Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Notes for Guidance: Export Health Certificate for entry into the European Union or Northern Ireland of animals of the family *Hippopotamidae* that are originating from and intended for a confined establishment 8459

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Contents

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EHC for entry into the EU or NI of animals of the family *Hippopotamidae* that are originating from and intended for a confined establishment.

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE (NFG) FOR THE CERTIFYING OFFICERS (CO) AND EXPORTERS

1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Animal Health Regulations (EU) 2016/429 - including rules for approval of 'confined establishments' and laying down rules for movement between these establishments. This Regulation repeals and replaces the EU's previous 'Balai' Directive 92/65/EEC.

Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 – supplementing the Animal Health Regulation and providing rules for entry into the Union of kept ungulates intended for confined establishments (see Chapter 2).

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882 – listed diseases by taxonomic group and disease categorisation (A to E) (see Annex and Article 1)

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 - lists of third countries, territories, or zones thereof from which the entry into the Union of animals, germinal products and products of animal origin is permitted in accordance with the Animal Health Regulation

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/403 – model EHCs including those for the entry into the EU of ungulates intended for confined an establishment (see Article 16)

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/351 - Model EHC amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/403

Any EU legislation referenced in the EHC must be complied with and EU legislation can be accessed on the following link. You should ensure that you are using the latest version. https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html

Consolidated legislation

Consolidated texts, which integrate the basic instruments of EU legislation with their amendments and corrections in a single, non-official document, are available. Each consolidated text contains a list of all legal documents taken into account for its construction.

You can search for consolidated texts by using the 'find results by document number' option on the European Commission website. Once you have selected the relevant legislation, click 'document information', and then scroll down to 'all consolidated versions' and select the most recent version.

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html

Please note that the consolidated text may not contain the latest amendment to the legislation, as it takes several weeks for this to be updated.

Texts provided in this section are intended for information only. Please note that these texts have no legal value. For legal purposes please refer to the texts published in the 'Official Journal of the EU'.

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to COs and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with the relevant export certificate applicable for dispatch to the EU or NI of the family *Hippopotamidae* that are originating from and intended for a confined establishment (see scope below).

The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with the veterinary certificate.

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, policies are being reviewed. NFG will be further amended to provide specific guidance. Traders should look at NFGs regularly for any updates]

A declaration by the master of the ship, as set out in Annex III of Commission Regulation (EC) No 403/2021, shall be attached to veterinary certificates for imports into the EU of terrestrial animals where the transport of those commodities includes transport by ship, even for part of the journey. You can find Maste of the ship declaration here: https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates/master-of-the-vessel-declaration-8466

2. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

This certificate may be used for entry into the EU or NI of the family *Hippopotamidae* originating from and intended for a confined establishment.

'confined establishment' is defined in Article 4 of the Animal Health Regulations (EU) 2016/429 and means any permanent, geographically limited establishment, created on a voluntary basis and approved for the purpose of movements, where the animals are:

a) kept or bred for the purposes of exhibitions, education, the conservation of species or research;
b) confined and separated from the surrounding environment; and
c) subject to animal health surveillance and biosecurity measures.

This certificate applies only to animals of the *Hippopotamidae* family

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OV OV

In **England, Scotland and Wales**, this certificate must be signed by a Government Veterinary Officer (e.g. APHA, FSA or FSS employed veterinary officers) or by an OV appointed by APHA on behalf of Ministers in Defra, the Scottish Government or the Welsh

Government and who hold the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ (V)) authorisation.

OVs must sign and stamp, with the OV stamp, the health certificate in ink of a different colour to that of the printing of the EHC. There is no requirement to sign and stamp in a specific colour.

The OV should keep a copy of the signed certificate and any supporting documents for at least two years after signature or receipt/dispatch of the consignment, whichever is later. These can be electronic copies.

EHC in foreign language/s of the EU Member States (MSs).

EHC should be in English and the foreign language of the Border Control Post (BCP) of entry in the EU. The original copy of the required EHC must accompany the consignment to the BCP of entry.

Listing of the EU MS BCPs can be found here: https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/vet-border-control/bip-contacts_en

The foreign language certificate as received from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or via the Export Heath Certificates Online system (EHCO) and bearing the same unique reference number as the English certificate, should be considered an official and accurate translations of the English, as published in EU legislation.

