

No:

VETERINARY HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR EXPORTS INTO THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY OF REGISTERED EQUIDAE AND EQUIDAE FOR BREEDING AND PRODUCTION

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 8931EHC and 8931CON. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8931EHC and 8931CON. 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 8931EHC should be used to accompany registered equidae and equidae for breeding and production exported from the United Kingdom to Turkey. The certificate can be used for horses, asses, mules and hinnies as appropriate.

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.

Associated Documents: , 618NDC

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/AVI 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 (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

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 of horses

Paragraph I refers. All the details of the passport must be entered. In addition it is advisable to complete the silhouette on the last page of the certificate. The Official Veterinarian must ensure that during any examination of equidae or any collection of samples, the equid has been positively identified by reference to a silhouette and description. The Official Veterinarian is advised to identify equidae on all laboratory submission forms by name and passport number.

4. Health examination

Paragraph III (b) refers. This Veterinary Health Certificate should be issued on the day of loading of the horse for dispatch to Turkey or, in the case of a registered horse, on the last working day before embarkation.

5. Residency - Owner's Declaration

Paragraph III (d) refers. The OV should make any enquiries considered necessary to check the validity of the written declaration. In the case of a registered horse, the passport should be checked.

6. Isolation premises

Paragraph III (d) refers. The pre-export isolation premises must be approved by the Official Veterinarian on behalf of the Department, prior to the start of pre-export isolation. The following conditions must be met for the premises to be approved:

6.1 Construction and location

- 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 a Veterinary Officer at the issuing 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 making a decision as to the suitability of the location of the isolation premises, the VO/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 be available at all times 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.
- l) There should be adequate facilities for the cleansing and disinfection of vehicles, either on or near to the isolation premises.

6.2 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 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 persons.
- 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 DVM.

- 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 or VO.
- 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 DVM should be consulted.
- k) If the VO/Official Veterinarian is not satisfied that the conditions of approval are being met, the issuing office should be notified.

7. Notifiable Disease Clearance

The certification contained in paragraphs III (a), (c), (e)(i), (e)(ii), (e)(iii), (e)(iv) (first alternative), (f)(first part), (g) (first part) and (h) may be signed on behalf of the Department by an Official Veterinarian provided written authority (Form 618NDC) has been received. The form 618NDC will be sent to the certifying Official Veterinarian by the issuing office within 10 days of export.

For the definition of "region" in Paragraph III. (g), this can be construed as "county".

Concerning paragraph III. (h), this applies only in relation to the health status of the holding of origin in respect of the specific prohibitions listed. In addition, the Official Veterinarian must make due enquiry about any possible contact between the equid to be exported and equidae from other holdings subject to these animal health prohibitions, in order to be satisfied that they can certify all of this paragraph. For all intent and purpose, the dourine-related prohibitions should apply for 6 months from the date of confirmation (rather than from when the disease was suspected).

Please note the 618NDC does **not** include clearance for paragraph III (e)(v) - country freedom from EVA - see paragraph 8 below.

8. EVA Certification

The certification contained in paragraph III (e)(v) must not be certified as EVA is only notifiable for stallions and recently served mares. The testing or vaccination options must be used.

9. African Horse Sickness vaccination

African horse sickness (AHS) vaccines are not licensed for use in Great Britain. Imported equidae vaccinated against AHS may have their vaccination history detailed within the passport, or the owner's records as well as perhaps a brand mark.

Certification as to the non-vaccination status of imported equidae should be based on an owner's declaration.

10. Owner's Declarations

Paragraph IV and V - Declaration refer. These paragraphs should be signed on the basis of due enquiry and, if necessary, supporting declarations from other veterinary surgeons responsible for care of horses on the premises where the horse was resident during the period. The certifying Official Veterinarian should retain any declarations received for record purposes.

