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## EXPORT FOR EQUINES TO OMAN

### NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

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

1. **Permission to Import**

Permission to import equidae into Oman must be obtained from the Oman authorities before the shipment leaves Great Britain. The laboratory test result forms together with the horse's registration papers must be submitted with the import permit application form. The import permit application form is available from, and must be submitted to, the following address:

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries  
Department of Animal Health  
P O Box 467  
Muscat  
Oman  
Tel: 00 968 696300  
Fax: 00 968 696361

2. **Isolation in Oman**

Upon arrival in Oman the horse will be subjected to an isolation period in an officially approved isolation centre and may be subjected to further tests at the discretion of the Department of Agriculture. Should the horse fail any of the post-import tests, or fail to comply with the conditions of the import, including failing to provide the correct certification, the horse may be re-exported or destroyed at the owner's expense.

3. **Identification**

Each time the Official Veterinarian visits the horse to carry out any of the examinations, treatments or tests required by the export health certificate the horse must be accurately identified. In the case of a registered horse the Official Veterinarian should consult the passport on each occasion and should note the passport number on any laboratory submission forms. If a passport is not available the Official Veterinarian should complete a silhouette of the horse on his first visit, and should refer to this silhouette on all subsequent visits.

4. **Pre-export examination**

Paragraph IV a) refers. The inspection must be carried out within 48 hours of loading.

5. **Owner declarations**  
Paragraph IV b), d)v) (b), and k) refer. The written declarations by the owner/agent mentioned at paragraph IV b), d)v) (b) and k) should be retained by the Official Veterinarian.

6. **Pre-export isolation**  
Paragraph IV b) (iii) requires that during the 30 days prior to export the horse is kept on an isolation premises.

6.1 **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 DVM. 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.
- k) Protective clothing and footwear to be used exclusively in the isolation premises must be available at the entrance to the isolation premises.
- l) There should be adequate facilities for the cleansing and disinfection of vehicles, either on or near to the isolation premises.

6.2 **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 DVM.
  - 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, APHA should be consulted.
  - k) If the VO/ Official Veterinarian is not satisfied that the conditions of approval are being met, APHA should be notified.
7. **Veterinary Supervision of the isolation premises**  
Paragraph IV b)(iii) refers. Under the Official Veterinarian's supervision means that the Official Veterinarian should visit the isolation premises at the beginning and end of the isolation period and on at least one occasion during the isolation period.
8. **Blood tests**  
Paragraph IV d) and e) refer. For the blood tests mentioned at paragraph IV d) and e), 5ml of clotted unadulterated whole blood is required for each test. Samples for the tests at paragraph IV d) should be sent to the Veterinary Laboratories Agency laboratory, Weybridge. Samples for the African horse sickness test at paragraph IV e) should be sent to the Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright Laboratory, Ash Road, Pirbright, Woking, Surrey. GU24 0NF.
9. **Vaccination**  
Paragraph IV f) refers. No more than 4 months, and no less than 14 days prior to export, the animal must have received a full primary vaccination against equine influenza or if the animal has had a full primary vaccination prior to this period, then it must receive a booster vaccination during this period.
10. **Notifiable disease clearance**  
Paragraph IV h) and j) refer. The certification covering notifiable disease contained in paragraphs IV h) and j) may be signed on behalf of the Department by an Official Veterinarian provided written authority (Form EC618) has been received. The completed form will be sent to the certifying Official Veterinarian by APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle or from the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland.
11. **Transport to Oman**  
Consignments must arrive by air unless alternative arrangements have been agreed before hand with the Oman Department of Animal Health.
12. **Animal 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](mailto:WIT@apha.gov.uk)

13. **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](mailto:vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk)