No:.....

EXPORT OF HORSES TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE)

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 2849EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 2849EHC. 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**

Export health certificate 2849EHC should be used to accompany horses exported from the UK to the UAE on a permanent basis. In the case of temporary exports of horses to the UAE (normally allowed for a period of up to 30 days in UAE), export health certificate 4938EHC may be used. Exporters wishing to export other categories of equidae should contact Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Centre for International Trade, Carlisle.

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. **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 should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any 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
Authorised Private Veterinary Practitioners (aPVPs) certifying DAERA Export Certification On-Line (DECOL) produced EHCs 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.

3. Import requirements

Permission to import equidae into the UAE must be obtained from the UAE authorities before the shipment leaves the United Kingdom. An Import Permit Application form is available from the MAF Equine Veterinary Advisors Office, Tel: 00 971 4 313311 or Fax: 00 971 4 313322. The Import Permit application should be sent to the UAE MAF/AWD, Fax: 00 971 4 313322 or 00 971 4 232781. A fee will need to be paid before the Import Permit can be issued.

Consignments must arrive by air at one of the following approved International Airports: Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah unless prior permission is granted by the UAE to allow for landing elsewhere.

4. Identification

Section I (a) and (b) and in the case of registered equidae, sections

I (c) and (d), should be fully completed. The silhouette on page 4 of the certificate must also be fully completed or in the case of registered equidae, the passport number inserted. The OV must verify the identity of all registered equidae by reference to the passport, even if the silhouette on page 4 of the certificate is also completed. The OV must be satisfied that each animal is adequately identified at the time of inspection and each time that samples are taken for pre-export testing.

5. Health examination

The inspection mentioned at paragraph IV (a) must be carried out within 24 hours of loading for export.

6. Disease clearance

Paragraph IV. (c) (i) may be signed on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained from the APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle on form 618NDC.

7. African horse sickness vaccination

Paragraph IV (c) (ii) refers. A written declaration must be obtained from the owner or exporter stating whether or not the horse has been vaccinated against African horse sickness. The OV should check the validity of the declaration by reference to available records of treatment and vaccination and by considering the vaccination policies of the countries in which the horse has resided. In the case of a registered horse the OV should examine the horse's passport. If the horse has been imported into the United Kingdom the owner must give details of all countries in which the horse has resided. Horses which have been in Africa, the Middle East, Spain and Portugal may have been vaccinated against African Horse Sickness. At the time of vaccination the horse may have been brand marked.

In the case of horses which are known to have been vaccinated, the date of the last vaccination against African Horse Sickness should be entered at paragraph IV (c) (ii) (b).

8. Prohibitions for animal health reasons

Paragraph IV. (d) may be signed on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained from APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle on form 618NDC, but only in relation to the health status of the holding of origin in respect of the specific prohibitions listed. In addition, the Official Veterinarian must make due enquiry about any possible contact between the equid to be exported and equidae from other holdings subject to these animal health prohibitions, in order to be satisfied that they can certify this entire paragraph. For all intent and purpose, the dourine-related prohibitions should apply for 6 months from the date of confirmation (rather than from when the disease was suspected).

9. Veterinary supervision

Paragraph IV (e) refers. "Veterinary supervision" means that the OV or another veterinary surgeon must visit the premises at the start or within 7 days prior to the start of the 15 day period, and at least every 7 days thereafter until the time of export and during these visits the OV must be satisfied, either personally or by receiving a supporting statement from the veterinary surgeon who visited the premises, that there were no signs of infectious or contagious disease which might affect equines, on the premises. The certifying OV should retain any declarations received for record purposes.

10. Written declarations

Paragraphs IV (c) (ii), (e), (f) and (m) refer. These written declarations must be retained by the OV. The OV should carry out any enquiry considered necessary into the validity of the declarations.

If the OV has any reason to doubt the validity of any declaration the Divisional Veterinary Manager (DVM) or equivalent should be consulted.

11. Laboratory tests

Sampling for the tests at paragraph IV (g), (h), and (j) (i) and (ii) as applicable must be undertaken within 30 days of export and if the horse was imported into the EU, at least 14 days after entry. The samples should be sent to the APHA laboratory, Weybridge, for testing.

Where semen samples are submitted, the OV should contact the laboratory in advance to make arrangements for testing and to seek advice on the submission of samples. The semen sample submission must be clearly marked for "testing according to OIE with 3 x passaging".

12. Vaccination

Paragraph IV k) refers. Only licensed products may be used. The UAE authorities have indicated that consideration may be given to primary courses given at intervals outside the limits specified in the certificate but ONLY if it can be demonstrated that they are in line with the vaccine manufacturer's recommendations. In these cases exporters must obtain written permission from the UAE authorities to allow any such changes to the vaccination schedule. The waiver provided by the UAE must be sent to the Centre for International Trade, Carlisle so written instructions to manually amend the certificate may be provided to the certifying OV.

13. Horses not moved directly from the premises of origin to the airport of departure

Paragraph IV (m) (ii) (b) refers. Where horses are not moved directly from the premises of origin to the airport of departure, supplementary certification must be provided with respect to the isolation of the horse at each intermediate premises (resting place or staging point).

In the case of resting places in GB, certification may be provided by an OV using supplementary certificate 2849SUP provided that suitable arrangements are made so that horses certified for export to the UAE do not come into contact with animals of lower health status. The OV should obtain a written declaration from the owner or manager of the premises confirming that there has been no evidence of infectious or contagious disease of equidae at the premises during the 15 days immediately prior to the entry of the export horses and should make due enquiry as to the validity of this declaration.

In the case of resting places outside GB, arrangements should be made with the veterinary authorities of that country for an official veterinarian to provide certification in accordance with the model at Appendix I. N.B. where English is not understood by the certifying veterinarian, the certificate must be in English and the language of the country where the certificate is issued.

The exporter/transporter is responsible for making arrangements for the appropriate certification to be obtained with respect to each intermediate premises.

14. Completion of the health certificate

After completing all the necessary checks and examinations, the OV should ensure that all sections of the certificate are completed and that the certificate is signed and stamped using the OV stamp, both signature and stamp to be in ink of any colour other than black.

15. Post-Import Isolation in UAE

Upon arrival in the UAE the horse will be subjected to a minimum of 6 days isolation in an officially approved isolation centre and will be subjected to further tests at the discretion of the veterinary authorities.

16. Post-Import Testing in UAE

Should the horse fail any of the post-import tests in the UAE, or fail to comply with the conditions of the import, including failing to provide the correct certification, the horse may be re-exported from the UAE or destroyed at the owner's expense.

17. 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.

18. 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

Appendix I

MODEL SUPPLEMENTARY HEALTH CERTIFICATE

I, the undersigned, certify that:

I. The horses identified in the accompanying Health Certificate 2849EHC and serially numbered..... were held in isolation at:
.....
..... (address)
from ..... (time and date)
until ..... (time and date)

II. to the best of my knowledge, and based on a written declaration of the owner*****/manager***** of the premises, there has been no evidence of infectious or contagious diseases of equines during the 15 days immediately prior to the entry of the said animal.

*** Delete as applicable**

Signature:..... **Date:**.....

Official Stamp

Name and Qualifications
(in block capitals): .....