11. Laboratory testing

Paragraph III (e) (iv) (second option), III (e)(v) (second and third options), and III (l) refer. Blood samples for the tests mentioned at paragraph III (l) must be taken from horses for export within 21 days of export. 5ml of whole unadulterated blood is required for each test. Samples must be sent to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) laboratory, Weybridge allowing sufficient time for receipt of the results before the proposed date of export.

With reference to the test for African Horse Sickness (paragraph III.(f)), samples should be submitted to the Institute of Animal Health, Pirbright Laboratory, Ash Road, Pirbright, Surrey, GU24 0NF - telephone 01483 232 441.

With reference to the test for Equine piroplasmosis, the blood sample must be subjected to either:

- (i) the complement fixation test for equine piroplasmosis (*Babesia equi* and *Babesia caballi*) with a negative result (negative means less than 50% fixation at a dilution of 1:5);
or
- (ii) the indirect fluorescent antibody test for equine piroplasmosis (*Babesia equi* and *Babesia caballi*) with a negative result (negative means less than 2+ at a dilution of 1 in 80).

12. CEM Testing

Paragraph III (m) refers. Moistened mini swabs should be used for swabbing for the contagious equine metritis organism.

All swabs must be submitted to the APHA Laboratory at:

APHA Regional Laboratory (formerly VIC) Penrith
OR
APHA Regional Laboratory, Lasswade (from horses in Scotland)

All swabs from an individual animal must be submitted to the same laboratory and must arrive at the laboratory within 48 hours of sampling. Swabs should be transported chilled by including a cool-pack in the parcel (but not frozen). Swabs must be cultured for a minimum of 7 days. If more than 10 swabs are to be submitted, prior notice should be given to the laboratory. A separate laboratory report form must accompany each sample.

13. Certification of Paragraph III (j)

Article 4.2 of Council Directive 90/426/EEC laying down the rules for intra-Community trade and import of equidae states that:

"Without prejudice to the requirements of paragraph 5 (of Article 4.2) regarding compulsorily notifiable diseases, the official veterinarian must, at the time of inspection, be satisfied that there are no grounds – in particular on the basis of declarations by the owner or breeder – for concluding that the equidae have been in contact with equidae suffering from an infectious or contagious disease during the 15 days immediately preceding inspection."

For the purpose of this certification infectious or contagious disease means any notifiable disease included in Directive 82/894/EEC that affects equines: African horse sickness, dourine, equine encephalomyelitis (of all types, including Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis), equine infectious anaemia, glanders and vesicular stomatitis.

Therefore, paragraph III.(j) may be certified if none of these notifiable diseases has been confirmed in the UK during the previous 15 days. If disease has been confirmed during this period, the OV should obtain a signed written declaration from the veterinarian, owner, breeder, or person responsible for the care of the equid, stating where the equid has been kept during the previous 15 days, and establish – by contacting the specialist export centre in Carlisle if necessary – whether any of these holdings has been affected by the disease. In the case of horses that were resident in another MS (other than France and the Republic of Ireland) or a third country during this period, paragraph III. (k) may be signed on the basis of the EU certificate (for trade/imports). In the case of horses originating from France and the Republic of Ireland, the paragraph may be signed on the basis that the Tripartite Agreement requires prompt notification to the signatory countries of an outbreak and rapid tracing of movements to enable dangerous contacts to be located as soon as possible. GAH (Defra) will issue instructions to the specialist service centre in Carlisle in such cases, asking for certificates

for the traced horses to be withdrawn if any are being prepared for export. It may be that the only pragmatic solution in these cases is to ensure that the horses remain in the UK for 15 days before they are certified for export.

14. Disinfection of Vehicle

Paragraph IV refers. Disinfectants are approved by DEFRA under the Diseases of Animals (Approved Disinfectants) Order 1978 (as amended). The list contains over 200 brands of disinfectant approved on the basis of their efficacy against certain notifiable disease viruses. In the case of horses the products on the general list should be used. DEFRA approved disinfectants carry a statement on the container, and other references to their approval may be found in their data sheets or label instructions.

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 assimilated Council Regulation EC No 1/2005, 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