

No:

EXPORT OF EQUINES FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE OR BREEDING TO ARGENTINA

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 298EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 298EHC. 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**

The export health certificate 298EHC may be used for the export of equines for permanent residence or breeding from the United Kingdom to Argentina.

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, 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.

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

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to APHA Specialist Service Centre – Exports in Carlisle, within seven days of issue.

The OV should keep a copy for his own records.

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. Identification

The horse must be identified either by completing the silhouette at page 11 of health certificate or in the case of a registered horse by reference to the passport/identification document silhouette, the number of which must be inserted at page 11. If the horse is registered, the passport/identification document must be checked to confirm its identity. The identity must be checked by reference to the silhouette whenever the horse is examined or when samples are taken for laboratory tests.

4. **Clinical examination**

The examination mentioned in paragraph V should be carried out at the time of loading for shipment and Section V completed preferably by a different official veterinarian to that who signed Section IV.

If SENASA requires a further inspection at the time of loading onto aircraft, then the certificate should also be endorsed in manuscript at the port of embarkation. It is up to the exporter/shipping agent to ascertain this and make the necessary arrangement for the inspection/endorsement. The appropriate wording of the endorsement could resemble the following:- "at the time of loading onto aircraft on(date and time), I examined the animal described above and found it to be free from clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease, including **strangles (equine adenitis)** and **piroplasmosis**, and **external parasites** and in my opinion fit to travel."

5. **Pre-export isolation premises**

Paragraph IV. 3 refers. The equines must be isolated in an approved facility under official supervision for at least 14 days.

The isolation premises may be approved by the Official Veterinarian on behalf of the Department provided that the following conditions are met.

In the case of females and neutered males only -Section IV. Point 8.c) iv) refers- the pre-export isolation period might be extended by at least minus 28 days instead of 14 days. Please see section 6, Health Information below in these Notes for guidance, for further information.

5.1 **Construction and location**

- a) The isolation premises must be a clearly demarcated area surrounded by a stock proof wall or fence and containing suitable facilities for the accommodation and exercise of the animals during the isolation period.
- b) The use of exercise facilities outside the premises may be permitted under the direction of the Official Veterinarian, after consultation with the SSC - CARLISLE. The Official Veterinarian must ensure that the isolation status of the consignment is maintained at all times. If the exercise facilities are used by non-export horses, the isolated horses must use the facilities first each day and must be cleared from the area before non-export status horses are allowed access to the facilities.
- c) The premises should have facilities for veterinary examination and collection of samples and facilities for the segregation of sick or suspect horses.
- d) The access to the premises should be controlled and secure.
- e) The location should be as remote as possible from other premises containing equidae. In making a decision as to the suitability of the location of the isolation premises, the VO/Official Veterinarian should take into consideration the epidemiology of the diseases for which certification is being provided, in particular with respect to the distance and presence of physical barriers between the isolation premises and other premises.

- f) All drainage must be away from the isolation premises.
- g) Isolation buildings should be capable of being effectively cleaned and disinfected.
- h) An adequate supply of water must be available at all times for the isolated horses and for cleaning purposes.
- i) Adequate supplies of food and bedding material for the whole of the isolation period must be stored either within the isolation premises or in a nearby secure and separate store.
- j) Equipment and utensils used for feeding, grooming and cleaning must be used only in the isolation premises during the isolation period.

Protective clothing and footwear to be used exclusively in the isolation premises must be available at the entrance to the isolation premises.

- k) There should be adequate facilities for the cleansing and disinfection of vehicles, either on or near to the isolation premises.

