EXPORT OF SWINE FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO JAPAN

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT NOTE

These notes for guidance are not intended to operate as standalone documents but must be read in conjunction with export health certificate 115EHC (Agreed 19/10/2009).

We would also strongly advise exporters to verify the requirements of the importing country by contacting the appropriate veterinary authorities, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

Exporters should also be aware of recent changes to the health certificate to enable transit or transhipment of consignments of breeding pigs from the UK through airports in other EU Member states approved by the Japanese authorities. This follows the withdrawal of direct flights from UK airports to Japan. Details of the changes are at paragraph 15 onwards.

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1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 115EHC may be used for the export of swine from the United Kingdom to Japan via an intermediate airport located in a country approved by the Japanese authorities.

It is not permitted to export pigs or wild boar 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.

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 stamp in any colour **OTHER THAN BLACK.**

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

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 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

3. OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION

Paragraph I refers. All pigs must be identified in accordance with The Pigs (Records, Identification and Movement) Order 2007 and subsequent amendments. Animals intended for export from the United Kingdom must be marked with an identification mark by means of an ear tag. The identification mark must include the letters 'UK', followed by the Defra herd mark and a unique identification number allotted to the pig by the keeper (e.g. UK AB1234 0001).

Official Veterinarians must be satisfied that each animal is individually identified in accordance with the schedule to the health certificate. The Official Veterinarian may wish to read the identification marks personally, or they may be read by a responsible person in the employment of the veterinary practice and under the direction of the certifying veterinarian. The terms "direction" and "supervision" are defined in the RCVS Guide to Professional Conduct.

4. SCHEDULES

Paragraph I refers. Exporters are advised to provide animal details of the consignment to SSC Carlisle at the application stage. In circumstances where the consignment will be transiting EU member states the exporter is advised to submit the animal details in a particular format (if there are more than 10 animals). The exporter should contact SSC Carlisle for further advice.

A separate schedule may be used to identify the animals certified. This schedule must contain the same information as that required in paragraph I and paragraph I must be annotated "See Attached Schedule". Each page of the schedule must bear a page number and the health certificate reference number and be signed, dated and stamped by the Official Veterinarian. The schedule must be stapled inside the health certificate and the Official Veterinarian should "fan" and stamp over the pages of the schedule and certificate. The top stapled corner of the schedule and certificate should be folded over and stamped also. Any blank spaces in the schedule or in paragraph I should be deleted with diagonal lines.

5. OFFICIAL DISEASE CLEARANCES

Certifying Official Veterinarians may certify paragraphs IV(a), IV(b) and IV(c) on behalf of the Department on the basis of a valid written authorisation issued on Form 618NDC from the APHA CIT at Carlisle or via disease clearance procedures in DAERA.

6. PROHIBITION ON SWILL FEEDING

Paragraph IV(e) may be signed on the basis that the feeding of swill to domestic pigs is prohibited by Article 9 of The Animal By-Products Regulations 2003 and by equivalent legislation in Wales, Scotland and

Northern Ireland.

7. MOVEMENTS OF PIGS ONTO THE PREMISES OF ORIGIN

Paragraph IV(f) of the certificate specifies that no pigs have been introduced onto the premises of origin within 40 days of the commencement of the 30 day pre-export quarantine period. The owner/agent of the owner of the pigs to be exported must provide the Official Veterinarian with a written statement to this effect before this paragraph can be certified.

This 40 day movement prohibition also applies to the premises on which the pre-export isolation period is to take place, if this is in a different location to the premises of origin.

The Official Veterinarian should check on the validity of the statement by inspecting the movement records as required under current legislation.

8. ORIGIN OF PIGS TO BE EXPORTED TO JAPAN - THIRD FREE COUNTRIES

Paragraph IV(g) refers. The Japanese authorities require that all pigs exported to Japan must have been resident since birth in the United Kingdom (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland) or 'the third free countries'. The Official Veterinarian must obtain a written declaration from the owner / agent of the pigs to this effect.

The Japanese authorities have drawn up a list of countries from which Japan authorises the importation of pigs and pig meat. Such countries are referred to in the certificate as 'third free countries'. This term should not be confused with the term 'third country' (i.e. a country which is not a member of the EU)

The list of third free countries for pigs and pigmeat (as of the revision date of these notes) is as follows;

Korea (Jeju province(the Jeju Island)only, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Poland, Hungary (excluding Nogrod, Pest, Heves and Borsod-Abauj-Zemplen, Denmark, Italy (excluding Sardinia island), Liechtenstein, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Belgium (excluding provinces of Luxembourg), France (excluding departments of Meurthe-et-Moselle, Moselle and Bas-rhin), Austria, United Kingdom (Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Spain, Ireland, Iceland, Canada, USA (continental part of America, the Hawaiian Islands and Guam only), Mexico (states of Sonora, Chihuahua, Yucatan, Sinaloa and Baja California only), Belize, Panama, Northern Mariana Islands, Panama, Chile, New Zealand, Vanuatu, New Caledonia and Australia.

The list of Japanese third free countries is frequently updated. Exporters and Official Veterinarians are advised to check the latest version at the following website address:

http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/news/third-free.html

To corroborate the owner / agent declaration, the Official Veterinarian must carry out a check of records on the farm of origin and, if pigs were moved onto the holding, obtain written confirmation from the holdings of origin that the pigs meet this requirement.

9. SUBMISSION OF TESTS TO GOVERNMENT LABORATORIES

In Great Britain, the majority of pre-export testing is carried out at the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) Laboratory, Weybridge (Tel: 01932 375335). Some tests are carried out at VLA Lasswade Unit (Tel: 0131 445 6169). Certain specialist tests are performed at Regional VLA laboratories.

In Northern Ireland, the majority of pre-export testing is carried out at the Veterinary Sciences Division, Stormont, Belfast (Tel: 028 9052 0011)

For operational reasons the laboratories involved may change periodically. If in doubt, VLA or VSD should be contacted to establish to which laboratory samples should be sent for testing and to obtain advice on procedures for collection and dispatch of samples for testing. Samples should be submitted in good time to allow reports to be received in advance of the export date.

10. TESTING OF PIGS GOING INTO PRE-EXPORT ISOLATION FOR CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER (CSF)

Paragraph IV(j) refers. The Japanese authorities require a pre-export test for CSF with a negative result for all pigs in the consignment. Clotted blood samples must be submitted to the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) Weybridge Laboratory, which will test the samples using the CSF ELISA.

Exporters should be aware that positive results may be obtained with the CSF ELISA when pigs are infected with other pestiviruses such as bovine virus diarrhoea (BVD) and border disease (BD) viruses. Exporters are advised that if any positive serological results to CSF are detected, then movement restrictions may be applied to the isolation premises and the holding of origin whilst confirmatory tests to confirm the absence of CSF are conducted.

Exporters should consider not exporting pigs which are known to have antibodies to BD and/or BVD as such pigs may be returned or slaughtered if antibodies are detected following post-import testing for CSF in Japan.

11. APPROVED ISOLATION PREMISES

Paragraph V(a) refers. The pigs must be held in approved isolation premises for at least 30 days immediately preceding export and must be transported 'as a same lot' (i.e. in the same consignment) only with animals which comply with Japanese import conditions. The start and end dates of the pre-export isolation period must be entered at paragraph II(d) of the certificate.

The following conditions must be met before approval is given by the Official Veterinarian. The RVL must be consulted in case of any problems:

(i) The isolation accommodation must comprise of an airspace separate from any airspace in which any other livestock are present, and be as remote as practicable from any other livestock accommodation.

(ii) The interior of the isolation building must be capable of being thoroughly cleansed and disinfected, and must be cleansed and disinfected using a Defra approved disinfectant immediately

before the animals to be exported are placed therein.

(iii) No drainage or effluent produced by/derived from other livestock may pass through the isolation accommodation.

(iv) Any person who requires to enter the isolation accommodation, must first put on overalls and boots reserved exclusively for use in the isolation accommodation.

(v) A footbath containing an approved disinfectant, diluted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, must be located at the entrance. Any person entering must first wash and disinfect his/her boots using the footbath.

The isolation premises, if different to the premises of origin, must comply with the requirements at paragraph IV(d) and IV(f) of the certificate.

Paragraph V(b) refers. In order to meet these requirements the Official Veterinarian or another veterinarian on his/her behalf should carry out at inspection visits at the time of signing the export health certificate and at least on one other occasion during the 30 day pre-export isolation period.

The final clinical examination may be considered as one of the inspections described in the above paragraph.

12. PRRS TESTING AT HOLDING OF ORIGIN AND ISOLATION PREMISES

Paragraphs IV(d) and, at the isolation premises, V(c) refer. Exporters and Official Veterinarians should note that preliminary testing for PRRS of a representative sample of the herd of origin prior to the start of the pre-export quarantine period is advisable.

Exporters and Official Veterinarians should also note that the test for PRRS when repeated during quarantine in Japan may include the US strain of the PRRS virus as well as the European strain. Exporters are advised that the VLA Weybridge can also carry out the IPMA for the US strain of PRRS virus at an additional cost but this will only be done at the written request of the submitting veterinarian.

13. DELETION OF PRE-EXPORT TESTS NOT CARRIED OUT

Paragraphs IV(j), V(c)(i) and V(c)(ii) refer. In order to avoid any confusion over the type of post-import testing required on arrival in Japan, the certifying Official Veterinarian must ensure that, where a choice of pre-export testing is given in the certificate, the unused test is deleted. This is because the post-import test must be the same type of test as was carried out pre-export.

14. CLEANSING AND DISINFECTION OF TRANSPORT VEHICLES

Paragraph VI of the certificate refers. The Japanese authorities require confirmation from the certifying Official Veterinarian that the vehicle used for transporting the consignment from the isolation premises to the airport of departure has been cleansed and disinfected to a satisfactory standard.

