

EXPORT OF REGISTERED HORSES TO SOUTH AFRICA

No:

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

Associated Documents: 4814EHC, 4814CON and 618NDC.

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 4814EHC and 49814CON. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 4814EHC and 4814CON. 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.

SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 4814EHC may be used for the export of horses from the United Kingdom to Republic of South Africa.

It is not permitted to export horses and other equines from Great Britain for 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.

1. 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**.

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

If the OV has suspicions that the consignment is being exported for 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 and journey log reference number
- Location and address of inspection, including CPH number
- Name and address of transporter and journey organiser
- Transporter authorisation number
- Details of the animals in the consignment (number, species, age)
- The reason for your concern

- Any relevant additional information

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 (ECHO) 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 ECHO 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

Authorised Private Veterinary Practitioners (aPVPs) certifying DAERA Export Certification On-Line (DECOL) produced EHCs 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.

2. **Identification**

The silhouette on the final page of 4814CON need not be completed if a passport is available (it is a legal requirement for horses of EU origin to have passports). The Official Veterinarian must verify the identity of all horses by reference to the passport, even if the silhouette on the certificate is also completed. The Official Veterinarian must be satisfied that the horse is adequately identified at the time of inspection and each time that samples are taken for pre-export testing.

3. **Veterinary import number**

The Veterinary import permit number should be entered on both 4814EHC and 4814CON.

4. **Pre-export isolation premises**

Paragraph II (d), refers: the pre-export isolation at paragraph II (d) must be carried out on premises approved and supervised by the Official Veterinarian on behalf of the Department. Isolation premises may be approved by the Official Veterinarian if the following conditions are met:

4.1 Construction and location

- a) The isolation premises must be a clearly demarcated area surrounded by a stock proof wall or fence and containing suitable facilities for the accommodation and exercise of the animals during the isolation period.
- b) The use of exercise facilities outside the premises may be permitted under the direction of the Official Veterinarian, after consultation with the local APHA office. The Official Veterinarian must ensure that the isolation status of the consignment is maintained at all times. If the exercise facilities are used by non-export horses, the isolated horses must use the facilities first each day and must be cleared from the area before non-export status horses are allowed access to the facilities.
- c) The premises should have facilities for veterinary examination and collection of samples and facilities for the segregation of sick or suspect horses.
- d) The access to the premises should be controlled and secure.
- e) The location should be as remote as possible from other premises containing equidae. In deciding as to the suitability of the location of the isolation premises, the Official Veterinarian should take into consideration the epidemiology of the diseases for which certification is being provided, in particular with respect to the distance and presence of physical barriers between the isolation premises and other premises.
- f) All drainage must be away from the isolation premises.
- g) Isolation buildings should be capable of being effectively cleaned and disinfected.
- h) An adequate supply of water must always be available for the isolated horses and for cleaning purposes.
- i) Adequate supplies of food and bedding material for the whole of the isolation period must be stored either within the isolation premises or in a nearby secure and separate store.
- j) Equipment and utensils used for feeding, grooming and cleaning must be used only in the isolation premises during the isolation period.
- k) Protective clothing and footwear to be used exclusively in the isolation premises must be available at the

entrance to the isolation premises.

- 1) There should be adequate facilities for the cleansing and disinfection of vehicles, either on or near to the isolation premises.

4.2 Procedures

- a) Immediately before the commencement of the isolation period, the isolation buildings, all fixed and moveable equipment and utensils used for feeding, grooming and cleaning must be disinfected, unless new, using a disinfectant approved by DEFRA, to the satisfaction of the supervising Official Veterinarian. Exercise areas/paddocks should be cleaned to the satisfaction of the Official Veterinarian.
- b) No person may enter the isolation premises unless specifically authorised by the supervising Official Veterinarian.
- c) No staff supervising the isolated horses may come into contact with any other horses during the period of supervision.
- d) Any authorised visitor to the isolation premises must wear the protective clothing provided throughout the visit.
- e) When no staff are on duty, the premises must be securely locked to prevent the entry of unauthorised people.
- f) The isolation period for all isolated horses shall be deemed to start from the time of entry of the last horse. Horses must not leave the premises during the isolation period except with the permission of the Official Veterinarian and local APHA office.
- g) Isolated horses must have no contact with any horses of lower health status during the isolation period.
- h) The supervising Official Veterinarian should visit the premises when the horses enter at the start of the isolation period and at the end of the isolation period. At least one unannounced visit should be carried out during the isolation period.
- i) A health record should be kept of each isolated horse during the isolation period. This record should be available for inspection by the Official Veterinarian.
- j) The operator should report any illnesses or other problems to the supervising Official Veterinarian. Where there is any cause for concern about the export certification of the consignment, the local APHA office should be consulted.
- k) If the Official Veterinarian is not satisfied that the conditions of approval are being met, the local APHA office should be notified.

