

## EXPORT OF CATS AND DOGS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO HONG KONG

### 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 3472EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 3472EHC. 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 3472EHC may be used for the export of cats and dogs from the United Kingdom to Hong Kong.

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 - 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  
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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.

Exporters and OVs should note that the model health certificate, "Animal Health Certificate" Form No. VC-DC1, which is available on the Hong Kong authorities' website and may be supplied with the import permit, is for information only. **OVs must complete only the Defra certificate 3472EHC and disregard the model Hong Kong certificate.** The Defra certificate meets the specification of the model certificate - there may be minor differences as certain amendments have been agreed with Hong Kong.

3. **IMPORT PERMIT**

An import permit is required to export cats and dogs to Hong Kong and is valid for 6 months and for one consignment only.

The permit may be obtained from:

Permit + Certification Unit (Counter No. 10),  
Import and Export Division,  
5th Floor,  
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department,  
Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices,  
303 Cheung Sha Wan Road,  
Kowloon,  
Hong Kong

Enquiries can be addressed to:-

**Call Centre** on telephone (852) - 1823, or

**Email** - [icsenquiry@afcd.gov.hk](mailto:icsenquiry@afcd.gov.hk), or

**Website** - [www.afcd.gov.hk](http://www.afcd.gov.hk)

4. If more than 1 animal is being exported a separate certificate is required for each animal.

5. **MICROCHIPPING IDENTIFICATION**

The animal must be identified by a microchip such that if the cat/dog is identified with a microchip other than that used for the identification of cats and dogs in Hong Kong (AVID encrypted transponder with an alphanumeric code in the format of AVID\*xxx\*xxx\*xxx) then after arrival in Hong Kong the cat/dog will be rechipped at the expense of the permittee or agent.

6. **OWNERS' DECLARATION**

Paragraphs IV. (c), (d) and (e) refer. An Owner's Declaration must be received from the exporter stating that the animal has been continuously resident in the United Kingdom during the preceding 180 days or since birth, or during the entire period since the animal was directly imported from Hong Kong and is 60 days of age or over at the time of export. In the case of a

female dog or cat an Owner's Declaration will also be required to confirm that to the best of the owner's knowledge and belief the animal is either not pregnant or is less than 4 weeks pregnant on the scheduled date of export.

7. **HEALTH INFORMATION**

Paragraphs IV. (f)\*, (g), (h) refer. Copies of all vaccination certificates/cards should be attached to the export health certificate. The vaccination certificates/cards should also clearly state the recommended date(s) for any follow up booster vaccinations.

\*IV(f) of the health certificate asks whether or not an animal has been vaccinated against rabies. An animal is considered to be vaccinated against rabies if the vaccination is current/still valid. The Hong Kong Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department import conditions for cats and dogs (that are available on their website) indicate that it is NOT compulsory for animals from the United Kingdom to be vaccinated against rabies. However, the owner may consider vaccinating it prior to export because HKSAR's domestic licencing laws require animals over 3 month old resident there to be vaccinated - [http://www.pets.gov.hk/en\\_dog\\_1\\_4\\_1.php#btop](http://www.pets.gov.hk/en_dog_1_4_1.php#btop), and/or to facilitate their return to the UK under PETS.

8. **NOTIFICATION OF ARRIVAL**

The importer must provide at least 24 hours notice in advance of the anticipated time of arrival to the Duty Officer of Import & Export Section, during office hours, by:-

**Telephone:** (852) 21821001,

**Fax:** (852) 27698600

**Email:** [foii\\_airport@afcd.gov.hk](mailto:foii_airport@afcd.gov.hk)

9. **AIRLINE CERTIFICATION OR CAPTAIN'S AFFIDAVIT**

The exporter/agent must arrange for a declaration to be provided by a representative of the airline or the captain stating that:

- (i) The animal has travelled the entire journey on one aircraft without leaving the aircraft enroute and/or without any stopping/changing over in a country of lower health status;
- (ii) During the entire journey, the animal has not been in contact with any other animals.

10. **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.

11. **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)