

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND THE EXPORTER

1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 125EHC can be used for the export of horses from the United Kingdom to Mauritius.

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.

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 (Defra), the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government, 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/or 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

aPVPs certifying DECOL produced Export Health Certificates 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. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE.

The authorisation (618NDC), 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 are 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/premises clearance

Paragraph IV b) refers: The certification contained in this paragraph may be signed on behalf of the Department by an Official Veterinarian provided written authority on form 618NDC has been received. The completed form will be sent to the certifying Official

Veterinarian to accompany the EHC.

5. **WRITTEN DECLARATIONS**

Paragraphs IV d) (ii), e) (ii) & (iii), f) (ii), g) (i) & (ii), h) (iii), i) (ii), j) (ii) and Paragraph V. refer. These written declarations must be retained by the Official Veterinarian. The Official Veterinarian should carry out any enquiry considered necessary into the validity of the declarations. If the Official Veterinarian has any reason to doubt the validity of any declaration Carlisle CIT should be consulted.

6. **LABORATORY TESTS**

Paragraphs IV (d) (iii), (f) (iii), (g) (iii) and (h) (ii) refer. The official results for samples taken for these laboratory tests should accompany the EHC (please note (g) (iii) is not a blood sample). All laboratory tests required for this certificate must be carried out in a laboratory that is acceptable to the competent authority of the importing country and meets any conditions set out in this Export Health Certificate. This may include the APHA laboratory in Weybridge or the AFBI laboratory in Belfast. For operational reasons, the laboratories involved may change periodically. Accordingly, the OV is advised to check with the APHA or VSD to determine to which laboratories samples should be sent for testing.

7. **WELFARE**

Exporters should be reminded that they must comply with the British welfare laws relating to the export of horses (including ponies). Welfare conditions during transport are laid down by Council Regulation EC 1/2005, implemented in England by The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006, and parallel legislation in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Exporters must comply with the UK welfare laws relating to the export of animals. If transported by air, animals should be transported in accordance with International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards.

Further information about the necessary requirements may be obtained from the Animal Welfare Team at any of the offices mentioned below:

England, Scotland & Wales

Welfare in Transport Team at the APHA Centre for International Trade - Carlisle, via the link below:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening#centre-for-international-trade-carlisle>

8. **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 Centre for International Trade - Carlisle, via the link below:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening#centre-for-international-trade-carlisle>