5. Residency declaration

Paragraph IV a), e), f), g) and i) refers: The owner/exporter must provide a written declaration to this effect. The OV should retain

a copy of the declaration and check the validity of the declaration by inspecting the passport or other available records.

6. **Health examination**

Paragraph IV h) and q) refers: The examination at paragraph IV h) and p) must be carried out on the day of shipment.

7. **Notifiable Disease clearance**

Paragraphs IV b), c) and d) refer. The certification contained in these paragraphs may be signed on behalf of the Department provided written authority has been received on form 618NDC.

8. **Premises Freedom**

Paragraphs IV e), f) and g) refer. Where the official veterinarian has no direct knowledge of the disease status of the premises of origin - a written support document should be obtained from the veterinary surgeon responsible for that premises, stating that disease has not been confirmed for the period in question. OVs should retain a copy of the declaration for record purposes.

9. **Laboratory tests**

Paragraphs IV g), j), k), l) and m) refer. Blood samples / swabs must be taken as stated and submitted to the APHA laboratory in Weybridge except for CEM, where the laboratory must be Penrith. The samples must be allowing sufficient time for receipt of the results before the proposed date of export. If unsure which samples to send (e.g. collated as opposed to whole blood) the laboratory must be contacted beforehand.

Results of all tests carried out must be recorded in the passport, including that of the pre-EVA vaccination serology, if applicable.

The CATT for Surra is to be carried out by APHA Weybridge.

10. **Additional Guidance in Case of Non-Negative/Positive Surra Test Results**

Paragraph IV k) and footnote (1) refer.

Background

Surra (*Trypanosoma evansi*) is a controlled disease in South Africa and is not present in its equine population. The presence of competent vectors poses a significant risk of transmission should the disease be introduced. To maintain compliance with the negotiated Veterinary Export Health Certificate (EHC) and uphold the integrity of UK exports, strict procedures must be followed when non-negative or positive test results occur during pre-export quarantine.

Mandatory Notification and Escalation

If any horse tests non-negative or positive for Surra during pre-export quarantine at APHA Weybridge or any approved laboratory:

- **The exporter/importer** should be following procedures as per instructions of footnote 1 of the EHC.

- **Immediate Notification:** The Official Veterinarian (OV) and exporter must immediately notify the APHA Centre for International Trade (CIT) upon receipt of the non-negative or positive result.

- **Defra/APHA Coordination:** CIT will liaise with the Veterinary Trade Facilitation (VTF) team and the Market Access team to ensure

that:

- The South African Directorate Animal Health (DAH) is informed promptly of the situation.
- Any conditions or instructions issued by DAH are obtained and implemented before certification proceeds.
- **Suspension of Certification:** Certification must not be issued until confirmation is received that DAH has been contacted and their requirements have been met in full.

Verification Requirement

APHA will require written confirmation from the supervising OV that all conditions / instructions required by DAH have been implemented in full

This verification step is mandatory and must be completed before the EHC is signed.

Record-Keeping

All communications and actions taken must be recorded and retained by APHA and Defra for audit purposes. Exporters and OVs should maintain their own records of notifications and instructions received.

11. Contagious equine metritis testing

Paragraph IV 1) refers. South Africa now requires culturing for *Taylorella asinigenitalis* also and the submission form must make this clear. The tests for contagious equine metritis mentioned at paragraph IV k) must be carried out within 30 days of export, while in isolation. The swabs must be submitted to the APHA Laboratory, Penrith.

Swabs must be sent chilled and set up for culture within 48 hours of sampling.

Fillies that have reached sexual maturity (2 years of age) - but are not pregnant (see paragraph below) - should be sampled (on the three dates) from the cervix, and on one of these occasions when in oestrous, they should be sampled from the endometrium.

Separate swabs should be submitted from each of the sites mentioned.

12. Equine influenza vaccination

Paragraph IV n) refers. The vaccination must be carried out at least 14 days but no more than 60 days prior to the date of export. The name of the vaccine and the batch number should be recorded on the horse's passport.

This may be the first or second injection of an initial course, or a booster vaccination in accordance with the manufacturers' recommendations.

A vaccine containing the strains recommended by the OIE expert surveillance panel is now available in the UK - see <http://www.noahcompendium.co.uk/Merial%20Animal%20Health%20Ltd/ProteqFlu%20suspension%20for%20injection%20for%20horses/-66423.html>

13. **Treatment for internal and external parasites**
Paragraph IV o) refers. NOAH list preparations which have marketing authorisations in the UK -
http://www.noahcompendium.co.uk/Compendium-datasheets_by_species/Species/-22367.html

14. **Pregnancy diagnosis (PD)**
Paragraph IV q) of 4814CON refers. The type of test required is not specified, but the most common method is a rectal PD, using the ultrasound probe (for detection of early pregnancies) and manual (for later pregnancies). All females over the age of 2 years require a PD test, and as a rectal PD can be safely carried out from 2 years of age, it is envisaged that rectal PD will be the method of choice.

15. **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."

16. **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