

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR 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 6253EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 6253EHC. 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.

Associated Documents: 6253EHC, 618NDC and 372DMR.

1. Scope

This certificate should be used to accompany horses exported to Serbia. The horse identification document (passport) should accompany this certificate during transport.

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)

This certificate may be signed by an OV appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Scottish Government or Welsh Government, 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**.

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 OV's 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 OV's 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.

3. Identification

The horse must be identified by completion of the silhouette and description on the final page of the certificate. This should be done in addition to the horse passport if available.

The official veterinarian must be satisfied that the horse is adequately identified at the time of inspection and each time that samples are taken for pre-export testing.

4. Owner's/representative's declaration

Paragraphs IV b) and m) refer. The declarations must be completed by the owner or the owner's representative. The official veterinarian should inspect available records including the record of movements contained in the passport in order to check the validity of the declarations.

5. Health examination

The examination at paragraph IV a) must be carried out on the day of loading or the last working day before embarkation, but not more than 48 hours prior to loading.

6. Disease clearance

Paragraphs IV c), d) and e), may be signed on behalf of the Department provided written authority has been received on form 618NDC from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or from the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland.

7. **Premises disease freedom**

Paragraphs IV j), k) and l) refer.

If the certifying OV does not have personal knowledge of the premises of origin, and any other premises at which the horse has been present during the past 6 months, he/she must obtain written support statements from the veterinarian(s) regularly responsible for the premises where the horse has resided.

8. **Laboratory tests**

Paragraphs IV g), h) and j) refer.

All blood samples must be submitted to the Veterinary Laboratories Agencies (VLA), Weybridge, or Lasswade in the case of horses from Scotland. Samples should be submitted sufficiently early for the results to be received well before the date of export.

Paragraph g) refers.

Please note that for the purpose of this certification *Leptospira serovar mitis* means *Leptospira serovar tarassovi*.

This is based on information provided by VLA, explaining that the seroval 'mitis' is an old terminology used prior to its change to 'tarassovi' in the 1980's.

9. **Transport conditions**

Paragraph IV m) refer

Vehicles must be disinfected before loading for transport, using a DEFRA approved disinfectant. Disinfectants are approved under Diseases of Animals (Approved Disinfectants) Order 1978 (as amended). The list contains over 200 brands of disinfectant approved on the basis of their efficacy against certain viruses. DEFRA approved disinfectants carry a statement on the container and other references to their approval may be found in their data sheets or their label instructions.

10. **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 via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-apha>

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