

No:

HORSES TEMPORARILY IMPORTED INTO HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA FOR EQUESTRIAN COMPETITION

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 8933EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8933EHC. 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**

Export health certificate 8933EHC is in two parts, 8933EHC – Part A, and 8933CON – Part B. It may be used to accompany horses intended for temporary export to Hong Kong for the Hong Kong international Horse Show.

***Delete as applicable**

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.

NOTE : it is important that originals/certified copies of all relevant health certificates, lab reports, and vaccination certificates from every country in the itinerary, endorsed by the certifying vet, plus, all pages must be initialled/stamped.

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 ink of a different colour to that of the printing.

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

Important: All pages of the certificate must be endorsed (initialled, stamped and dated, in ink other than black) by the certifying Official Veterinarian.

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.

3. **Identification**

Paragraph I. must be fully completed. The Official Veterinarian must verify the identity of the horse by reference to its passport. The Official Veterinarian must be satisfied that the horse is adequately identified each time that samples are taken for pre-export testing and at the time of inspection.

4. **Clinical Examination**

Paragraph V. a) refers. The Official Veterinarian should carry out the final clinical examination and complete the export health certificate within 24 hours of export. However, the certificate is valid for 72 hours prior to the scheduled departure (by air). If the flight is delayed for more than 72 hours after this examination, re-inspection (eg at the airport) will be required. In this case, the exporter must contact AFCD to establish how the certificate should be annotated after the re-inspection and the certifying OV informed accordingly.

Pregnancy : paragraph VI f) refers. The OV must ensure that the horse identified at Section I is not pregnant. This can be done either by clinical examination or by a Declaration from the owner.

5. **Isolation**

Paragraph IV refers. This paragraph only applies if the horses have raced in another scheduled country during the preceding 60 days i.e. paragraph III b) must be completed. It is very important for the horses to be kept isolated during their temporary stay in the 'country of temporary residency' as they would have not gone through pre-export quarantine in their 'country of permanent residency'.

6. **Laboratory Tests**

Paragraph VI. d) table, as and if applicable. Blood samples must be sent to the APHA laboratory, Weybridge allowing sufficient time for the receipt of results before the proposed date of export. The ELISA for equine influenza - paragraph VI d) (iv) refers - is performed by the Newmarket Equine Hospital (NEH) in Newmarket on behalf of the APHA, and in the interest of time, samples may be sent directly to NEH.

Where tests are required under 8933EHC, laboratory reports (or certified copies) must be attached and endorsed, unless explicitly stated otherwise in the certificate

Paragraph VI. d) (i) refers.

Paragraph VI d) (vi) refers. For equine influenza testing, two sampling events are required, (NPS for RT-PCR, and a separate NPS for ESPLINE within 3 days), with results attached and endorsed. The two sampling tests should be booked concurrently.

Paragraph VI d) (xii) refers. For Western and Eastern equine encephalomyelitis, if the use the vector-proof route is intended rather than vaccination/status, AFCD facility approval in advance is required and this needs to be included in the approval documentation with the certificate pack. Certification cannot be completed without AFCD approval if this route is used.

Important: Laboratory reports (or copies) of all the tests carried out must be endorsed (initialled, stamped and dated) by the certifying Official Veterinarian and attached to the certificate, as required by paragraph VI (c).

7. **Pregnancy**

Paragraph VI(f) refers. No pregnant mares are allowed to be exported for this event.

8. **Disease Clearance**

The authorisation (618NDC) referred to below, which enables various paragraphs to be signed, is in relation to the official disease status specified in the relevant paragraphs, and only within the UK; all other matters such as residency, vaccination status, status of premises in respect of other diseases not covered by the 618NDC and disease status of countries/areas/premises outside the UK are for the OV to check and verify, obtaining support certification where necessary.

Notifiable disease - country/area clearance

Paragraphs V. c), d), e) if applicable and paragraph VI. d) if applicable, may be signed on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained from the APHA Centre for International Trade, in Carlisle, on form 618NDC.

Notifiable and non-notifiable disease - premises clearance

Paragraph V. e) refers. Where the OV has no direct knowledge of the status of any premises where the horse has been resident during the previous 2 months, the OV should seek a declaration from the owner/representative of the owner including details of all premises on which the animal resided during this period. The OV may then seek a written declaration from the owner/manager of the premises, and from the veterinary surgeon responsible for those premises, that the diseases listed at paragraph V. e) did not occur on these premises during the specified period. In case of difficulty in obtaining support documentation, the centre for International Trade should be consulted.

