

No:

EXPORT OF EQUINES TO PAKISTAN

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE FOR THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

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. The examination mentioned at paragraph IV(a) must be carried out within 48 hours of the date of export.

2. **Approval of pre-export isolation premises**

The pre-export isolation premises must be approved by the Official Veterinarian on behalf of the Department, prior to the start of pre-export isolation. The following conditions must be met for the premises to be approved:

3. **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 APHA. 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.

4. 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 APHA.
- 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, the DVM should be consulted.
 - k) If the VO/ official veterinarian is not satisfied that the conditions of approval are being met, APHA should be notified.
5. Paragraph IV (c) (i) and (ii) refer. Blood samples for the tests mentioned at paragraph IV (c) (i) and (ii) must be taken from horses within 10 days of export. Samples must be sent to the APHA laboratory, Weybridge allowing sufficient time for receipt of the results before the proposed date of export.
6. Paragraphs IV (e) refers. Paragraph IV (e) may be signed on behalf of the Department provided written authority has been received on form 618NDC from the APHA Centre for International Trade Carlisle.

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

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