

EXPORT OF PET TORTOISES/TURTLES & OTHER REPTILES FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO HONG KONG FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES

HEALTH CERTIFICATE - NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE FOR OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7824EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7824EHC. 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 of the certificate.**

This certificate is for the export of pet tortoises, turtles and other reptiles for commercial purposes from the United Kingdom to Hong Kong.

2. **Import Permit**

An import permit must have been obtained from the Hong Kong Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and must be attached to the export health certificate.

3. **Completion of certificate**

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**.

Each page should also be signed, dated and stamped, together with all associated documentation (e.g. laboratory reports, if applicable).

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.

4. **Inspection/Examination**

The OV should examine the animal(s) for clinical signs of health and that there are no signs of injury, not more than 72 hours prior to export (this time period should be interpreted meaning 72 hours or less up to the point of export).

5. **C.I.T.E.S.**

This certificate does not provide exemption from other legislation laid down for the protection or conservation of certain wild species, e.g. the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (C.I.T.E.S.).

Tortoise breeds that are listed in Annex A of the EU regulation, Council Regulation (EC) No.338/97 (titled "on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein") require an Article 10 (A10) licence before any commercial transaction can take place.

Annex A Tortoise Breeds are:

Galapagos Giant Tortoise	(<i>Geochelone nigra</i>)
Radiated tortoise	(<i>Geochelone radiata</i>)
Angonoka	(<i>Geochelone yniphora</i>)
Bolson tortoise	(<i>Gopherus flavomarginatus</i>)
Berger's cape tortoise	(<i>Homopus bergeri</i>)
Pancake tortoise	(<i>Malacochersus tornieri</i>)
Geometric tortoise	(<i>Psammobates geometricus</i>)
Madagascar flat-shelled tortoise	(<i>Pyxis planicauda</i>)
Spur-thighed tortoise	(<i>Testudo graeca</i>)
Madagascar spider tortoise	(<i>Pyxis arachnoides</i>)
Hermann's tortoise	(<i>Testudo hermanni</i>)
Egyptian tortoise	(<i>Testudo kleinmanni</i>)
Marginated tortoise	(<i>Testudo marginata</i>)
Negev tortoise	(<i>Testudo wernei</i>)

Information about the necessary requirements may be obtained from the Department at the following address:

Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service (WLRS)
Zone 1/17, Temple Quay House, No.2 The Square, Temple Quay,
Bristol, BS1 6EB. Tel: 0117 372 8774. Fax: 0117 372 8206

7. **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.

8. **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