

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Notes for Guidance: Export Health Certificate and Declaration for entry into the European Union or Northern Ireland of equine animals not intended for slaughter 8431

August 2026

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No: 8431 NFG

Health certificate and declaration for entry into the Union of Equine animals not intended for slaughter and individual registered horses, registered equine animals or equine animals for breeding and production.

It is not permitted to export equine animals from GB for fattening or slaughter. This applies to journeys from, and transit journeys through, GB to destinations outside the UK, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

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

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to COs and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with the relevant export certificate, declaration for entry into the EU or NI of Equine animals not intended for slaughter.

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 accompany 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 the Master of the ship declaration here:

www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates/master-of-the-vessel-declaration-8466

1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

[Regulation \(EU\) No 2016/429](#) on transmissible animal diseases (the 'Animal Health Law').

[Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2020/692](#) supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 as regards the rules for entry into the Union of certain animals, germinal products, and products of animal origin.

[Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/403](#) laying down rules for the application of Regulations (EU) No. 2016/429 and (EU) 2017/625 as regards model animal health certificates/official certificates for entry into the union.

[Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/404](#) laying down the list of third countries, territories, and zones thereof from which the entry into the union of animals, germinal products and products of animal origin is permitted.

[Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/634](#) amending Implementing Regulation 2021/404 as regards the entries of the United Kingdom.

[Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2024/351 - Model EHC amending Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/403](#)

[Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/405](#)

[Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2023/905](#)

Any EU legislation referenced in the certificate must be complied with and EU legislation can be accessed on the following link. You should ensure you use the latest version:

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

Please note that Official Control Regulations 2017/625 have repealed Regulation (EC) No 854/2004, 882/2004 and Directive No 96/23/EC. Please see link:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32017R0625&from=EN>

Consolidated legislation

Consolidated texts, which integrate the basic instruments of Union 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'.

2. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

This certificate and declaration may be used for entry into the EU or NI of equine animals not intended for slaughter.

Equine animal is defined in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 as an animal of the species of solipeds belonging to the genus *Equus* (including horses, asses and zebras) and the offspring or crossings of those species.

This may be a registered equine animal (including registered horses) as defined in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035, or an equine animal other than a registered equine animal.

It is not permitted to export equine animals from Great Britain for fattening or slaughter. This applies to journeys from, and transit journeys through, Great Britain to destinations outside the UK, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN 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 or NI. 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 Health 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 APHA Official Veterinarian Training:

<https://improve-ov.com/instructions/instructions.php>

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 initialed 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 initialed, 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 initialed 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 initialing 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 <https://improve-ov.com/instructions/instructions.php?ta=8>

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](#).

I.11

A registration number for the place of dispatch of the equine being sent to the EU, is required.

Equine establishments can get a CPH number from APHA if they don't already have one and that number needs to be included on the certificate. This does not only apply to equine holdings, but also racecourses, other sporting venues, sales yards and other locations from which equines are loaded to depart GB. OV's are able to use a letter of evidence from APHA provided to the owner when signing the certificate.

See guidance in regard to CPH here. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/export-or-move-equines-apply-for-a-county-parish-holding-cph-number>

Without a CPH for the establishment of dispatch, you cannot certify equines to be exported to the EU or moved to NI.

I.20 This certificate can be used for "further keeping", "Registered equine animal" and "Registered horse".

I.21 This certificate can be used for transit.

I.27 Under the **identification number**, there is enough space to include the name of the horse. Including the name of the horse, as well as the required identification number, will facilitate officials carrying inspection procedures at the BCP.

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 CN code is entered correctly and accurately reflects the product(s) being consigned.

Further information on CN Codes (Commodity Codes) for customs tariffs can be found online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/trade-tariff/sections> and <http://madb.europa.eu/madb/euTariffs.htm>

PART II: CERTIFICATION

The OV signing the EHC must ensure that they are aware of the provisions of [Regulation \(EU\) No 2016/429](#), [Commission Delegated Regulation 2020/692](#), [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/403](#) and [Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/404](#). These regulations outline the animal health conditions governing the movement and importation from third countries of Equidae, and list of countries and territories and zones thereof authorised to export Equidae to the EU or NI.

