in clearly labelled, sealed containers, as soon as possible after collection. All samples should be labelled with the owner name and the animal's name or microchip number if applicable. For further details on blood sampling and testing, OV's should contact the sample reception area at VLA Weybridge on Tel: 01932-357-335.

Brucella canis - Paragraph IV. e) refers. A clotted blood/serum sample is required.

Trypanosoma evansi (surra)- Paragraph IV. f) refers. Testing is required for all animals imported into the Republic of South Africa from the UK. Both of the tests at paragraphs IV f)i. and ii. must be certified. The thin smear must not be fixed or stained. A clotted blood/serum sample is required for the card agglutination test. These samples will be forwarded by VLA to the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium for examination/testing, so a separate smear/sample should be submitted if tests for this disease are required.

Babesia gibsoni - Paragraph IV. g) refers. The thin blood smear must not be fixed or stained. A clotted blood/serum sample is required for the IFAT. The smear will be examined at the VLA (Carmarthen RL) and the clotted blood/serum sample will be forwarded by the VLA to the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute (OVI), Onderstepoort, South Africa, so a separate smear/sample should be submitted if tests for *Trypanosoma evansi* are also required.

Dirofilaria immitis - Paragraph IV. h) refers. The **Dirofilaria** microfilaria filtration test requires at least 2 ml of EDTA blood. Treatment (see point 9. below) should be started immediately after the blood sample is taken for testing.

Please ensure that the drug of choice is an option from the South African import permit and is certified on the 6256EHC.

Leishmaniosis - Paragraph IV. i) refers. A clotted blood/serum sample is required.

9. **TREATMENT**

Paragraph IV. h) refers. The South African import conditions specify that, in addition to giving a negative result in the microfilaria filtration test, dogs must be treated for Heartworm (***Dirofilaria immitis***).

The import permit issued by the South African authorities for the specific import should be consulted to confirm which of the possible treatment options in the 6256EHC can be used.

However, **Ivermectin** is not currently licensed for use in dogs in the UK, **this option must therefore be avoided.**

The treatment for **Dirofilaria** must continue **for 6 months** after arrival in South Africa. Heartworm drugs are not available in the Republic of South Africa therefore the owner/person in custody of the dog must obtain a sufficient supply of the drug in order to continue treatment for the required period in South Africa. The South African authorities require that sufficient supply of the drug is in the possession of the owner/person in custody of the dog at the time of its arrival in South Africa.

OVs should inform the owner/person in custody of the dog of this condition, explain the dose and how to administer the drug.

OVs should also request from the owner/person in custody of the dog a written declaration stating that he/she is aware of this condition.

10. TRANSPORT CRATE

Paragraph IV. k) refers. The owner/exporter is responsible for ensuring that the conditions of transport for his/her animal meet the standards laid down by the International Air Transport Association (IATA). He/she should ask the transporting airline to confirm this, and if necessary provide a copy of the relevant conditions.

This paragraph may be certified provided a written declaration has been obtained from the owner/exporter. OVs should retain a copy of the owner's declaration for record purposes.

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