In some cases, it may be possible to provide a 618NDC to cover the notifiable diseases in paragraph V. e) for residencies in a scheduled country, based on when the disease was last reported in the given scheduled country.

9. **Vaccinations**

Vaccines, where used, must be given no less than 14 days prior to export.

Important: Proof/evidence that the required vaccinations have been carried out must be attached to the certificate if that is not available from the accompanying passport, as required by paragraph VI. (c).

10. **Treatment**

Paragraphs VI. g) refer. **Treatment against ticks** - there is no product at present licensed for treatment against ticks in horses in the UK. OVs may decide to use a product licensed for other use, exercising their clinical judgment on the 'cascade principle'. OVs should demonstrate due care in administering medicinal products outwith the recommendations of the data sheet and should seek the manufacturer's advice as appropriate. OVs are advised to obtain the written consent of the owner/agent of the owner before administering products outwith the data sheet.

The final clinical examination at paragraph g) (i) must be ≤ 24h before departure. It is therefore critical that veterinary scheduling is planned accordingly. This is particularly important in the case of late-night flights.

Paragraph (i) offers an option in the event that ticks are found. In this case, AFCD must be notified, and their acceptance received. Any approval documentation must be attached, otherwise entry can be refused or isolation imposed.

11. **Additional documentation**

Additional documentation to fulfil Section VIII (Transport Information) and IX (Acknowledgement by the Consignor or his Authorised Agent) of the import permit -

http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/quarantine/qua_ie/qua_ie_ipab/qua_ie_ipab_ihea/files/export_certificate_for_horse_permanent_imported.pdf

A proforma for these is at Annexes A and B of this guidance.

12. **Transport to Hong Kong**

Horses should be transported from United Kingdom to Hong Kong either on a direct non-stop flight, or with refuelling stops or changes of aircraft en route taking place only in countries approved by Hong Kong. If in doubt exporters are advised to contact the Hong Kong veterinary authorities concerning the proposed route.

13. **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

14. **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

TEMPORARY EXPORT OF HORSES FROM THE UK TO HONG KONG

ANNEX A

MUST ACCOMPANY 8933EHC, 8933CON &

TRANSPORT INFORMATION [This section is to be certified either by the same official veterinarian who has certified the foregoing section or by an authorised transportation agent]

- (a) The vehicle for the transport of the horse to the port of exit was thoroughly cleaned and disinfected with an officially approved disinfectant and was treated with an officially approved insecticide to my satisfaction immediately prior to the loading of the animal.
- (b) During the transportation, after due enquiry and to the best of my knowledge the horse will have no contact with animals not of the same certified health status.
- (c) After due enquiry and to the best of my knowledge procedures are in place to ensure that the containers that the horses will be transported in and loading facilities will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected prior to use.
- (d) The containers meet the design and species requirements recommendations of the International Air Transport Association.

Signature:..... Date:.....

Name:.....

Capacity..... Company:.....

Address:.....

.....

Tel. No.:..... Fax:

Email:.....

TEMPORARY EXPORT OF HORSES FROM THE UK TO HONG KONG

ANNEX B

MUST ACCOMPANY 8933EHC, 8933CON &

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY THE CONSIGNOR OR HIS AUTHORISED AGENT

I,..... (name) hereby acknowledge the following:

- (a) In the event of the horse identified in SECTION I of this certificate, arriving in Hong Kong without the correct certification or in any other way not having met these requirements, the horse and any in-contact horse or equipment may be detained in isolation, exported at the importer's expense or destroyed and disposed of at the importer's expense.
- (b) During isolation in Hong Kong the horse may be subjected to any testing or any treatment prescribed by the Hong Kong Government at the consignor's expense.
- (c) If the horse fails a test or shows signs of disease that horse and any in-contact horses may be, at the consignor's expense, detained in isolation for further testing and/or observation or exported or destroyed and disposed of without recompense.

Signature:..... Date:.....

Name:.....

Capacity..... Company:.....

Address:.....

.....

Tel. No.:..... Fax:

Email:.....

Other contact details in event of an emergency outside normal working hours:

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All pages must be endorsed with the certifying Government veterinarian's signature and official stamp using a different colour ink to the paper and print.