Under the Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Act 2024, it is an offence to export equines for slaughter and fattening, beginning in or transiting through Great Britain to a third country. Movements to NI for immediate slaughter in NI or for fattening for slaughter in NI are permitted.

If the OV has suspicions that the consignment is being exported for fattening or slaughter in contravention of section 1 of the Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Act 2024, this should be reported as soon as possible to APHA by calling 03000 200 301. In your report, please detail the following:

- EHC reference number
- Location and address of inspection, including CPH number
- Name and address of transporter and journey organiser
- Journey log reference number, where applicable
- Details of the animals in the consignment (number, species, age)
- The reason for reporting your concern
- Any relevant additional information

Blood testing

The OV signing the EHC must ensure that the requisite tests have been undertaken in accordance with Part II of the Certificate

Tests are required for Equine Infectious Anaemia (EIA) for all equines. All tests must be carried out in a laboratory recognised by GB for equine export testing. Some of the recognized laboratories are APHA laboratory in Weybridge, England or the AFBI laboratory in Belfast. It is the exporter's responsibility to check the status of the laboratory that they might want to use.

Residency requirement

As detailed in the declaration for the owner or owner's representative, the animal must have remained in GB for at least 40 days prior to dispatch, since birth if younger than 40 days or have entered the GB from an EU Member State or Norway during this 40-day residency period.

For a registered horse the horse must have been resident in GB for a period of 40 days or have entered GB during this period from a country of a similar health status.

Registered and Unregistered equines and horses

'Equine animal' means an animal of the species of solipeds belonging to the genus *Equus* (including horses, asses and zebras) and the offspring of crossings of those species.

'Horse' means an animal of the species *Equus caballus*.

'Registered equine animal' means an animal defined in Article 2 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692

- i. a purebred breeding animal of the species *Equus caballus* and *Equus asinus* entered or eligible for entry in the main section of a breeding book established by a breed society or breeding body recognised in accordance with Article 4 or 34 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1012.
- ii. a kept animal of the species *Equus caballus* registered with an international association or organisation, either directly or through its national federation or branches, which manages horses for competition or racing.

Additional travel ID for unregistered equines

The OV signing the EHC must ensure, that if the certificate relates to an equine that is not classed by the EU or NI as a registered equine, the animal also has a completed travel ID (which accompanies the existing equine passport), which the OV will also need to sign and stamp (in the same way as the EHC – in line with Section 3 above).

Note: having a passport does not necessarily mean that the horse is ‘registered’.

II. Animal health attestation

Whilst GB is free from relevant notifiable diseases, this EHC may be provided to the OV from EHCO, with certain paragraphs pre-deleted. These paragraphs are mainly those relevant to countries that are not Sanitary Group A and other paragraphs relevant to diseases not currently present in GB.

Should the disease status of GB change, then the template showing pre-deletions will be removed, and a normal template with no deletions be made available on EHCO. However, even when the pre-deleted template has been provided, OVs MUST continue to check GB’s health status at the time of certification & ensure that the pre-deletions are still correct according to the ET171 notifiable disease occurrence list & instructions in the disease clearance section below.

This is because, although the templates on EHCO can be changed very quickly on disease confirmation, any EHCs that have already been dispatched to OVs will not be able to be changed to the none pre-deleted template, and so may no longer be correct at the time of certification.

II.1.1 - The appropriate option of the three available options in relation to animal species and registered status should be selected and the others deleted.

The ‘either’ option is to be selected when the animal meets the definition of a registered equine animal in [Commission Delegated Regulation 2020/692](#):

- A purebred breeding animal (being a horse, pony, donkey), entered on a studbook or eligible for entry on a studbook;

And the animal is not a ‘registered horse’ as per the definition in [Delegated Regulation 2020/692](#):

- A kept animal (being a horse or pony only i.e. not donkey), registered with an international organization or national federation for competition or racing (‘registered horse’)

The first “or” option is to be selected when the animal meets the definition of a ‘registered horse’ (as above).

The second’ “or” option is to be selected when the animal does not meet either of these definitions above.

The horse is not intended for slaughter under a national program of infectious or contagious disease eradication can be certified based on the absence of notifiable disease as detailed in Section 4.