The (sub-) paragraphs / options and how they are numbered and formatted is identical in the English and foreign language editions and to the legislation published by the European Commission. Therefore, the same phrases/sentences in the foreign language versions as in the English version should be struck through and these deletions should be stamped and initialled in both versions. Both versions must also be signed (as opposed to being initialled) and stamped by the OV, the foreign language certificate is deemed to be a genuine and properly authorised translation of the English version.

This also applies to any instructions in the guidance notes to strike out certain paragraphs or to certify statements that the country is free of certain notifiable diseases etc.

Additional information can be found in the APHA Vet Gateway:

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/index.htm

SIGNING AND STAMPING

When signing a certificate, the CO should ensure that the certificate contains no deletions or alterations, other than those which are indicated on the certificate to be permissible and any corrections to permitted entries, subject to such changes being initialled and stamped (in the margin) by the CO. Permissible deletions are normally indicated in the 'Notes' section at the end of the certificate, with the instruction 'Keep as appropriate' or 'delete if not applicable'.

- Where the certificate contains optional or contextual statements, the statements which are not relevant shall be crossed out, individually initialled, and stamped by the CO, or completely removed from the certificate.

- Permitted paragraphs and sections may be crossed out by applying a 'Z' across the section or paragraph rather than crossing out line by line.

- There is no requirement for a date and time to accompany each stamp. The date is only entered at the required entry field in Part I of the certificate, and at the end where the CO signs, stamps and dates that action.

- We are aware of some BCPs demanding that all handwritten information in Part 1 of the EHC is initialled and stamped, including handwritten scoring out of otherwise blank boxes. There is no legal requirement in EU legislation that all the hand-written information entered in the certificate must be signed and stamped. It is only in the case of correction, in any part of the certificate, or in the case of statements to be crossed out, that the certifier must add signature (or initials) and stamp. This has been confirmed by the European Commission. The Commission noted however, in the case of a hand-written certificate, it is expected that the same one person completes the document. If not, the BCP might suspect that empty boxes were completed by another person after the certificate has been signed by the official

You should consider checking with the specific BCP regarding their preference when it comes to the stamping and initialling of handwritten scoring out of otherwise blank boxes in Part I of the EHC.

- **Clarification from the European Commission means that all pages (as opposed to sheets of paper) are signed and stamped once individually in place of fan stamping and in addition to any permitted alterations. There is no requirement to fan stamp.**

- COs are reminded to consult the NFG prior to the certification of each EHC. NFG will be updated with this new information in due course.

Further Information COs should make sure they are familiar with all relevant guidance and other documents relating to EHCs and that they discuss requirements with exporters in advance.

See http://apha.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/Guidance/exports/ehc-online.htm

You can also contact APHA's Centre for International Trade (CIT) on 03000 200 301

PART I: DETAILS OF THE CONSIGNMENT

All boxes in Part I of the certificate must be completed. When a box is not applicable/optional, and not filled, please score it through.

Please use schedule to be attached to the certificate if there is not enough space to fill the information. See Section 'Addition of Schedules' below.

Please complete all the boxes in Part I of the certificate in accordance with the guidance laid down in Chapter 4 of Annex I to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235, Amended by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/2744.

The Harmonised System (HS) Code is a commodity classification system used as a basis for customs tariffs and for international trade statistics.

It is the exporter's responsibility to ensure that the HS code is entered correctly and accurately reflects the product(s) being consigned.

Further information on HS Codes can be found online at: https://www.gov.uk/trade-tariff/sections and http://madb.europa.eu/madb/euTariffs.htm

PART II: CERTIFICATION

II.1.1 – Country listing. Enter the country or zone code as required.

The codes to use (e.g. GB – 0) are in Column 2 of Part I of Annex III to Implementing Regulations (EU) 2021/404. This regulation has been amended by Implementing Regulations 2021/634 which added Great Britain and the Crown Dependencies to the relevant lists.

