

EXPORT OF DOGS AND CATS TO JAPAN FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 6407EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 6407EHC which includes a Certificate at Embarkation to be completed on page 4 of the 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.

1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

These Notes for Guidance are only for use with certificate 6407EHC which can be used for exports of dogs and cats from the United Kingdom to Japan. The certificate replaces the Japanese model template certificates (Parts A & C), which should not be completed.

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 should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV/AVI stamp in any colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

Certified Copy Requirements

Certifiers are only required to return a certified copy of EHCs for the following EHC types:

If the commodity is cattle, pigs, sheep, goats or camelids
EHCs where the certifier cannot submit certifier feedback

If you are required to return a certified copy to CITC, email a scanned copy to certifiedcopies@apha.gov.uk.

Retain a copy of all EHCs and supporting documentation certified for two years.

Certifiers 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. **PRIOR NOTIFICATION**

All imports of pets into Japan must be notified to the Japanese Animal Quarantine Service (AQS) no later than 40 days before the scheduled date of export. On arrival in Japan the animal will remain in detention for a period no longer than 12 hours until the Japanese Authorities give clearance.

Further information can be obtained from:

<http://www.maff.go.jp/ags/english/animal/dog/index.html>

When the notification is received, the AQS will issue the importer with an "**Approval of import inspection of animals**", which will normally be faxed, emailed or posted to the person who submitted the notification. If this document should be sent to someone else, the AQS should be informed of this at the time of submission.

The exporter will be required to show the **Approval of import inspection of animals** to the airline or shipping staff when checking in the animals. At the point of import into Japan it will be necessary to quote the receipt number from the **Approval**, so exporters must have it to hand.

4. **IDENTIFICATION**

Paragraph **I. b)** refers. Each animal must be identified with a microchip transponder. The identification details must be shown on the health certificate. The type of microchip reader must be written at paragraph **I. b) (iv)**.

5. **DECLARED USE**

Paragraph **I. c)** refers. The owner/exporter must declare what is the purpose for the animal to be exported (i.e.: pet, commercial, etc). The purpose must be written at paragraph **I. c)**.

6. **APPROVAL NUMBER**

Paragraph **II. d)** refers. The "Approval number" is the receipt number from the **Approval of import inspection of animals** mentioned in paragraph 3. in this NFG above.

7. **CLINICAL EXAMINATION**

Paragraph **III. b)** and **c)** refer. The clinical examination must be done immediately before embarkation (preferably within 48 hours). Paragraph **III. b)** must be certified for dogs and cats. Paragraph **III. c)** must be certified for dogs only.

8. **RABIES VACCINATION AND SEROLOGICAL TESTING**

Paragraph III(d) refers.

Dogs and cats must be vaccinated against rabies **twice or more** after microchip implanting and **at least 91 days old** at the time of first vaccination.

Second rabies vaccination must be:

- more than 30 days after the first vaccination (the date of the first vaccination is counted as day 0)
- within the immunity period of the first vaccination

Paragraph III(d)(ii) requires the table to be completed indicating the date of vaccination, period of vaccination (which is the immunity period of 1-3 years as given on the data sheet that accompanies the vaccine), date of booster or second vaccination (being 31 days or more

after the first vaccination). The table should then include the name of product and manufacturer (including batch number) and the details of the veterinarian who was responsible for carrying out/supervising the procedure.

Paragraph III(d) (iii) requires the table to be completed, indicating the date of sampling that should be on or after the date of the second rabies booster vaccination (and at least 180 days prior to departure for Japan), the name and address of veterinarian responsible for administering/supervising the test and the outcome of the test result that must be equal to or greater than 0.5 IU/ml. This test must be carried out at an officially authorised laboratory, in the UK. A list of approved rabies serology laboratories in the UK can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rabies-blood-testing-laboratories-in-the-uk>

NOTE : Until further notice, the Biobest Laboratories Ltd facility cannot be used for the purposes of rabies blood testing because the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has removed the laboratory from its list of designated laboratories for serum antibody tests for rabies.

The microchip number must be read prior to sampling to confirm that identity of the animal being tested.

9. **OTHER VACCINATIONS & TREATMENTS OF INTERNAL & EXTERNAL PARASITES**

Paragraph III(e) refers. Details of any other vaccinations are to be completed indicating the date of vaccination, period of vaccination*, the kind of vaccine/active ingredient(s) used and the name and address of the veterinarian who was responsible for carrying out/supervising the procedure. Internal & external parasite treatments do not have a period of vaccination. Details of these vaccinations will allow the animal to meet the requirements of the Animal Quarantine Service.

* The end of the immunity period will be determined from the datasheet that accompanies the vaccine.

10. **PART B - CERTIFICATE AT EMBARKATION**

The OV signing **IV PART B** of the certificate may either be the same who signed **PART A** or a different OV. **NOTE: If the animal is not transported directly from the UK to Japan, exporters are strongly advised to contact the Japanese Animal Quarantine Service as additional documentation may be required.**

TRANSPORT CONTAINER.

Part B paragraph **IV. a)** refers. The owner/exporter is responsible for ensuring that the conditions of transport for his/her animal meet the standards laid down by the International Air Transport Association (IATA). He/she should ask the transporting airline to confirm this, and if necessary be provided with a copy of the relevant conditions. OVs must obtain a written declaration from the owner/exporter stating that the container meets IATA standards. OVs should retain a copy for record purposes.

SEALING OF THE CONTAINER.

Part B paragraph **IV. b)** refers.

If the animal is travelling directly from the UK to Japan with no stops at other countries en route, and a declaration from the owner/exporter received accordingly, the container need not be sealed, provided that the animal does not come into contact with other susceptible animals during transport. In this case, part i) can be certified and part ii) should be deleted.

If the animal is not travelling directly or a declaration is not received, then the exporter should consult the current import requirements as to whether the container needs to be sealed. Recent information from MAFF states that, when exporting from a non-designated country, which UK is included, there isn't a requirement to seal the container. In GB, a derogation will be provided by APHA to the OV certifying part A of 6407EHC. This must in turn be provided to the OV certifying part B, if different. If the current import conditions dictate that the container need not be sealed, the derogation allows the deletion of both part i) and ii) of IV. b).

If however the container is to be sealed, the animal must be sealed in its container using a tamper-evident seal with an identifying number or mark, which must be applied by an OV. The container must be sealed in a way that the removal of the animal is not possible without breaking the seal. The number or mark on the seal must be recorded at Paragraph **IV. b) (ii)**. Paragraph **IV. b) (i)** should be deleted.

11. **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.

12. **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