II.1.2 - This can be certified with the result of clinical examination carried out within the last

24 hour period prior to date of dispatch, or for registered horses within last 48 hours or on the last working day prior to the date of dispatch, that the animal for dispatch has not shown signs or symptoms of any diseases listed for equine animals in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882 . The relevant listed diseases are: African horse sickness, West Nile fever, Japanese encephalitis, Surra (*Trypanosoma evansi*), Equine encephalomyelitis, Contagious equine metritis, Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis, Dourine, Equine infectious anaemia, Infection with equine arteritis virus, Infection with *Burkholderia mallei* (Glanders) and all listed diseases are notifiable in the GB.

II.1.3 and II.1.4 -

These can be certified, on the basis of absence of notifiable disease as detailed in Section 4, that the animal meets the requirements attested in points II.2. to II.5. and where applicable in point II.6 of this certificate and was accompanied by a written declaration, signed by the operator of the animal, which forms part of this certificate.

II.2 Attestation on third country or part of the territory of third country and in establishment of dispatch:

II.2.1 – Enter the territory code. The relevant regulations are Implementing Regulations (EU) 2021/404. This regulation has been amended by Implementing Regulation 2021/634 adding the GB and the Crown Dependencies to the relevant lists. GB and the Crown Dependencies are assigned to Sanitary Group A.

The options for name of a country or code of territory are here:

GB-0	United Kingdom
GG-0	Guernsey
IM-0	Isle of Man
JE-0	Jersey

II.2.2, II.2.3, II.2.4, II.2.5, II.2.6 and II.2.7 -

These diseases are notifiable in the UK and may be certified on the basis of disease clearance. The OV is to obtain disease clearance for relevant diseases as per section 4 below. Relevant diseases are African horse sickness, Venezuelan Equine Encephalomyelitis, *Burkholderia mallei* (glanders), Surra (*Trypanosoma evansi*), Dourine (*Trypanosoma Equiperdum*), Equine infectious anaemia. Select the correct option:

Option 1

The Equine animal intended for dispatch originated from the territory or zone where the above diseases have not been reported during the months (referred on the certificate for each disease) prior to the date of departure.

Option 2

The establishment was under recognised surveillance and eradication programme for the above diseases during the last months (referred on the certificate for each disease) and no infections reported prior to the date of departure, or there has been infections reported for the above diseases during months (referred on the certificate for each disease) prior to the date of departure, but the establishment remained under restriction, and remaining equine

animals have been tested as required with negative results with samples taken (as required) after the last infected animal was killed or from the date of cleaning and disinfection after the last equine animal on the establishment was killed. Evidence of test results is needed for this attestation. Strike through the option which is not applicable.

<http://apha.defra.gov.uk/documents/news/New-disease-reporting-requirements.pdf> For horses that have been imported to the GB during these time periods, it is a requirement for intra-EU trade and for imports into the GB from non-EU countries that the horses have not been in contact (for the periods mentioned) with other horses subject to prohibition orders for these diseases. Also, should any of the diseases be confirmed, the procedure to lift prohibitions on the holdings is as indicated across the EU27 and non-EU countries exporting to the GB (e.g., for EIA, the seronegative horses have to be tested 3 months after the removal of the seropositive horses with negative results for the prohibitions to be lifted). Therefore, these can be certified for horses originating from EU Member States and a non-EU country. The conditions can be certified based on an import health certificate supporting origin and disease clearance conditions and in the absence of notifiable disease notifications from APHA (as detailed in section 4) covering residency in GB. (as supported by evidence of legal importation), these sections can be certified based on existing controls on the entry of horses to the GB and the absence of notifiable disease as detailed in section 4.

II.2.7.1 and II.2.7.2 -

These can be certified based on the absence of notifiable disease as detailed in Section 4. Infection with Rabies virus and Anthrax is currently notifiable in the UK. In addition, this can be attested also with receipt of written and signed declaration by the operator, that equine animal described in Part I comes from an establishment in which the above infection in kept terrestrial animals have not been reported during the period of days (referred in the certificate) prior to the date of departure of the animal.

II.2.8 - This can be certified on the basis of OV's personal knowledge and as declared by the operator, that the equine animal described in Part I has not been in contact with kept animals of listed species which did not comply with the requirements referred to in Points II.2.3. to II.2.8.1 during the last 30 days prior to the date of departure of the animal, and with the requirement referred to in point II.2.8.2. during the 15 days period prior to the date of departure of the animal.

II.3 – Attestation of residence and pre-export isolation

II.3.1 - The first statement applies where the equine animal has been continuously resident in GB or entered GB from the EU27 and Norway during the last 40 days prior to the date of its dispatch or since birth if it is less than 40 days of age.

The second statement applies to registered horses that have been during the last 40 days prior to the date of its dispatch or since birth if less than 40 days of age continuously resident in GB or entered GB from either Member State or Norway, or a country/territory/zone authorised for entry in the EU of registered horses and from which it was introduced into GB under conditions at least as strict as those required in accordance with EU legislation for the entry of registered horses from this country/territory/zone directly into the EU.

II.3.2 - The first 'either' option applies as GB has been assigned to Sanitary Group A. The 'either' sub-option applies to equine animals that have been kept apart from other equine animals, except for foal at foot of their mother, during the last 30 days prior to the date of its dispatch, or since birth if less than 30 days or since entry from a Member State of the EU or Norway.

This means that the equine to be exported must be isolated in a single establishment on its own or with horses of the same health status and they must not come into direct contact with other Equidae that are either diseased or in the case of GB, an Equidae that comes from a country outside Sanitary Group A. This condition must also be supported by the written declaration by the operator responsible for entry into the Union of the consignment.

The second “or” applies to a registered horse which has been kept in establishments under official veterinary supervision during the 30 day period prior to the date of departure, or since birth if less than 30 days of age, or since entry from a EU27 or Norway or country, territory or zone assigned to Sanitary Group A, B, C, D, E or G.

Regarding official veterinary supervision for this period, the OV must be satisfied that they are aware of the premises on which the horse has been resident, and that official veterinary input is available at this premises should this be needed to investigate diseases of concern (as mentioned in the certificate, which are notifiable in the GB and in the countries that the GB allows imports from). Although the level of supervision is not defined, it should involve some veterinary presence and oversight of the activities of the establishment by an OV. If the certifying OV is not providing this supervision themselves, then they should obtain evidence from the supervising OV to enable them to certify these statements. The OV supportive declaration may be used for this purpose, but other forms of evidence may also be used as long as the certifying OV has sufficient evidence to support their certification if challenged.

An example OV supportive declaration for export of equine animals to the EU is available on the [APHA Form Finder website](#).

The GB / EU residency requirement must be supported by the written Declaration by the operator responsible for entry into the Union of the consignment and reference to available veterinary health certification.

The options which relate to Sanitary Groups B, C, D, E, F and G, in II.3.2 attestations, **should be deleted as appropriate.**

Statements that relate entirely and exclusively to a Sanitary Group different from the Sanitary Group to which the country, territory, or zone thereof of dispatch is assigned, may be left out, provided that the numbering of the subsequent statements is maintained.

II.4 Attestation of vaccination and health tests

II.4.1– The first attestation can be certified on the basis that vaccination against AHS is prohibited in the UK and where there is no information suggesting previous vaccination. The OV must complete a check of passport vaccination records. Where the animal is found to have been vaccinated the first attestation should be deleted and the OV must ascertain whether either of the options in the second attestation are met based on the timing of the vaccinations. The third attestation should be deleted as it relates to animals being dispatched from Sanitary Group F territories.

II.4.2 - The first attestation can be certified on the basis that vaccination against VEE is prohibited in the UK where there is no information suggesting previous vaccination. The OV must complete a check of passport vaccination records.

II.4.3 - The first statement should not be certified, as it relates to dispatch from Iceland.

The second statement can be certified where a test with negative result for EIA

(AGID/Coggins, or ELISA) has been carried out on a blood sample taken within the 90 day period prior to the date of its departure from a country, territory or zone thereof assigned to Sanitary Group A, like GB. The sample must have been tested at a laboratory specifically recognised for equine export testing.

II.4.4, II.4.5, II.4.6, II.4.7, and II.4.8

These sections can all be deleted as they do not apply to countries within Sanitary Group A.

