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**EXPORT OF LABORATORY RATS AND MICE FROM UNITED KINGDOM TO AUSTRALIA**

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

**IMPORTANT**

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 4198EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 4198EHC. 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 4198EHC may be used to accompany laboratory rats and mice from the United Kingdom to Australia.

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 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](mailto: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.

3. **IMPORT PERMIT**

An import permit is required, and permit applications for assessment must be sent to:-

Animal and Biological Import Assessments Branch  
Australian Government Department of Agriculture  
GPO Box 858  
Canberra ACT 2601

Phone: +61 2 6272 4454  
Fax: +61 2 6272 3110  
Email: [animalimports@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:animalimports@agriculture.gov.au)

Applications can also be submitted through the eLodgement system - <http://www.daff.gov.au/biosecurity/import/application/elodgement>.

The importer/agent must lodge a Quarantine Entry for each consignment.

4. **IDENTIFICATION**

The term "colony" refers to the entire group of animals that is in contact with the animals to be exported. "In contact animals" are those that share airspace, handlers and/or equipment and are not separated by air filter or any similar physical barrier.

If the animals to be exported cannot be individually identified by means of a tattoo, microchip, or full description, the transport container should be sealed with a tamperproof seal. The seal number should be entered at paragraph I under the heading 'identification'. The transporter should be instructed that the seal should not be broken before arrival at the premises of destination unless the welfare of the animals is at risk or under the instructions of the authorities of the country of destination.

5. **HANTAVIRUSES TESTING**

It is not an absolute requirement under the conditions of the Australian import permit that mice be tested for hantaviruses prior to export. There is no validated test for hantaviruses available at our official laboratory. The Australian authorities have allowed untested mice to be exported from United Kingdom with the condition that they will have to undergo post-arrival quarantine, be tested and then released.

6. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE**

Official Veterinarians may certify paragraph IV(f) on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained from the APHA Centre for International Trade - Carlisle or issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland on form 618NDC.

7. **NOTIFICATION OF IMPORT**

The importer must notify the Australian Government Department of Agriculture office in the state of import in writing at least three (3) business days prior to import. The notification must include:-

- Australian Government Department of Agriculture permit number
- flight number
- airway bill number
- date and estimated time of arrival
- list of animals being imported

The importer/agent must make an appointment for Australian Government  
4198NFG (21/08/2014) (Revised 02/01/2024)

Department of Agriculture inspection of animal(s) and documentation. The importer/agent may be required to be present at the inspection.

8. **TRANSPORT CONTAINER REQUIREMENTS**

Paragraph IV (j) refers. If the OV who completes the certificate is not personally responsible for the transport arrangements, he/she must obtain a written declaration from the owner/exporter, and make any other enquiries which he/she considers appropriate. The animals must be transported to Australia in secure, escape proof containers clearly labelled "Live Animals under quarantine". Transport containers should meet International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards. Details may be obtained by contacting the IATA directly or by consulting the Animal Welfare Division at the relevant address in Note 9 below.

9. **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)

Or, in the case of Northern Ireland, DAERA at Dundonald House, Belfast.

10. **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)