5.2 **Procedures**

- a) Immediately before the commencement of the isolation period, the isolation buildings, all fixed and moveable equipment and utensils used for feeding, grooming and cleaning must be disinfected, unless new, using a disinfectant approved by DEFRA, to the satisfaction of the supervising Official Veterinarian. Exercise areas/paddocks should be cleaned to the satisfaction of the Official Veterinarian.
- b) No person may enter the isolation premises unless specifically authorised by the supervising Official Veterinarian.
- c) No staff supervising the horses may come into contact with any other horses during the period of supervision.
- d) Any authorised visitor to the isolation premises must wear the protective clothing provided throughout the visit.
- e) When no staff are on duty, the premises must be securely locked to prevent the entry of unauthorised persons.
- f) The isolation period for all isolated horses shall be deemed to start from the time of entry of the last horse. Horses must not leave the premises during the isolation period except with the permission of the Official Veterinarian and SSC - CARLISLE.
- g) Isolated horses must have no contact with any horses of lower health status during the isolation period.
- h) The supervising Official Veterinarian should visit the premises when the horses enter at the start of the isolation period and at the end of the isolation period. At least one unannounced visit should be carried out during the isolation period.
- i) A health record should be kept of each isolated horse during the isolation period. This record should be available for inspection by the Official Veterinarian or VO.
- j) The operator should report any illnesses or other problems to the

supervising Official Veterinarian. Where there is any cause for concern about the export certification of the consignment, the SSC - CARLISLE should be consulted.

- k) If the VO/Official Veterinarian is not satisfied that the conditions of approval are being met, the SSC - CARLISLE should be notified.

6. **Health information (Section IV)**

Point 1 refers to residency. Select first option (a) in case of horses that have remained in the UK for the previous forty days preceding the export; the second option (b) must be selected in case of imported animals that do not fulfill the first option and they must meet the requirements set out in paragraphs IV.4 (regarding African Horse Sickness) and IV.5 (regarding Venezuelan Equine Encephalomyelitis) Point 8.a) iii)- Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA) -The 21 days of isolation do not refer to the pre-export period but to a period of the animal's life, when it was vaccinated.

Point 8 b)- Equines were subjected to a test for the detection of the disease, with **positive antibody test results**, conducted from a blood sample.

Point 8 c) iv. reflects the recommendations of [Art. 12.9.3.2 of the Terrestrial Code](#) and corresponds to a measure of mitigation for Equine Viral Arteritis in the case of females and neutered males, where the only route of infection is aerogenous.

If this option 8.c) iv. is selected, **the pre-export isolation period** will be extended by at least minus 28 days instead of 14 days. Two consignments can be formed, one with castrated males and females and another with whole males or if a single consignment is formed, in this case all the animals must satisfy the export requirements, that is, castrated males and females do not show clinical signs of EVA and whole males in contact with these are negative for EVA.

Point 14, it is indicated that the transport of animals must have anti-vector protection and be disinfected prior to boarding and if there is no protection against vectors, the animals may be treated with repellents, as equivalence.

Disease clearances

Paragraphs IV. Points 4, 5, 6, 9 and 10 refer.

The Official Veterinarian should make due enquiry as to the health status of the country/holding of origin and isolation premises if different, during the relevant period.

When applicable, some disease clearances' paragraphs can be signed on behalf of the Department provided written authority has been received on form 618NDC.

In Points 4, 5, 6 and 10, SENASA recognizes the United Kingdom's status of African horse sickness, Dourine, Glanders and Venezuelan encephalomyelitis, based on information available in OMSA and the DEFRA website.

In the case of Equine piroplasmosis (Point 11 refers), the Republic of Argentina does not allow the import of positive horses for that disease.

Vaccinations

The vaccinations mentioned at Section IV. Point 12 for Equine Influenza virus must be carried out between 21 and 90 days prior to export using inactivated vaccines.

Section IV point 8. c) iii. (first option) refers regarding equine viral arteritis (EVA).

Laboratory tests

Samples should be submitted to the APHA, Weybridge, allowing sufficient time for the tests to be completed and for results to be received before the proposed export date. Isolation is required from the date of sample collection.

Treatments

Section 13 refers.

During the isolation period, horses need to be subjected to treatments against internal and external parasites with products approved by the UK Competent Authority (Defra).

7. Post import checks

On entering Argentina the animal will be examined by a veterinary official and subject to any tests, treatments or vaccination which are deemed to be necessary by the veterinary authorities of Argentina.

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