

## EXPORT OF CATS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO NEW ZEALAND

### 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 2593EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 2593EHC. 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 OF THE CERTIFICATE**

Export health certificate 2593EHC may be used for the export of cats from the United Kingdom to New Zealand. A separate EHC should be completed for each animal.

#### 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 any ink colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

#### **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](mailto: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.

Please note that the certificate contains two sections: section A for completion within 2 days prior to export of the animal and section B to be completed just prior to dispatch from the UK. Therefore, the exporter will need to engage the services of two Official Veterinarians authorised to certify this type of export.

The OV completing section A must ensure that all necessary documents accompany the certificate so they are available to the OV completing section B.

3. **RABIES VACCINATION**

Paragraph A. IV. 3) refers.

**From 01/01/2012, cats from the United Kingdom are required to have a rabies vaccination and rabies neutralising antibody titre test (RNATT) prior to entry into New Zealand.** The cat must be vaccinated against rabies with a government approved inactivated virus vaccine or recombinant vaccine expressing the rabies virus glycoprotein. In this context, "government approved vaccine" means a vaccine with a current marketing authorisation for use in cats. If the vaccination has been carried out in another country, and the animal was legally imported into the UK under PETS, then the vaccine can be considered to be government approved.

In the case of a primary vaccination, the vaccine must be administered not less than six months and not more than one year prior to the date of shipment. The cat must be at least three months old before the primary rabies vaccine is given.

In the case of a booster vaccination, this must be given not more than one year prior to the date of shipment. Also, rabies vaccination must be kept up-to-date from the date of sample collection for rabies antibody titre test to the date of shipment. In a previously vaccinated cat, where the RNATT has been carried out prior to the final pre-export booster vaccination, the New Zealand authorities have confirmed that they will consider rabies vaccination to have been kept up to date provided that the booster interval specified by the vaccine manufacturer has not been exceeded at any time between the date of sampling for the RNATT and date of shipment. **However, the last booster vaccination prior to export must be no more than one year before shipment, regardless of the manufacturer's recommended booster interval.**

A microchip must be implanted prior to or at the same time as the rabies vaccination and rabies titre test used for export.

4. **RABIES SEROLOGY**

Paragraph A. IV. 4) refers. A blood test - FAVN ((Fluorescent Antibody Virus Neutralisation) or RFFIT (rapid fluorescent focus inhibition test) - must be taken after vaccination to check for protective antibodies against rabies. The blood test, a neutralising antibody titration test, must be carried out by an officially authorised laboratory on a blood sample collected not less than three months and not more than 24 months prior to shipment. The test result must show a serum antibody level of at least 0.5 IU/ml and must bear the animal's microchip number.

A list of approved rabies serology laboratories in the UK can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rabies-blood-testing-laboratories-in-the-uk>

Rabies serology may also be carried out in non-UK laboratories provided the laboratory is officially approved by the country in which it is situated for the purposes of PETS or the country is one which New Zealand has designated as an approved country. A list of (EC) approved rabies serology laboratories can be found at the following link:-

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/approved\\_establishments/other\\_laboratories\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/approved_establishments/other_laboratories_en.htm)

A list of countries, comprising categories 1,2, and 3 and approved by New Zealand can be found on pages 4-5 of the MAF Guidance Document for the Cats and Dogs Import Health Standard at the following link:-

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/files/ihs/guidance-catdog.gen.pdf>

A microchip must be implanted prior to or at the same time as the rabies vaccination and rabies titre test used for export.

5. **SIGNING OF RABIES VACCINATION AND RABIES NEUTRALISING ANTIBODY TITRE TEST (RNATT) DECLARATION BY AN OV**

This declaration forms part of the Application for Permit to Import which the exporter will obtain from MAF Biosecurity New Zealand.

Copies of the RNATT laboratory report and rabies vaccination certificate must be shown to the Official Veterinarian in order for the Rabies Vaccination and RNATT declaration to be completed and signed. Although this is not a Defra document, the OV is entitled to sign it in his/her capacity as Official Veterinarian as well as that of Registered Veterinarian - the declaration needs to be signed twice, and stamped with the OV stamp. The OV must check that the cat's identification details in the Application for Permit to Import match the vaccination and RNATT documents presented.

6. **IMPORT PERMIT**

To obtain an import permit for cats or dogs travelling to New Zealand, the application requires the completion, stamping and signature of the Rabies Vaccination and Rabies Neutralising Antibody Titre Test (RNATT) declaration by an Official Veterinarian. The RCVS and Defra have agreed that this specific form is one of the exceptional circumstances where an OV can sign this non-Defra document.

An import permit is required for cats from all countries except Australia.

Application forms can be obtained from:-

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/form-search/0/cat>

or by email to:-

[animalimports@maf.govt.nz](mailto:animalimports@maf.govt.nz)

Applications must be submitted to either:-

[animalimports@maf.govt.nz](mailto:animalimports@maf.govt.nz)

FAX +64 4 894 0733

MAF Animal Imports  
PO Box 2526  
Wellington 6140  
New Zealand

PHONE +64 4 894 0100 from overseas  
or 0800 008 333 in New Zealand

Once all required documents have been sent, a minimum of 10 working days for permit processing should be allowed.

