

EXPORT OF DOGS AND CATS FROM UNITED KINGDOM TO PARAGUAY

NOTES FOR 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 3918EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 3918EHC. 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 3918EHC may be used for the export of dogs and cats from the United Kingdom to Paraguay.

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 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

aPVPs certifying DECOL produced Export Health Certificates must 3918NFG (Cleared 06/08/1996, Revised 15/10/2025)

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. **CLINICAL EXAMINATION**

Paragraph IV (a) refers. The clinical examination should be carried out no more than 96 hours prior to export.

4. **VACCINATIONS**

Paragraph IV (b) refers. The said animal must be fully vaccinated against rabies no less than 30 days, and no more than 12 months prior to export. A rabies vaccination certificate must be completed by the veterinary surgeon who administers the vaccine. It should be attached to the export health certificate.

5. **OWNER'S DECLARATION**

Paragraph IV (c) refers. A declaration must be received from the exporter that the animals have been resident in the UK for at least six months prior to export, or since birth. The declaration must also state that it is the owner's intention to export the animal from United Kingdom. The OV should retain the written declaration for record purposes.

6. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE**

Paragraph IV (d) refers. This paragraph may be certified provided written authority to do so has been obtained from the APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle or the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland, on form 618NDC.

7. **LEGALISATION**

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

8. **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

9. **WELFARE DURING TRAVEL**

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.