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EXPORT OF LABORATORY ANIMALS FROM UNITED KINGDOM TO SAUDI ARABIA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND THE EXPORTER

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7531EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7531EHC. 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.

Scope

1. Export health certificate 7531EHC may be used for the export of laboratory animals from the United Kingdom to Saudi Arabia.

Certification by an Official Veterinarian (OV)

2. 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.

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 7531NFG (Cleared 21/06/2013) (Revised 24/11/2023)

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.

Identification

3. If the animals cannot be individually identified, the transport container should be sealed with a uniquely numbered tamper-proof seal. The seal number(s) should be entered at paragraph **I**. The transporter should be instructed that the seal should not be broken before arrival at the premises of destination unless the welfare of the animals is at risk or under the instructions of the authorities of the country of destination.

Means of Transport

4. Paragraphs III (b), (c) and (d) refer. The details of transport to include are the ones for the vehicle(s) used to transport the rodents to the airport in the UK and the flight number for the plane to Saudi Arabia. If the vehicle or the plane has to be changed for some reason, APHA Carlisle or DAERA should be informed so that the necessary changes to the certificate can be made and notified if necessary to Saudi Arabia.

Health Information

5. Paragraphs IV (a), (b) and (c) refer:

5.1. Protected colonies

Paragraph IV (a) refers. The term "protected or barrier colony" refers to the entire group of animals which has been in contact with the animals to be exported. In contact animals are those that share airspace, handlers and/or equipment and are not separated by air filter or any similar physical barrier.

5.2. Notifiable diseases: Paragraph IV(b) refers. In respect of the notifiable diseases OV's may certify this paragraph relating to this colony on their own authority.

While the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland provide written authority to OV's on form 618NDC to authorise certification of Notifiable disease clearance on behalf of the Department for the country or a region or zone, in this instance because the declaration relates to the protected colony and the responsible Veterinary surgeon would know if Notifiable disease had occurred in that colony, it is not necessary for APHA or DAERA to provide Notifiable disease clearance.

If the OV providing export health certification is not the veterinary surgeon responsible for the colony, the OV should obtain a signed declaration from the responsible veterinary surgeon to the effect that the colony is free from Notifiable disease.

5.3. Non-notifiable diseases: Paragraph IV(b) refers. It is not necessary that active surveillance must have been carried out for all the diseases listed in paragraph IV (b) but a system of passive surveillance must be in place so that if abnormal morbidity and mortality occurs, the presence of relevant infectious agents or gross or microscopic evidence of pathological lesions can be detected in order to identify the presence of these

diseases.

To ascertain the health status of the animals and that the appropriate routine monitoring has been carried out, the OV should undertake documentary checks and obtain any relevant declarations, as s/he considers necessary depending on the OV's familiarity with the health monitoring of the colony. The OV should ensure that the necessary information is provided for their inspection. This information should include records of production, clinical monitoring and mortality records and laboratory test results including pathological reports on results of post mortem examinations.

If the OV providing export health certification is not the veterinary surgeon responsible for the colony, the OV should obtain a signed declaration from the responsible veterinary surgeon to the effect that the colony is free from the listed diseases. If such a declaration is provided, the certifying OV does not have to check the record and reports of monitoring as described above.

Written declarations that have been provided to support certification should not be attached to the certificate, but should be retained by the OV for record purposes.

5.4. Clinical inspection and examination: Paragraph IV(c) refers. The animals in the colony should be inspected; examination of individual animals should be carried out as required by the OV. The OV should ensure that the animals for export are inspected (and examined as necessary) at the time of loading for export.

Cleansing and disinfection of transport and separation in transport

6. Paragraph IV (d) refers. The OV should obtain a signed declaration from the exporter that the conditions at paragraph IV(d) will be complied with. This declaration should include a statement that making a fraudulent statement is a criminal offence.

Written declarations that have been provided to support certification should not be attached to the certificate, but should be retained by the OV for record purposes.

IATA Transport Conditions

7. Paragraph IV. (d) refers. The owner/exporter is responsible for ensuring that the conditions of transport meet the standards laid down by the International Air Transport Association (IATA). He/she should ask the transporting airline to confirm this, and if necessary provide a copy of the relevant conditions. Published copies of the IATA conditions, together with the 'live animal labels' and 'this way up' labels which IATA require on animal crates, can be bought from the following companies:

Freight Merchandising Services, c/o Vidap Freight Services Ltd.,
Shield Road, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 1AU.

Tel: 01784 240840

Fax: 01784 248615

Label Line, Hollyhouse, 14 Tenby Road, Frimley, Surrey, GU16 5UT.

Tel: 01252 836472

Fax: 01252 838094

With reference to Defra approved disinfectants, these are approved under the 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 notifiable disease viruses. The 'general list' instructions should be followed. DEFRA approved disinfectants carry a statement on the container, and other

references to their approval may be found in their data sheets or label instructions.

Welfare

8. 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.

Disclaimer

9. 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