

EXPORT OF THOROUGHBRED HORSES IN CONTINUOUS TRAINING FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND

EXPORTERS

READ THESE NOTES IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT

1. IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 1263EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 1263EHC. 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.

****PLEASE NOTE ANY NON-APPLICABLE TEXT IN SECTION 1 (ISSUING COMPETENT AUTHORITY) & SECTION 2 (UK REGION OF PROVENANCE AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY) SHOULD BE CROSSED OUT (POINT 6 BELOW REFERS) SO REGION OF ORIGIN AND ISSUING COMPETENT AUTHORITY IS UNEQUIVOCALLY PRESENTED TO APHIS****

****PLEASE NOTE THAT HORSES ARRIVING TO THE UNITED STATES MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY SUPPLEMENTAL HEALTH CERTIFICATES WITH REQUIRED ATTESTATIONS FROM EACH COUNTRY OF RESIDENCY (EU Member States: FRANCE, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND OR GERMANY) & FROM EACH APHIS-RECOGNISED CEM-FREE COUNTRY WHERE THE HORSE COMPETE FOR THE 60 DAYS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING EXPORT TO THE UNITED STATES****

It is the exporter responsibility to make sure that all the required export documentation is in place before the final export to the United States.

Countersignature Requirements

This certificate must be countersigned by a salaried Veterinary Official of the National Government in the Department of Environmental Food Rural Affairs in Great Britain or Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland.

In the case of exports to USA, an Official Veterinarian (OV) is an Authorized veterinarian of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) or of the Department of Agriculture, Environmental and Rural Affairs (DAERA) *.

All requests for countersignature must be submitted to the Centre for International Trade - Carlisle (CITC) at least two working days in advance of the requested date/time of countersignature using Request for APHA Veterinarian Countersignature of an Export Health Certificate (ET145) application.

The ET145 application can be submitted to CITC by email to processingteam@apha.gov.uk

Upon receipt of your ET145 application CITC will liaise with an APHA Veterinarian* at your preferred countersigning office/area to make arrangements for countersignature to take place and notify you of the arrangements made.

*In Northern Ireland, a DAERA salaried Official Veterinarian/certifying officer is authorised to countersign this certificate.

Supplemental Health Certificates (SHC) Countersignature requirements

SUPPLEMENTAL HEALTH CERTIFICATES FOR RESIDENCY AND MOVEMENT FROM EU MEMBER STATES TO GREAT BRITAIN/NORTHERN IRELAND AND VICE VERSA MUST BE ENDORSED BY THE CORRESPONDING COMPETENT AUTHORITY**

2. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 1263EHC must be used for the export of thoroughbred horses from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United States of America.

Horses are able to travel between the CEM-affected countries of France, Germany, Republic of Ireland and UK, as well as temporarily compete in APHIS recognized CEM-free countries

Horses can travel between Great Britain/Northern Ireland, and on these instances APHIS advice is that they would accept the following:

- 2.1. An official health certificate must be issued by the last entity (Great Britain or Northern Ireland) the horse resides in immediately prior to export. This certificate must be signed and endorsed by the official salaried veterinarian of the exporting country government. If the official veterinarian is also the examining veterinarian, only one signature is required.
- 2.2. When UK origin horses reside in both Great Britain and Northern Ireland during the 60 days prior to export, the health certificates from the entity being resided in prior to residency in the exporting entity can be signed by the licensed, examining veterinarian. Only the health certificate from the exporting entity must be signed and endorsed by the official veterinarian of the exporting country.

Please note that APHIS recognises separately the regions and the disease statuses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as stipulated in the relevant section of the Federal Register (Vol. 86 No. 155).

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

- 3.1 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**.

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.

3.2 It is a USDA requirement that the silhouette contained within the health certificate 1263EHC must be fully completed in all cases. The identification of the horse must also be checked against the silhouette/microchip number in the passport when samples are collected for pre-export tests and when the horse is examined. Any discrepancies with the identification of the horse should be discussed with the local APHA office/DAERA office.

3.3 The export health certificate 1263EHC attached should already have sections I-III completed. Please check that the details entered on the certificate are correct.

4. SECTION 3: DESTINATION OF THE ANIMAL

Based on the movement of the horse, for traceability purposes, information in regard to temporarily residence of horses (Country, Name, and Address) need to be collected **if transit stops are greater than 48 hours or more in route to or at the port of embarkation in which the horse is unloaded so that the issued permit can be matched to the health document accurately.**

Import permit: all racing Thoroughbreds must be accompanied by an import permit.

5. SECTION IV: ANIMAL HEALTH ATTESTATIONS

- **Section IV a)** You should carry out the final clinical examination mentioned at paragraph IV a), of 1263EHC and complete the export health certificate within **48 hours of departure from the port of embarkation.**

Important: in instances where logistically the clinical examination is unable to be performed within 48 hours from the port of embarkation, APHIS is willing to accept that the examination performed be within 48 hours of departure from the United Kingdom. On the health certificate, the words "...from port of embarkation" may be struck out, and instead "from the United Kingdom" written in and endorsed upon. The OV can make the change, but there must be some indication that it was an official / authorized change. This could be OV initials and stamp in the margin. APHA countersignature on the certificate would then be sufficient for endorsement.