II.1.2 – Residency. This can be certified based on a written declaration from the exporter and/or by reviewing relevant movement records. The relevant listed diseases, categorised by taxonomic group, are in the Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882: foot and mouth disease, rinderpest, Rift Valley fever, brucellosis, tuberculosis, anthrax and surra (*Trypanosoma evansi*)

II.1.3 and II.1.4 – Health status. This can be certified based on the OV's knowledge of the confined establishment and/or a written declaration from the veterinarian supervising this establishment. A link to the relevant listed diseases is provided above.

II.1.5 and II.1.6 – Direct dispatch. This can be certified based on a declaration from the exporter/transporter to confirm that to the best of their knowledge that the animals will be dispatched directly to a confined establishment in the EU without passing through or being unloaded in other establishments and arrangements are in place to ensure that animals do not come into contact with animals of a lower health status. OVs should familiarise themselves with the intended route (e.g. by checking the journey log) and the be satisfied that suitable arrangements are in place to comply with these conditions.

II.1.7 – Vehicle inspection and transport requirements. This can be certified on the basis of an inspection of the vehicle at the time of loading and/or relevant declarations and photographic evidence from the owner/transporter confirming that the requirements have been met. The certifying OV must ensure that the transport was cleaned and disinfected with a Defra approved disinfectant before loading. Information on when and how to use Defra approved disinfectants is available on GOV.UK. See also section 6 "Animal Transport Attestation" for further details on animal transportation requirements.

II.1.8 – Clinical Inspection. An OV must perform a clinical inspection of the animals within a 24-hour period prior to loading in the means of transport. See Section 7 below.

The OV must be familiar with clinical signs of the diseases listed in Annex I to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 that are relevant to the species being exported. The relevant listed diseases, categorised by taxonomic group, are in the Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882.

II.1.9 – Foot and mouth disease and rinderpest vaccination (forbidden). This can be signed based on the prohibition of foot and mouth disease and rinderpest vaccination in the UK. If the animal has not been resident in the UK for its entire life then this information may be obtained from a copy of the certificate used to import the animal into the UK and/or a written declaration from the owner/exporter.

II.1.10 – Rabies and anthrax vaccination (optional). These attestations can be certified based on evidence provided by the veterinarian supervising the establishment. If anthrax or rabies vaccinations have not been performed, the relevant sections can be struck through, otherwise details of the vaccinations must be completed in the certificate as required.

II.1.11 – Confined establishment disease freedom

II.1.11.1. The establishment must be approved by Defra/APHA/DAERA as a confined establishment.

II.1.11.2 and **II.1.11.3.** These points refer to disease freedom in the confined establishment of origin. Rift Valley fever disease freedom is required for *Hippopotamidae* so ignore the option to delete this point. These attestations can be certified on the basis of notifiable diseases clearance (refer to section 4 below) and/or based on a declaration from the veterinarian supervising the confined establishment.

II.1.11.4 and **II.1.11.5.** These points refer to disease freedom on the areas around the confined establishment.

These attestations can be certified on the basis of notifiable diseases clearance (refer to section 4 below). Contact APHA directly for the most up to date information on *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex in the specified areas.

II.1.12 – Foot and mouth disease. The first option can be certified and “or” option struck through on the basis of notifiable diseases clearance (refer to section 4 below) confirming absence of foot and mouth disease in the UK for the previous 12 months.

II.1.13 – Rift Valley fever. The first option can be certified and “or” option struck through on the basis of notifiable diseases clearance (refer to section 4 below) confirming absence of Rift Valley fever in the UK for the previous 48 months.

II.1.14 – Brucellosis. Keep one of the three options. The third option can be kept for castrated males of any age.

The first option can be certified on the basis of notifiable diseases clearance (refer to section 4 below) confirming absence of Brucellosis in the UK for the previous 12 months. The lack

of vaccination can be certified based on a declaration from the veterinarian supervising the confined establishment vaccination. If the animal has been imported this can be certified based on information from a copy of the certificate used to import the animal into the UK and/or a written declaration from the owner/exporter.

II.1.15 – Parasite treatment. This can be certified based on information provided by the veterinarian supervising the confined establishment of origin. The details of the product(s) used, active ingredient and doses must be stated in the certificate.

4. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

For guidance on certifying paragraphs relating to Avian Influenza (AI) see APHA guidance for "COs Obtaining Clearance for AI" available here:

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/Guidance/exports/ehc-online.htm

COs (OVs and Environmental Health Officers (EHO)) can certify certain disease clearances paragraphs within this EHC, on behalf of the Department, provided written authority to do so has been provided/obtained on form 618NDC from APHA's Centre for International Trade – Carlisle (CITC).

The clearance will be provided by CITC on form 618NDC. It will specify the statements on the certificate that it covers, and is only in relation to the official GB disease status specified in the relevant paragraphs. All other matters such as residency, vaccination status, status of premises in respect of other diseases not covered by the 618NDC and disease status of countries, areas, premises outside the UK, are for the CO to check and verify, obtaining support certification where necessary including support certification for products of animal origin that have originated in NI.

5. COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE

Certification Support Officers may not be utilised for gathering evidence relating to this certificate.

6. ANIMAL TRANSPORT ATTESTATION

The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 and parallel legislation in Scotland and Wales implement Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005. If transported by air, animals should be transported in accordance with International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards.

Every animal should be fit for the journey that is planned. Animals should be in good health, free of illness, free of significant wounds and able to walk without pain on all legs. Animals

that are in sufficiently good health, should be able to withstand the stress of a journey without experiencing any unnecessary pain or distress, and should arrive at their destination in good health. Animals that are injured or that present physiological weaknesses or pathological processes shall not be considered fit for transport and in particular if:

- they are unable to move independently without pain or to walk unassisted.
- they present a severe open wound or prolapse.
- they are pregnant females for whom 90% or more of the expected gestation period has already passed, or females who have given birth in the previous week.
- they are new-born mammals in which the navel has not completely healed.

7. CLINICAL EXAMINATION

The inspection must be carried out within 24 hours of loading. The pre-export inspection should consist of a visual appraisal and, if deemed appropriate, physical examination of the animals for export. Each animal subject to an inspection must be assessed as an individual.

OVs must use their professional judgement to determine the level of inspection required in order to ensure that no animal is exported which shows signs of infectious disease and that animals are fit to travel to their intended destination.

8. ADDITION OF SCHEDULES:

When the space in Part I or Part II of the certificate is insufficient to accommodate full details of the consignment a schedule may be used. In the relevant section of the certificate the CO should annotate the certificate 'see attached schedule'. A new schedule should be created (typed or clearly written) containing the same information as that required in the certificate. The schedule must include the certificate reference number on each page and must be signed, dated, and stamped by the CO in a colour other than the printed text on each page and under the last entry. The schedule forms part of the certificate. All pages of the certificate, including the schedule, must be sequentially numbered. Any blank spaces in the schedule or the certificate should be struck through with diagonal lines.

Further guidance is available here: http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/index.htm

9. CERTIFIED COPIES OF EHCs

When completing export certification, the CO and, if applicable, FCCO must make photocopies of, or scan and save all documents they certify. OVs must retain copies of certification documents in accordance with RCVS Certification principles.

https://www.rcvs.org.uk/setting-standards/advice-and-guidance/code-of-professional-conduct-for-veterinary-surgeons/supporting-guidance/certification/

COs must retain copies of all export documentation for a period of two years. A certified copy of this EHC does not need to be returned to the APHA CITC. For the purposes of

completing routine Quality Assurance checks on export certification, CITC may request certified copies of certification from COs.

Further details on Post Certifying Procedures, 'certified copies' of certification and the types of documents that should be retained by COs can be found on the APHA Vet Gateway.

10. LEGAL STATEMENT

The existing EU legislation that the UK complied with prior to the end of the Transition Period has been incorporated into our domestic law as "assimilated EU law" under the EU (Withdrawal) Act 2018. References in our guidance and certification to such EU instruments should be taken to be references to this "assimilated EU law". The EU standards that this legislation includes continue to remain in force, without substantive amendment, as part of UK domestic law (apart from corrections to make the EU legislation fully operable.

11. DISCLAIMER

This certificate and NFG are 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 APHA in Carlisle.

This publication is available at Search - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at livestockexports@apha.gov.uk

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Version History:

EHC

II.1.11.2. – Updated to include legislative reference (Annex I to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692) for listed diseases.
Notes Box reference I.27 – Additional legislative references.

NFG

Version 3 Published 31 July 2024
Applicable Legislation: Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/351 added