Copies are acceptable and include

- A completed and signed permit application form
- Booking for an approved transitional (quarantine) facility
- Proof of rabies vaccination (and if this vaccination is a booster, the most recent vaccination prior to the booster) and a copy of the rabies titre test, with microchip numbers on all documents.

Permits will be sent electronically.

7. **IDENTIFICATION**

Each animal must be identified with a microchip and the microchip number must be shown on all accompanying certification. The identity of the animal must be confirmed by reading the microchip each time a treatment, vaccine or test is performed, at the time of completion of section A of the export certificate and again at the time of completion of section B. The microchip 2593NFG (10/05/2016) (Revised 15/04/2026)

number must be recorded on all test results and treatment records.

The microchip must conform to New Zealand/International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) standards 11784:2001 and 11785:2001.

Non-ISO compatible chips may not be capable of being read by the microchip readers used by the New Zealand authorities and therefore the exporter/agent MUST provide a reader which is able to read the identification code of the implanted microchip at the point of entry into New Zealand.

8. **OWNER/EXPORTER'S DECLARATION**

With reference to paragraphs **A IV. 2), i), ii), iii) and iv)**, the owner/exporter must provide to the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN a written declaration stating that the cat:

- Will be more than 9 months of age at the date of shipment.
- Will not be more than 42 days pregnant at the date of shipment.
- Has been continuously resident in the United Kingdom for the 6 months immediately preceding export.
- Is not a hybrid (crossed with another species), with the exception of Bengal cats.  
[Documentation of five generations of domestic ancestry would have to be provided for Bengal cats].

There is no standard form provided by DEFRA for this document. It is the owner/exporter's responsibility to produce such a document.

In addition to obtaining a declaration from the owner/exporter and examining the cat, the OV must make due enquiry to satisfy him/herself that the cat complies with the requirements of the above paragraphs. This should include inspection of any relevant records or documents which may provide supporting evidence eg EU pet passport (where applicable), vaccination records etc.

9. **TREATMENT FOR INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL PARASITES**

Paragraph **A IV. 5) and 6)** refer. It is essential that only licensed products are used for treatments.

10. **LABORATORY REPORTS**

Laboratory Reports (original or certified copies) are required to be attached to the export health certificate to be sent with the animal to New Zealand. The OV who completes **Section A** of the certificate must stamp and attach the laboratory reports to the certificate.

11. **ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF ARRIVAL**

MAF Biosecurity New Zealand must be notified at least 72 hours before the scheduled time of arrival of any animal, including:

- flight/ship number
- date and time of arrival
- consignee's name and contact details
- species and breed
- number of animals in consignment
- country of origin
- quarantine facility booked (if applicable)
- bill of lading (if known) and
- whether importer/agent is on board same flight

The following email address or phone number can be used, depending on the intended port of arrival of the animal:

**Auckland**

[mqsakac@maf.govt.nz](mailto:mqsakac@maf.govt.nz)  
00 64 9 909 8631

**Christchurch**

[mqschc@maf.govt.nz](mailto:mqschc@maf.govt.nz)  
00 64 3 943 3803

**Wellington**

[mqswlg@maf.govt.nz](mailto:mqswlg@maf.govt.nz)  
00 64 4 894 4213

12. **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](mailto:WIT@apha.gov.uk)

Or, in the case of Northern Ireland, DAERA at Dundonald House, Belfast.

13. **TRANSPORT CRATE**

Paragraph 5) of **Section B** refers. The owner/exporter is responsible for ensuring that the conditions of transport for his/her animal meet the standards laid down by the International Air Transport Association (IATA). He/she should ask the transporting airline to confirm this, and if necessary provide a copy of the relevant conditions. Published copies of the IATA conditions, together with the 'live animal labels' and 'this way up' labels which IATA require on animal crates, can be bought from the following companies:

Freight Merchandising Services, c/o Vidap Freight Services Ltd., Shield Road, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 1AU.

Tel: 01784 240840 Fax: 01784 248615

Label Line, Hollyhouse, 14 Tenby Road, Frimley, Surrey, GU16 5UT.

Tel: 01252 836472 Fax: 01252 838094

The Official Veterinarian should confirm by inspection that the container is either new, or else suitably cleaned, dry and free from pests (especially ticks) and dirt. If there is any doubt about it having been suitably disinfected, it may either be disinfected again prior to placing the cat into it, or a written statement may be sought from the owner/exporter.

No straw or hay bedding is permitted in the crate. Only inert bedding is permitted, and any bedding or toys in the crate will be destroyed on arrival for ectoparasite control.

14. **DOCUMENTATION TO BE ATTACHED TO THE CERTIFICATE**

Paragraph **A IV. 8)** refers. The following documents must be attached to the certificate which accompanies the animal to New Zealand:-

- Import permit (electronic copy acceptable), and
- Required test results.

The documentation must be:-

- Original, unless otherwise specified;
- Attached securely to the original export health certificates.

15. **VACCINATIONS REQUIRED FOR CATS ENTERING QUARANTINE**

All cats entering New Zealand into quarantine will require vaccinations against the following:

- feline panleukopenia (enteritis).
- feline rhinotracheitis.
- feline calicivirus.

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](mailto:vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk)