

EXPORT OF DOGS AND CATS TO SAUDI ARABIA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN 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 2914EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 2914EHC. 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

Export health certificate 2914EHC may be used for the export of dogs and cats to Saudi Arabia.

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 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. EMBARGO ON DOGS

Dogs are banned from entering Saudi Arabia, with the exception of watch/guard dogs, hunting dogs and guide dogs for the blind. In particular the veterinary authorities of Saudi Arabia will NOT permit importation of the following breeds of dog:

**LANCASHIRE HEELER
SWEDISH VALLHUND
MASTIFF/OLD ENGLISH MASTIFF
NEAPOLITAN MASTIFF
BULLMASTIFF
NEW FOUNDLAND
GREAT DANE
LEONBERGER
HOVAWART
BOXER
BULLDOG/ENGLISH BULLDOG
ROTTWEILER
BULL TERRIER
STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER
DANDIE DINMONT TERRIER
JAPANESE AKITA
CHINESE SPITZ
AFFENPINSCHER
GRIFFON BRUXELLOIS**

In the case of hunting dogs, guard/watch dogs and guide dogs for the blind, the declaration 2914OWN should be completed by the owner or the owner's representative and countersigned by an Official Veterinarian. The declaration 2914OWN should accompany the export health certificate which must be completed by an Official Veterinarian. **In the case of other dogs, exporters are advised to obtain the written agreement of the Saudi authorities that importation will be permitted.**

No such restrictions apply to cats.

4. RABIES VACCINATION (DOGS AND CATS)

Paragraph III(b) refers. A copy of the vaccination certificate should be attached to 2914EHC.

All dogs and cats must be vaccinated against rabies not less than 30 days and no more than 6 months prior to export.

5. OWNER'S/ REPRESENTATIVE'S DECLARATION AND VETERINARY CERTIFICATE (IN THE CASE OF DOGS ONLY)

If applicable, paragraph 1 of the declaration 2914OWN should be completed by the owner or owner's representative. Paragraph 2 may be completed by an Official Veterinarian if in his/her opinion the Official Veterinarian believes that the dog is suitable for the stated purpose. The dog must not be one of the prohibited breeds listed at paragraph 3 above. The declaration 2914OWN should accompany the health certificate 2914EHC.

6. TRANSPORTATION

The animal must be transported in accordance with the International Air Transport Association (I.A.T.A) Standards.

Airlines have to obtain prior permission to take animals into Saudi Arabia. Exporters should advise the airline of the name, address and telephone number of the consignee in Saudi Arabia.

7. LEGALISATION

Once the documents have been signed by an Official Veterinarian they must be legalised.

For the purposes of legalising the above certificates, exporters should apply to the Legalisation Office via: <https://www.gov.uk/get-document-legalised>

Telephone: 020 4623 3100 (lines open 24/7)

For general enquiries: Legalisation@fcdo.gov.uk

Customers with short deadlines should contact UrgentLegalisation@fcdo.gov.uk for assistance

9. 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

2914NFG (Cleared 25/01/2001) (Revised 15/10/2025)

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."

10. 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