

EXPORT OF A DOG FROM UNITED KINGDOM TO USA

No:

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV) 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 8860 EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8860 EHC.

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.

It is the responsibility of the owner/exporter to comply with any additional importing requirements including having the import permit and any other relevant records available.

Important information for UK exporters/ owners to note:

From 1st August 2024, dogs entering the USA from the UK do not require to be accompanied by Export Health Certificate 8860 EHC, unless they are entering the **Commonwealth of Massachusetts**. In addition, for dogs entering **Hawaii** export health certificate 8860 is recommended to be used. Owners are encouraged to contact the authorities of the states they are proposing to send the dogs to well in advance of the proposed movements to ensure that they have the most up-to-date import requirements. Further information can be found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/importation/dogs/enter-the-us.html>

1. **Scope**

Export health certificate 8860 EHC may be used for the export of a dog from the United Kingdom to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and to Hawaii.

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**.

Certified Copy Requirements - England, Wales and Scotland

Guidance concerning the 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 EHC 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.

Part I: Identification of the animal

Table must be completed with all required information (ISO-compliant microchip number, microchip implant date, breed/description, sex, name, age/date of birth).

If implant date is not known, input earliest date when ISO-compliant microchip is documented on dog's medical/vaccination records.

Animal must be at least 6 months old at the time of export.

Part II: Origin of the animal

Points (a), (b), (c) and (d) must be completed.

Part III: Destination

Points (a), (b) and (c) must be completed.

Part IV: Health information

Point 1.

OV must verify the presence of ISO-compliant microchip in the animal and the microchip number entered on the certificate must match the microchip number in the animal.

Point 2.

Clinical examination is required not more than 30 days before travel. Date of clinical examination needs to be entered by the OV.

- i) Animal must be over 6 months of age at the time of export. This can be certified if OV is satisfied based on examination of animal and documentary evidence.
- ii) OV must verify age, breed and sex of animal and verify that these match the information documented on the animal's rabies vaccination/certification record.
- iii) This can be certified if OV is satisfied based on examination of animal, evidence from relevant veterinary records for the animal **and** written declaration from the owner stating that dog has not been exposed to any infectious or contagious diseases in the past 30 days that would endanger the health of humans or other animals.

Points 3 and 4.

These can be certified based on the OV enquiry, evidence from relevant veterinary records for the animal and **written declaration** from the owner/exporter.

Based on the information provided in the owner/exporter's declaration, if dog was present outside of the UK in 6 months preceding the export, OV should verify that dog has not been in Rabies high-risk country or in the area under quarantine for rabies and has not been exposed to Rabies.

List of the countries regarding risk for dog rabies, as determined by the US can be found here: [High-Risk Countries for Dog Rabies | Importation | CDC](#)

Point 4. i) and ii) - OV to delete one option as appropriate. In the six months immediately preceding export, dog can only be resident continuously in the UK and in any other country that are dog rabies-free or low-risk of rabies.

Point 5. Rabies vaccination:

Dog needs to be vaccinated against rabies prior export. Dog must be at least 12 weeks (84 days) of age at the time of primary vaccination. Any booster vaccination must be done within the validity period of the previous vaccination, otherwise primary vaccination is required.

Rabies vaccination must be within the validity period at the time of export.

The US does not consider a vaccine to be valid until 28-days after the primary rabies vaccine is administered. However, the US confirmed, that if dog has been resident only in the United Kingdom or other rabies-free country, or rabies low-risk country, in the six-month preceding export, there is no requirement to fulfil 28 days waiting period.

Table must be completed with all the relevant information (product name, manufacturer, lot number, product expiration date, date of vaccination, and date when the next vaccination is due.)

If the vaccination has been carried out by another veterinary surgeon, the owner/exporter must provide satisfactory evidence to the OV in the form of a valid certificate.

Copy of the rabies vaccination certificate should accompany the export health certificate.

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.

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