To meet this requirement, the Official Veterinarian must obtain a declaration from the person in charge of the vehicle stating that the conditions of paragraph VI(a) have been complied with. In addition,

the Official Veterinarian must inspect the cleansed and disinfected transport vehicle prior to loading the consignment.

This inspection may be carried out at the time of final health inspection of the consignment within 24 hrs of departure. However, if the vehicle is not available at that time, it must be inspected by the Official Veterinarian immediately prior to loading the consignment for the journey to the airport of departure.

Aircraft certificate:

When pigs are travelling by means of an aircraft, a declaration of verification of cleansing and disinfection (C&D) with an approved Defra disinfectant is needed. It supports the certification of paragraph VII(c); in which the OV verifies C&D of any part of equipment used in direct contact with the pigs or materials associated with them (e.g. steel base pallets in an aircraft).

15. IMPORTANT CHANGES IN TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS

As of the date of revision of these notes, the direct freight service provided by Japan Air Lines, which was previously used to transport consignments of breeding pigs from London Heathrow airport to Japan, has been withdrawn.

The Japanese authorities have agreed to amendments to the previous health certificate that now permit the transit or transhipment of consignments of breeding pigs through an airport in any 'third free country' (see paragraph 8 above) before transfer to the direct flight to Japan.

Consignments of breeding pigs may travel from the UK by road/ferry to the airport of transit, or be transhipped at the airport from a UK flight onto the direct flight to Japan. Any transit or transhipment must be carried out under the supervision of the veterinary authorities of the intermediate country.

16. SUPPLEMENTARY HEALTH CERTIFICATE

The veterinary authorities in the third free country will be required to issue a supplementary health certificate to confirm that the export health status of the consignment has been maintained until the consignment is transferred to the direct flight to Japan.

The supplementary certificate will accompany the completed copy of export health certificate 115EHC to the destination airport in Japan.

Exporters must ensure that the supplementary certificate has received the official approval of the Japanese authorities prior to issue. Further advice on supplementary certificates issued by third free countries can be obtained by contacting the Central Operations for Exports in Carlisle well in advance of the proposed export date.

17. COMPLETION OF TRANSPORT PARAGRAPH III(c)

As many details of the journey as possible should be entered in this paragraph, including the number(s) of tamperproof seal(s) applied to the transport vehicles/crates after the consignments have been loaded.

18. SEALING OF TRANSPORT VEHICLES / CRATES

The veterinary authorities of the third free country issuing the supplementary health certificate may require consignments of pigs to be sealed after loading into vehicles or crates in the UK in order to maintain their export status.

Numbered tamperproof seals must be applied under the direct supervision of the certifying Official Veterinarian, or another veterinarian on his/her behalf, immediately after loading has been completed. The numbers of the seals must be recorded in paragraph III(c) of the certificate. Exporters must ensure that these seals are not interfered with or removed during transport until they have been verified as intact by the veterinary authorities at the airport of transit. Failure to do so will result in the loss of export status of the consignment.

For longer journeys by road, it may be necessary for pigs to undergo a rest period in order to comply with welfare legislation. In this event, exporters are advised to contact the Central Operations for Exports in Carlisle for further advice well in advance of the proposed export date.

IF THE ANIMALS REQUIRE TO BE OFFLOADED AT AN OFFICIAL CONTROL POINT, OR IF THE VEHICLE IS OPENED FOR ANY OTHER REASON, SUPPLEMENTARY CERTIFICATE 0001SUP MUST BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CERTIFICATE TO CERTIFY RESEALING UNDER OFFICIAL VETERINARY SUPERVISION. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE ORIGINAL SEAL BE REMOVED ONLY UNDER OFFICIAL VETERINARY SUPERVISION AND THE REPLACEMENT SEAL SIMILARLY APPLIED ONLY UNDER OFFICIAL VETERINARY SUPERVISION.

19. TRANSPORT DECLARATIONS

Paragraph VII refers. Prior to signing the certificate, the Official Veterinarian must obtain a written declaration from the person in charge of transporting the consignment from the isolation premises via the airport of departure to Japan that the conditions laid down in this paragraph of the certificate will be complied with.

20. HEALTH CERTIFICATE TO TRANSIT THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

If animals are transiting the European Union, their transit of Member States must be accompanied by the certification appropriate to the Member State from which they exit the Community. The consignee and destination address given on the TRACES Intra-Trade Animal Health Certificate (ITAHC) must be the agent handling exit formalities at the port/airport where the animals leave the European Union.

21. POST IMPORT TESTING IN JAPAN

Exporters should be aware that, if any infectious disease is diagnosed or any pigs are found to be seropositive for PRRS when tested during the post import quarantine period in Japan, all of the exported swine may be returned to the UK or slaughtered in Japan.

22. COMPLETION OF THE CERTIFICATE AND RETURN OF COPY TO CITC

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.

23. 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

24. 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.