II.5 Attestation of animal transport conditions

II.5.1 - The first attestation can be certified on the basis that the UK is a Sanitary Group A territory and must be supported by the written declaration from the operator responsible for entry into the Union of the consignment confirming the listed transport conditions will be met. The second option should be deleted as it does not apply to Sanitary Group A.

II.5.2 - This can be certified by receipt of written declaration or OV's awareness of arrangements put in place and verified to prevent any contact of animals with other equine animals not complying with at least the same health requirements as described in this health certificate during the period from certification until dispatch to the EU or NI.

I.5.3 - The certifying OV must ensure that the requirements are complied with and must be supported by the written declaration from the operator responsible.

II.6 Attestation of public health

Certifying OVs should check the horse's passport to determine its eligibility for the food chain, i.e. whether the horse is excluded from slaughter for human consumption in the UK and the EU. If the horse **is excluded** from human consumption, then paragraph II.6 on the EHC must be crossed out or removed in its entirety.

If the horse **is not excluded** from human consumption, then paragraph II.6 must be retained and certified.

If the horse is **in transit** and not destined for the EU, then II.6 can be crossed out or removed and does not need to be certified.

The OV signing the EHC must ensure that the public health attestations set out in Part II of the EHC have been complied with.

II.6a - This attestation must be certified from 3 September 2026 where the European Union is the final destination.

For UK origin animals the attestation may be certified on the basis of the UK Veterinary Medicines Regulations, the UK Maximum Residue Limit legal framework, and Great Britain's listing in the relevant EU third-country list.

Certifying Officers should note that Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2598, to which the attestation refers, has been repealed and replaced by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/1189. The relevant third-country list is now contained in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/405, as amended.

4. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

Some export certificates for animals and animal products will include statements that will require the OV to certify that specified zones or the entire country of origin are free from certain diseases.

COs must check the following sources of disease information for the United Kingdom immediately prior to certification, to ensure disease freedom statements can be certified:

- the Notifiable Disease Occurrence List for Great Britain ([ET171 Notifiable disease occurrence list for Great Britain and Northern Ireland](#)) available on [Official Veterinarian Training](#).
- the UK Status for Non-Notifiable Diseases Relevant to Export Certification ([ET152 UK status for non-notifiable disease relevant to export certification](#)) available on [Official Veterinarian Training](#).

For Great Britain:

In the absence of a specific Notifiable Disease Clearance (618NDC) from CITC: COs may certify that the UK has disease free status or region free status for those diseases mentioned in the health certificate, once they have checked the disease list(s) for the last occurrence of the disease, and have ensured it complies with the time frames in the certificate.

In the event of a disease outbreak that affects a CO being able to obtain their own disease clearance, CITC will notify COs to make it clear which disease freedom statements should not be certified and where necessary, will issue a 618NDC notifiable disease clearance if the EHC can continue to be issued for certain regions that retain free status.

In the event of a disease outbreak after the EHC has been issued that affects the disease clearance, COs must not certify the EHC and must contact CITC immediately for advice on whether certification can still take place. If a disease outbreak affects the CO disease clearance procedures for this EHC, a 618NDC will be reinstated by CITC which will be issued with the EHC until a time when CO disease clearance can be reinstated.

NOTE: This does not apply to Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) or Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) freedom statements.

5. COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE

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

6. CONSIGNMENTS OR PARTS OF THE CONSIGNMENT ORIGINATING FROM NI, EU MEMBER STATES OR FROM A THIRD COUNTRY [WHEN APPLICABLE]

NI origin:

Consignments could potentially contain animals which have originated in NI. The certificate/documentation which the animal arrives into GB with may not contain sufficient information for the GB CO to sign the EU EHC.

Disease clearance for animals originating in NI can be completed using auto-clearance NDC found here:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/notifiable-diseases-northern-ireland>

Where regional or local level disease clearance is required, this can be certified upon request on the basis of information from NI in the form of a declaration or a supporting health attestation.

Animal health statements which refer to the prohibition of certain vaccination programmes e.g. against FMD or CSF or ASF can be certified at a national level by the CO on the basis that NI also enforces a ban on such vaccinations in accordance with EU regulations.

