

EXPORT OF HORSES TO QATAR**NOTES FOR 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 3223EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 3223EHC. 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

Export health certificate 3223EHC should be used to accompany horses exported from United Kingdom to Qatar.

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.

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 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

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. Import requirements

An import permit may be required. The exporter must apply to the Qatar Authorities for an Import Permit at the following address: Animal Health Affairs, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture, Doha Municipality, PO Box 1966, Doha.
Tel: 4492888 /4440660
Fax: (0974) 4322002

The exporter should check that export health certificate 3223EHC meets the health requirements of the Import Permit. If there are any discrepancies, the exporter should contact Carlisle CIT.

4. Identification

Section I a) and b) and in the case of registered equidae, sections I c) and d), should be fully completed. The silhouette on page 4 of the certificate must also be fully completed or in the case of registered equidae, the passport number inserted. The Official Veterinarian must verify the identity of all registered equidae by reference to the passport, even if the silhouette on page 4 of the certificate is also completed. The Official Veterinarian must be satisfied that each animal is adequately identified at the time of inspection and each time that samples are taken for pre-export testing.

5. Health examination

The inspection mentioned at paragraph IV a) must be carried out within 48 hours of loading for export.

6. Disease clearance

Paragraph IV c), d) and e) (i) - the first part to do with AHS freedom may be signed on behalf of the Department by an Official Veterinarian provided written authority (Form 618NDC) has been received from an officer of the Department.

7. African horse sickness vaccination

Paragraph IV e) (i) - the second part to do with AHS vaccination refers. A written declaration must be obtained from the owner or exporter stating whether or not the horse has been vaccinated against African horse sickness. The Official Veterinarian should check the validity of the declaration by reference to available records of treatment and vaccination and by considering the vaccination policies of the countries in which the horse has resided. In the case of a registered horse the Official Veterinarian should examine the horse's passport. If the horse has been imported into United Kingdom the owner must give details of all countries in which the horse has resided. Horses which have been in Africa, the Middle East, Spain and Portugal may have been vaccinated against African Horse Sickness. At the time of vaccination the horse may have been brand marked.

In the case of horses which are known to have been vaccinated, the date, month or year of the last vaccination against African Horse Sickness should be part of the written declaration.

8. Prohibitions for animal health reasons

Paragraph IV f) refers. If the Official Veterinarian has no direct knowledge of the disease status of the premises of origin or those of in-contact animals during the specified periods, then the Carlisle CIT should be consulted.

9. Veterinary supervision

Paragraph IV g) refers. "Veterinary supervision" means that the Official Veterinarian or another veterinary surgeon must visit the premises at the start or within 7 days prior to the start of the 40 day period, and at least every 15 days thereafter until the time of export and during these visits the Official Veterinarian must be satisfied

either personally or by receiving supporting statements from other veterinary surgeons who visited the premises, that there were no signs of infectious or contagious disease which might affect equines, on the premises.

10. Written declarations

Paragraphs IV e) i), g), l) and m) refer. These written declarations must be retained by the Official Veterinarian. The Official Veterinarian should carry out any enquiry considered necessary into the validity of the declarations. If the Official Veterinarian has any reason to doubt the validity of any declaration Carlisle CIT should be consulted.

11. Laboratory tests

Sampling for the tests at paragraph IV e), h) and i) must be undertaken during the time period indicated.

All samples should be sent to the Animal and Plant Health Agency laboratory in Weybridge for testing except that for AHSV ELISA (paragraph IV e) ii) refers), for which the samples should be sent to the Pirbright Institute. It should be noted that as of 5th January 2015, the AHSV ELISA will be performed every Thursday. For further information on AHS, see <http://www.pirbright.ac.uk/ref/Labs/Default.aspx>.

Where semen samples are submitted (to APHA, Weybridge) for the EVA VI (paragraph IV f) ii) refers), the Official Veterinarian should contact the laboratory (virology department) - <https://www.gov.uk/laboratory-test-price-lists> - in advance to make arrangements for testing and to seek advice on the submission of samples. The semen sample submission must be clearly marked for "testing according to OIE with 3 x passaging". The turnaround time for the test is quoted as 21 days.

12. Completion of the health certificate

After completing all the necessary check and examinations, the Official Veterinarian should ensure that all sections of the certificate are completed and that the certificate is signed and stamped using the Official Veterinarian stamp, both signature and stamp to be in ink of any colour other than black.

13. Post-Import Testing in Qatar

Should the horse fail any of the post-import tests in Qatar or fail to comply with the conditions of the import, including failing to provide the correct certification, the horse may be re-exported from Qatar or destroyed at the owners expense.

14. 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.

15. 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