

**EXPORT OF STALLIONS/MALE HORSES FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT
BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE FOR THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND
EXPORTERS**

READ THESE NOTES IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 3987EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 3987EHC. 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****

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. "

SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 3987EHC may be used for the export of stallions/male horses from the United Kingdom to United States of America.

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

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. 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).

CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

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 should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any 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

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.

2. It is a USDA requirement that the silhouette contained within the health certificate 3987EHC 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

3987NFG (Cleared 14/07/2011) (Revised 03/07/2024)

horse is examined. Any discrepancies with the identification of the horse should be discussed with the local APHA office.

3. The export health certificate 3987EHC attached should already have sections I-III completed. Please check that the details entered on the certificate are correct.

Horses which have not been resident in the 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.

4. You should carry out the final **clinical examination** mentioned at paragraph IV a) and complete the export health certificate within 48 hours of export.
The certificate must be fully completed before being countersigned by a salaried Veterinary Officer of Defra/SW/WG/DAERA.

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.

5. 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.

6. **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.**

7. **CEM procedures:**

Paragraphs IV e), f) and g) are only relevant in the case of horses that need to be swabbed. 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/or bred:

If the horse has been bred even if the horse is under 731 days old, then it must be swabbed and tested. In any case, 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):

- i. Stallions must be swabbed for CEM testing on 1 occasion being within 30 days of shipment. The swab sites are identified in export health certificate 3987EHC. 4 separate swabs are required from a stallion, as follows:

Stallion:

- 1 swab from the prepuce
- 1 swab from the urethral sinus (which is also called the diverticulum of the fossa glandis)
- 1 swab from the distal urethra
- 1 swab from the fossa glandis

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

- ii. 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.

Clarification: Please note the urethral sinus mentioned in paragraph IV g), and the diverticulum of the fossa glandis are one and the same. These have both been included to replicate the requirements specified and to avoid complications at the point of entry into the USA.

Please note that ALL swabs must be sent to the same laboratory.

8. Support certification

Paragraphs IV d) and h), and - in the case of horses resident in MSs other than the UK during the previous 60 days - paragraph IV i) 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.

9. Notifiable Disease Clearance

Paragraph IV i) refers. OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS may certify these paragraphs, in respect of residencies in the UK only, on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained from CIT, Carlisle on form 618NDC.

10. **"Courtesy" tests**

- i. 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, as an alternative if desired.
- ii. 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.
- iii. 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.

- iv. 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 the 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.

11. **Post import arrangements**

Upon completion of USDA import quarantine and testing requirements the stallion must be consigned to a State approved to receive them, and undergo the prescribed CEM treatment and testing requirements.

12. **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 3987NFG (Cleared 14/07/2011) (Revised 03/07/2024)

by an official veterinarian, and endorsed by a full time Veterinary Officer of DEFRA/DAERA, should be attached to the appropriate export health certificate. Animals which have given a positive mallein test must not be exported.

13. 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, signature and date on each separate sheet of paper.

14. **Welfare**

Most horses and ponies exported from Great Britain or Northern Ireland need certification to satisfy British export welfare legislation IN ADDITION TO the export health certification. Information about the necessary requirements and application forms may be obtained from the Welfare in Transport team at the APHA Customer Service Centre in Carlisle.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening>

15. **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