Statements relating to implementation of a national system for identification and registration of livestock (cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry) can be certified on the basis of the requirement to register all livestock animal births, moves and deaths on the DAERA database.

EU origin:

It is possible that some consignments may contain animals that are of EU origin and were imported into GB on a GB EHC. The GB EHC may not contain enough information to allow the CO to sign an EU EHC.

In such cases, the CO will need further information from the EU member state regarding particular attestations on the EHC that cannot be signed by the CO without support documentation. Thus, the GB exporter must request from the EU exporter an attestation or written declaration from an EU registered vet. The GB exporter may wish to obtain these directly from the EU vet who has inspected the animals before export from the EU.

This supporting information must be in writing and kept by the GB CO. The GB CO is not required to attach it as a supporting document to the EHC, unless requested by the EU BCP or told otherwise.

Third country origin:

It is also possible that some consignments may contain animals that have been imported to GB from non-EU countries and fulfilled a residency period in GB, and GB exporters intend to export then to the EU. In these cases, COs may obtain a copy of the EHC for the import of such animals from the Third Country to GB.

From 3 September 2026, where a consignment contains animals obtained from non-EU third-country origin and the European Union is the final destination of the consignment, the Certifying Officer must be satisfied that these products comply with the antimicrobial medicinal products attestation in Part II of this certificate, "Attestation as regards Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/905".

GB COs are not required to attach a copy of the Third Country EHC as a supporting document to the EHC, unless requested by the EU BCP or specifically instructed in the NFG.

It is the GB exporter's ultimate responsibility to obtain any necessary support documents (from the EU member state exporter/Third Country exporter), to enable GB COs to be able to certify the live animals in good time before the export to the EU.

7. DECLARATION BY THE OPERATOR RESPONSIBLE FOR ENTRY INTO THE UNION OF THE CONSIGNMENT OF EQUINE ANIMAL NOT INTENDED FOR SLAUGHTER

This declaration can be found at the end of the certificate and must be signed separately by the owner or representative of the owner and provided to the certifying OV before the certificate is required to be signed.

For permanent imports to the EU, Defra understands that the fields in the final bullet point in the operator's declaration referencing the date and BCP of exit should be completed as 'not applicable'. Operators are advised to confirm this is acceptable with their BCP of entry.

8. ANIMAL WELFARE ATTESTATION

This attestation has not been included in this certificate, but Defra requests all OVs ensure compliance to animal welfare legislation.

Council Regulation EC No 1/2005 (EC) is implemented under the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 and parallel legislation in Scotland and Wales. 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 and all animals should be transported in conditions guaranteed not to cause them injury or unnecessary suffering. The conditions related to fitness of animals for transport during the intended journey are set out in Article 3(b) and Annex I, Chapter I of Council Regulation 1/2005. 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 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.
- Long journeys:
- Except if animals are accompanied by their mother, long journeys should only be permitted for domestic equidae species if domestic equidae are older than four months, with the exception, of registered equidae.
- Unbroken horses shall not be transported on long journeys.

9. CLINICAL EXAMINATION

The clinical examination must be carried out within 24 hours of departure of the registered establishment. If the animal described in Part I is a registered horse, the clinical exam may be conducted within 48 hours of departure or on the last working day prior to departure from the registered establishment. 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 and the certificate cannot be issued until after this examination has taken place.

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.

10. 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<https://improve-ov.com/instructions/instructions.php?ta=8>

11. CERTIFIED COPIES OF EHCs

When completing export certification, the CO 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 [APHA Official Veterinarian Training](#).

12. LEGAL STATEMENT

References in this guidance to "assimilated EU Regulation" should be interpreted as references to assimilated law, as defined under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018.

13. 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 APHA in Carlisle, via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency>

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equineexportscarlisle@apha.gov.uk

PB 8431 NFG

Version History:

EHC

Published September 2026

II.6: Added statement requiring that animals have been kept as food producing animals for their entire lifetime

Published October 2024

II.4.6. – Malaysia (Peninsula) removed from list of additional countries.

II.6a. – Legislative reference updated.

Published 28 August 2024

Part I:

I.20 is amended, and 'Registered equine animal' is added.

I.21 is amended and now this EHC can be used for transit.

