

EXPORT OF HORSES FOR PERMANENT ENTRY INTO CANADA – 7421NFG
NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND THE EXPORTER

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with the 7421EHC "Export of Horses for permanent entry into Canada". 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.

A valid import permit is required to accompany exports of horses for permanent entry from the UK into Canada. Exporters should seek advice from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) regarding import permits.

[National Import Service Centre – Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(canada.ca\)](https://canada.ca)

When compliance of EU legislation is required in the UK, this can be signed on the basis on Great Britain retained EU law as defined in the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018.

1. SCOPE

The export health certificate should be used to accompany horses exported from the United Kingdom to Canada on a permanent basis. This includes breeding horses, racing horses, horses for non-competitive entertainment and horses for riding and pleasure.

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. DISEASE CLEARANCE

Paragraph II.1.1, II.1.2, II.1.3, II.2, II.4, II.5 and II.6 (in respect of Equine Infectious Anaemia – EIA – in adjoining premises only) refers. Japanese encephalitis is considered to be notifiable as it is an equine encephalitis. For residencies in the UK only, these may be signed on behalf of the Department by an OV provided written authority from the APHA/DAERA as been received on form 618NDC.

In the case of horses which have been resident in another country during the periods in question.

OVs should receive a written declaration from the owner/representative of the owner stating each premises where the horse has been kept during this period. OVs should check the validity of the declaration by inspecting the passport or other available records.

Paragraphs II.2, II.4 and II.5 may be signed on the basis of EU legislation e.g. in the case of Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis (VEE – II.2 refers), EU legislation requires the third country of origin to be free of VEE for 2 years. If the horse has been in a country (eg Mexico) during the past 6 months but disease (eg VEE) was confirmed after it left the country, this paragraph may still be signed on the basis that when it left, the horse complied with EU legislation; a risk assessment of all movements during these critical period is undertaken by the EU, and any 'hot' contacts are investigated.

3. FORMAT OF THE CERTIFICATE

The text and layout of this certificate has been agreed between the United Kingdom and the CFIA to enable the export of horses for permanent entry from the UK to Canada.

Specific guidance on completing this certificate is provided via footnotes in the certificate itself and in these notes.

4. COMPLETION OF PART I – DETAILS OF DESPATCHED CONSIGNMENT

I.2a – Certificate reference number

This will be completed by the issuing APHA office.

I.2b – Import permit number

Please insert here the number.

I.3 – Central Competent Authority

This should be completed with "Defra". When the exporting establishment is located in Northern Ireland, "DAERA" should be entered.

I.4 – Local Competent Authority

This should be completed with "Animal and Plant Health Agency". If exporting from NI, please enter "DAERA"

I.5 – Consignee

Enter the details of the importer.

I.6 – Enter related certificate and document numbers, if any.

Otherwise, please strike through.

I.7 and I.9 – Country ISO Codes

ISO 3166 is the commonly accepted International Standard for country codes.

The ISO Code for the whole of the **United Kingdom** is "GBR" and this is pre-populated at **Box I.7**.

The ISO Code for **Canada** is "CAN" and should be entered at **Box I.9**.

I.8 – Intentionally struck through.

I.10 – Enter the region of destination.

I.11 – Place of origin

Enter the details of establishment of dispatch.

I.12 – Enter place of destination.

I.13 – Enter place of loading.

I.14 – Date and time of departure

The date of departure must be entered in the format **dd/mm/yyyy**.

I.15 – Means of transport

The means of transport i.e. aeroplane, ship, railway wagon, road vehicle must be indicated.

The option 'Other' is not applicable to the movement of products and should not be selected.

The **Identification Number(s)** should be completed with the name of the

vessel and, if known, the flight number of the aircraft.

If the means of transport changes after the certificate has been signed, the consignor must inform the officials at the intended point of entry.

I.16 - intentionally struck through.

I.17 - intentionally struck through.

I.18 - intentionally struck through.

I.19 - intentionally struck through.

I.20 - intentionally struck through.

I.21 - intentionally struck through.

I.22 - Commodities certified for

Please select the final intention of the export.

I.23 - Strike through if the EHC is used for exports.

I.24 - For export

The box should be ticked to confirm if this is an export, as opposed to transit.

I.25 - Identification of the commodities

If the consignment consists of several animals then it may be necessary to use a separate schedule to identify the full consignment. The schedule must, as a minimum, contain the same information as that required in **Box I.25** of the certificate and this box must be annotated "See Attached Schedule".

Each page of the schedule must bear a page number and the **Certificate reference number** and/or **certificate reference number** and be signed, dated and stamped by the Official Veterinarian.

The schedule must be stapled inside the health certificate and the Official Veterinarian should "fan" and stamp over the pages of the schedule and certificate. The top stapled corner of the schedule and certificate should be folded over and stamped also.

Any blank spaces in the schedule or in **Box I.25** should be struck through with diagonal lines.

