

No:

EXPORT OF PET MAMMALS TO HONG KONG

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND THE EXPORTER

1. **SCOPE**

Export health certificate 3462EHC may be used to accompany pet small mammals other than cats and dogs, e.g. rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters and chinchillas, exported to Hong Kong. The exporter must obtain a special import permit well in advance of the export from the Agriculture and Fisheries Department, Hong Kong. Application forms are available from the Agriculture and Fisheries Department, 12th Floor, 393 Canton Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong. Fax 00 852 2 311 3731. If the import conditions attached to the import permit differ from those contained in certificate 3462EHC, the exporter should contact the Centre for International Trade - Carlisle.

2. **CLINICAL EXAMINATION**

The clinical examination at paragraph IV (a) should be carried out within 24 hours of export.

3. **DISEASE CLEARANCE**

Paragraph IV (c) may be signed on behalf of the Department.

Where it is possible for the Official Veterinarian (OV) in Great Britain to obtain disease clearance themselves, the Centre for international Trade - Carlisle (CITC) will not issue a 618NDC notifiable disease clearance.

OVs must check the following sources of disease information for the United Kingdom immediately prior to certification, to ensure disease freedom statements can be certified:

- the Notifiable Disease Occurrence List for Great Britain (ET171) available on the Exports > Certification Procedures page of the APHA Vet Gateway
- the UK Status for Non-Notifiable Diseases Relevant to Export Certification (ET152) available on the Exports > Certification Procedures page of the APHA Vet Gateway.

[http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External OV Instructions/Export Instructions/Certification Procedures/index.htm](http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External%20OV%20Instructions/Export%20Instructions/Certification%20Procedures/index.htm)

For Great Britain:

In the absence of a specific Notifiable Disease Clearance (618NDC)

from CITC: OVs may certify that the UK has disease free status or region free status for those diseases mentioned in the health certificate, once they have checked the disease list(s) for the last occurrence of the disease and have ensured it complies with the time frames in the certificate.

In the event of a disease outbreak that affects an OV being able to obtain their own disease clearance, CITC will notify OVs to make it clear which disease freedom statements should not be certified and where necessary, will issue a 618NDC notifiable disease clearance if

the EHC can continue to be issued for certain regions that retain free status.

In the event of a disease outbreak after the EHC has been issued that affects the disease clearance, OV's must not certify the EHC and must contact CITA immediately for advice on whether certification can still take place. If a disease outbreak affects the OV disease clearance procedures for this EHC, a 618NDC will be reinstated by CITA which will be issued with the EHC until a time when OV disease clearance can be reinstated.

4. **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 or Welsh Government, 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 (CITA) 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 CITA 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.

5. **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Exporter's must notify the Import Control Officer, Hong Kong during office hours [Tel: 00 852 2150 7060] at least two working days in advance of the anticipated time of arrival.

Animal (s) exported to Hong Kong must be transported as manifest cargo by the most direct route, unless otherwise authorised in writing by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department, Hong Kong.

6. **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