On these instances, in addition to the issued DEFRA health certificate, horses will be required to be accompanied by a health document issued by the respective competent authority of any foreign transit country that they reside in for 36 or more hours while in route to the United States.

- The certificate must be fully completed before being countersigned by a salaried Veterinary Officer of Defra/SW/WG/DAERA.
- **Section IV b):** Horses which have not been resident in the UK (Great Britain or Northern Ireland) for the 60 days prior to export may also be certified for export as long as the relevant health assurances in respect of residencies in the other countries mentioned in paragraph IV (b) (ii) are available.
All premises details included in the table for residency in each country should be captured for traceability purposes.
- Section IV.b), second option, "OR", refers only countries the racing Thoroughbreds may be from/reside in: Germany, France, Ireland (Republic of), Northern Ireland, and Great Britain (England, Scotland, Wales).

Relevant Supplemental Health Certificates in regard to the temporary residency for the previous 60 days before export to US will need to be completed accordingly as referred in "IMPORTANT" information above.

- **Section IV g):**

i. and ii. **Weatherby's records:** These are only up-dated monthly; you should therefore satisfy yourself from the trainer's records that the horse has not been on a breeding premises during the last month, and take the opportunity to confirm Weatherby's information at the same time. The horse needs to be registered in Weatherby's Ltd.

- **Section IV.g)iii**

- o **iii.** the horse has never been bred, breeding of the horse has never been attempted, and the horse has never been commingled and left unattended with sexually intact adult horses of the opposite sex- **This can be certified on the basis that the horse has never been in a breeding premises**

- 4 You should ensure that the owner's declaration is stapled and 'fan stamped' to the certificate to make a tamper proof, composite document. Further guidance on this procedure can be seen at http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/index.htm

A declaration should be signed and dated only by the person confirming a statement. A copy should be retained for your own records.

- 5 **As stated in the footnotes, any non- applicable option must be deleted, for example, referring to the region of origin and corresponding competent authority issuing the certificate, the non-applicable option should be struck through with diagonal lines, so the region of origin (Great Britain or Northern Ireland) and relevant competent authority issuing the certificate (DEFRA or DAERA) is unequivocally presented to APHIS.**

6 **CEM procedures:**

Generally speaking, geldings and horses under 731 days of age are exempt as they are unlikely to be exposed to the risk through engaging in natural breeding but see notes below:

Geldings:

Depending upon the horse's age and maturity level at the time of gelding, it may take several weeks for the testosterone levels to decrease. Stallions castrated after maturity (six years old or older), especially those that have bred mares, may continue to possess stallion-like behaviour, which could include the development of an erection and an attempt to mount and breed mares in oestrus. Semen remains in the horse's accessory sex glands

and the portion of the vas deferens not removed during surgery. There is usually enough present for one ejaculation. Therefore, gelded mature horses should be separated from mares for at least 30 days post-surgery (which would also allow the surgical wound to heal as well) but if this is not possible or the stallion-like behaviour persists, it is advisable to err on the side of caution and certify them as stallions, including swabbing/testing for CEM.

Horses under 731 days old:

The OV should try to determine the age of the horse as accurately as possible from the dentition and other features/records and not rely solely on the age recorded in the passport. A horse will not be considered to be under 731 days old if its first permanent incisors have erupted. Where there is any uncertainty as to whether the horse is under or over 731 days then the OV should err on the side of caution and undertake CEM swabbing/testing.

Swabbing technique (Paragraph IV h):

6.1 Mares and stallions must be swabbed for CEM testing on 3 occasions, at least 72 hours apart and within a 12 day period, the last date being within 30 days of shipment. The swab sites are identified in export health certificate 1263EHC. 4 separate swabs are required from a stallion and 3 (but 2 in the case of a pregnant mare), from a mare on each occasion, as follows:

Stallion:

- 1 swab from the prepuce
- 1 swab from the urethral sinus
- 1 swab from the distal urethra
- 1 swab from the fossa glandis (including the diverticulum of the fossa glandis)

Mare:

- 1 swab from the mucosal surface of the clitoral fossa
- 1 swab from the mucosal surfaces of all the clitoral sinuses there are (the laterals and the median)
- 1 swab from the distal cervix or the endometrium (only required for non-pregnant mares).

For further information on these sites and the sampling technique that the US tend to follow, see https://ahdc.vet.cornell.edu/docs/cem-culturing_contagious_equine_metritis.pdf

6.2 All swabs must be submitted directly to the APHA Penrith Laboratory. For more information, the laboratory can be contacted on 01768 885295.

