

No:

EXPORT OF CATS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV) 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 6257EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 6257EHC. 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 6257EHC may be used for the export of cats 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 should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any 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

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. **MICROCHIPPING**

From the 1st July 2005, all cats 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 cats 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 it to : 011-27-12-329-8292
Permit Office: Tel: 011-27-12-319-7514, 011-27-12-319-7414 or 011-27-12-319-7415.

This permit must accompany the animal. Failure to comply with any stipulated condition can lead to refusal of entry. The Department of Agriculture may make a charge for the import permit - details should be obtained from the Director of Animal Health, South Africa.

NOTE: The South African import permit contains a model health certificate (IMP.CAT.GEN.07/05). **OVs ARE NOT required to complete or sign the South African model because the official health certificate 6257EHC replaces it.**

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

Paragraph IV (a), (c) and (g) refer. These paragraphs 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.

6. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE**

Paragraph IV (b) and (d) refer. These paragraphs may be certified provided written authority to do so has been obtained from the local Animal Health Divisional Office, on form 618NDC.

7. **RABIES VACCINATION**

Rabies is a controlled disease in South Africa - therefore all indigenous/resident dogs and cats must by law be vaccinated. It is advisable that cats are vaccinated before being exported. Non vaccinated cats would have to be vaccinated once they have moved to South Africa on a permanent basis.

Where cats have been vaccinated, the primary vaccination must have been carried out not less than 30 days and not more than 12 months prior to export. 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). The vaccination certificate should be attached to the export health certificate.

Where cats are less than 3 months of age at export, 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 at 3 months of age against rabies, in South Africa and the owner/exporter must provide the South African veterinary authorities with proof of vaccination.

8. 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.

9. 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