5. 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.

6. CEM TESTING AND ISSUE OF IMPORT PERMIT

Paragraph II.9 and the Footnotes (Part II, especially 3) refer. A Canadian import permit must be obtained prior to export, and it must accompany the animal during transport. Details may be obtained on the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) website at:

[Import policies for live animals - Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(canada.ca\)](https://www.inspection.gc.ca/import-policies-for-live-animals/eng/15252222-1025-4980-9000-000119671967)

It is essential that all the instructions regarding the CEM test procedure as set out in the Health Information section (Part II) and in this NFG are followed precisely. The APHA Penrith laboratory, an OIE reference laboratory, is aware of the requirements in this certificate. OV's must not sign the export health certificate until an import permit has been issued by the Canadian Authorities.

[APHA laboratory test submissions and price lists - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/apha-laboratory-test-submissions-and-price-lists)

7. IDENTIFICATION

The identification details in Box I.25 need to be completed as explained in the Notes section (Part I) at the bottom of the certificate. The system is the passport and microchip, and their numbers need to be recorded. The horse's passport must also accompany the 7421EHC and detailed in I.25 OV's must be satisfied that the horse is adequately identified each time that samples are taken for pre-export testing and at the time of the pre-export examination.

8. CLINICAL EXAMINATION

Paragraph II.13 refers. OV's should carry out the final clinical examination and complete the export health certificate within 72 hours of export.

9. RESIDENCY

Paragraph II.3 refers. Horses must have been continuously resident in the UK and, if applicable, an EU country for at least 60 days prior to entering the pre-export isolation premises. The 60 day residency requirement is in addition to the pre-export isolation period. OV's should receive a written declaration from the owner/representative of the owner stating each premises where the horse has been kept during this period. OV's should check the validity of the declaration by inspecting the passport or other available records.

10. PRE-EXPORT ISOLATION

Paragraph II.7 refers. Canada have not specified the requirements/conditions for the approval of the isolation premises, except that it has to be approved by an OV. The OV may approve a premises for isolation as long as the any direct or indirect contact with horses of a lower health status is avoided - structurally and operationally. Horses must be isolated from other horses not intended for export to Canada during the entire time needed to complete the tests required at paragraph II.8, II.8.1, II.8.2, II.9, II.10 and II.11 of the certificate.

11. BLOOD TESTS

Paragraph II.8, II.8.1, II.8.2, II.10 and II.11 refer. Blood tests must be carried out during the pre-export isolation period. 5ml whole blood without additive is required for each test. Blood samples must be sent to the APHA laboratory in Weybridge. The Coggins test for EIA 7421NFG (Cleared 11/08/2021) (Revised 28/11/2023)

is acceptable to Canada. A CFT for CEM is currently not available at the APHA , so on the rare occasion that this might be required, should be contacted to explore what other arrangements may be made.

12. **CEM TESTS (ONLY REQUIRED IN THE CASE OF STALLIONS AND MARES OVER 731 DAYS OF AGE).** In the case of horses under 731 days of age the appropriate paragraphs must be deleted.

Paragraphs II.9, II.10 and II.11 as applicable refer. (Note also the instructions in paragraph 6 of these Notes for Guidance). The horse must be swabbed for CEM testing within 30 days of the date of export, and must not undergo natural service, artificial insemination or semen collection from the time of sampling.

Swabs must be taken from the exact sites specified in the health certificate.

Moistened mini swabs should be used. A separate swab must be taken at each of the specified swabbing sites. It is not permissible to use one swab applied to several sites, except in the case of the clitoral sinuses.

All swabs must be submitted to the APHA Laboratory in Penrith.

All swabs from an individual animal must be submitted to the same laboratory and must arrive at the laboratory within 48 hours of sampling. Swabs must be refrigerated (NOT frozen) with a cool pack included in the parcel. The maximum transmission time of 48 hours must be confirmed by reference to the laboratory report form so that the assurance at paragraph II.9 can be provided. The samples must be cultured for at least 7 days. If more than 10 swabs are to be submitted, prior notice should be given to the laboratory. A separate laboratory submission form must accompany each sample. **An official copy of the lab report showing the result of the test must be attached to certificate.**

If the horse is undergoing any form of antibiotic treatment swabbing for culture must not take place until a minimum of 7 days after the last administration of antibiotics.

13. **TRANSPORT**

Paragraph II.14 refers. IATA Standards: 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 can be purchased via the following link:

IATA Live Animals Regulations:

<https://www.iata.org/en/publications/store/live-animals-regulations/>
Route: Horses must be shipped directly from the United Kingdom to Canada unless written authorisation for routing via another country has been obtained from the CFIA.

14. **POST IMPORT CHECKS**

Each horse is subject to a post-import checks, quarantine and restrictions on arrival in Canada as specified in the import permit issued by the CFIA.

16. **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