Swabs must be sent chilled and set up for culture within 48 hours of sampling and the samples must be accompanied by a statement indicating the time and date of collection.

If more than 10 swabs are to be submitted, prior notice should be given to the laboratory. A separate submission form must accompany swabs from each horse.

IMPORTANT: IN CASE OF POSITIVE TEST FOR CEM

Racing Thoroughbred horses that test positive for CEM will no longer qualify for the special provision entry exempting them from requiring CEM testing and quarantine upon arrival in the U.S., and instead will need to complete CEM quarantine and testing upon arrival in order to be considered for entry. This 1263 health certificate will still be the appropriate health certificate to use in those cases. **The invested stakeholders are required to obtain a new permit from the USDA that identifies the CEM testing and quarantine location prior to entry.**

1263NFG (Cleared 14/07/2011) (Revised 03/07/2024)

Support certification

Paragraphs IV d) and e) refers. The Official Veterinarian should obtain support certification as necessary from Veterinary Surgeons responsible for other premises, including in another country if appropriate, where the horse has been kept during the 60 days prior to export. Support certification in relation to vaccination, residency, breeding etc may also be required.

"Courtesy" tests

6.3 Equines exported to the USA are required, on arrival in the USA, to undergo post-import quarantine. During quarantine, horses are tested for equine infectious anaemia (agar gel immunodiffusion (Coggins) test), dourine (complement fixation test), glanders (complement fixation test) and equine piroplasmiasis (competitive enzyme linked immunosorbant assay - cELISA - AND complement fixation test). To reduce the risk of rejection on arrival in the USA, exporters and their veterinary surgeons are strongly recommended to have horses tested prior to export, and preferably carried out by USA labs to reduce the risk of different results being found at the post export quarantine sampling. Samples may be sent to the APHA Weybridge laboratory for these disease as an alternative if desired, **except for equine piroplasmiasis CFT**. The US are no longer able to supply APHA with the CFT reagents for the test (TC1226). For this reason, **APHA has ceased to offer piroplasmiasis CFT as a courtesy test from the 31st of December 2022.**

Following this date APHA will only accept samples where the test is a requirement of the EHC.

Further information, including possible alternatives, can be found in the following OV Briefing Note:

<http://apha.defra.gov.uk/documents/ov/Briefing-Note-5022.pdf>

6.4 Background: The complement fixation tests (CFT) has been re-introduced as an official post-import tests for equine piroplasmiasis (*Theileria equi* and *Babesia caballi*) from February 2015. Horses must test negative on both the CFT and cELISA in order to enter the USA. The CFT is being added because it is more likely to detect early infections when the cELISA is not yet in the positive range. The cELISA is more likely to detect later infections and chronic asymptomatic carriers. Positive CFT results are defined as equal to or greater than a 2+ reaction at a 1:5 serum dilution. Positive cELISA results are defined as 40% inhibition or greater.

6.5 It must be stressed that the results of these tests are not recognised by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and are not certified on any export health document nor are they a requirement of the USDA import permit. Negative results to these tests do not guarantee a negative result when the horse is subsequently tested in quarantine in the USA. There is evidence to suggest that stress and other factors may affect the test results. Owners/exporters should therefore be advised that the Department cannot accept any responsibility if the horse subsequently fails one of the tests whilst in quarantine in USA and consequently may have to return to GB. A declaration should be obtained from the exporter or owner indicating acceptance of this risk.

Should exporters decide not to undertake the courtesy testing then a declaration should be obtained from the exporter / owner stating that they are aware of our advice to pre-export test the horses and that they understand and accept any consequences from not following this advice.

6.6 It is also important that horses which show a positive laboratory test result prior to export are not exported unless the owner and/or his agent is fully aware of the consequences should the animal be found positive in USA and not allowed entry; in addition there is a need to be aware of the implications on consignment contacts which may be deferred entry until a later date and the financial implications.

7 Post Import Requirements

Upon completion of the USDA import quarantine and testing requirements, the horse is free to compete without any further restrictions.

8 The Mallein test

Any horse which is known to have been mallein tested within 6 months of export from Great Britain to the USA must be accompanied by a supplementary certificate denoting the exact date and results of the mallein test carried out. The supplementary certificate which must be signed, stamped and dated by an Official Veterinarian, and endorsed by a full time Veterinary Officer of DEFRA, should be attached to the appropriate export certificate. Animals which have given a positive mallein test must not be exported.

9. Please note that all papers which must necessarily accompany export health certificates for the export of horses **must** be authenticated with an Official Veterinarian stamp and signature on each separate sheet of paper.

10. Travel arrangements

USDA have agreed this can be certified based on a declaration from the exporter/transporter and the declaration must be available at the time of countersignature and a copy should be kept.

11. Certificate numbers:

The Certificate Number should be unique to a given certificate, assigned by the endorsing Competent Authority, and appear on all pages.

12. 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.

13. 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