Part II:

II.2.2 is removed from this EHC.

II.2.3 is now II.2.2.

II.2.4 is now II.2.3.

II.2.5 is now II.2.4.

II.2.6 is now II.2.5.

II.2.7 is now II.2.6.

II.2.8 is now II.2.7 and further sub-options are numbered II.2.7.1 and II.2.7.2.

II.2.9 is now II.2.8.

II.2.3, II.2.4, II.2.5 and II.2.6 -

II.3 Attestation of residence and isolation:

II.3.1 'or' option related to residency of registered horse describe in Part I, its sub-option 'and/or' related to where registered horse is entered in GB from another third country or territory or zone, in its last 'and/or' option "Bahrain" is added in the countries listed in this attestation.

II.3.2: 'either' option is related to Sanitary Group A, B, C, D or G, where its 'or' option is amended, and now **official** veterinary supervision is required for the establishment where the registered horse is kept.

II.3.2 'or' last option is related to Sanitary Group F, where its sub-option 'either' is amended with registered horse to be kept in isolation in vector-protected establishment during last 40 days prior to dispatch. Its sub-option 'or' is amended with registered horse to be kept in isolation in a vector-protected establishment during last 14 days prior to dispatch.

II.4.7. and II.4.8 - OIE is amended with reference to WOA. H.

II.5.1: omission of the need to spray against insect vectors prior to departure.

II.6: Public health attestation title is amended to clarify that II.6 can be deleted when Union is not the final destination of the animals.

II.6.1 is amended with "prohibited substances listed in Table 2 of the Annex to Commission Regulation (EU) No 37/2010" added.

II.6.2 is amended where reference to Council Directive 96/23 EC is replaced by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/2292 and Commission Decision (EU) 2011/163 is replaced with Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/405.

II.6 (a) - Attestation about the administration of antimicrobial medicinal products is added.

Notes:

It is made clear that this certificate can be used for the entry into the Union of equine animals, including when the Union is not the final destination of the animals.

Part I: Guidance for Box Reference 1.6 is added.

Footnote 10 is added.

NFG

Version 18: Published August 2026

II.6 - Guidance updated to reflect the new requirement that domestic solipeds must be kept as food-producing animals for their entire life, rather than for a minimum of six months

II.6a - Guidance amended regarding antimicrobial attestation.

Section 6: Guidance added regarding third country origin animals.

Version 13: Published October 2025

References to Vet Gateway updated to Official Veterinarian Training throughout.

Legal Statement: Wording updated.

Version 12: Published 30 August 2024

Applicable Legislation: Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/905 added

Part II:

II.1 (a) - Guidance is added about the attestation related to antimicrobial medicinal products. Guidance added regarding certain paragraphs in Part II being pre-deleted

Version 11: Published 28 August 2024

Part II: Certification:

II.3.2: Amended guidance to include reference to supporting declaration in evidence of 'official supervision'

II.6: Additional guidance for completion of Public Health Attestation

Version 10: Published 31 July 2024

Applicable Legislation: Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/351, Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235 and Implementing Regulation 2021/405 added.

Scope of the certificate: Is amended with addition of certificate to be used for transit of animal.

Part I: Details of the consignment: is amended with addition of links of Implementing Regulation 2023/2744 that amended the Commission Implementing Regulation 2022/2235.

I.20 and I.21: guidance is added as per EHC amendments.

Part II: Certification:

II.2: Numbering is amended on this NFG as per EHC.

II.3.2: 'Official' added to guidance and reference made to supportive declaration

II.6: Title is amended to say that this section can be deleted if Union is not a final destination of the animals.

II.6.1 is amended with addition of attestation related to prohibited substances listed in Table 2 of the Annex to Commission Regulation (EU) No 37/2010.

II.6.2 is amended with reference to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/2292 and Commission Implementing Regulation 2021/405.

Version 9: Published 22 July 2024

Highlighted guidance added throughout regarding the Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Act 2024. It is now an offence to export equines for slaughter and fattening, beginning in or transiting through Great Britain to a third country. Movements to NI for immediate slaughter in NI or for fattening for slaughter in NI are permitted.

Version 8: Published 21 Aug 2023

II.3.2: Further information is added about the isolation of the horse.