

EXPORT OF BREEDING PIGS TO THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO - 8686EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued together with export certificate 8686EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8686EHC.

Exporters are advised to verify the requirements of the importing country by contacting the veterinary authorities, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 8686EHC may be used for the export of pigs intended for breeding purposes from the United Kingdom to the Republic of Congo.

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. IMPORT PERMIT

A valid import authorisation issued by the Director of Animal Health of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of the Republic of Congo is required for importation of pigs intended for breeding from the United Kingdom.

The certifying OV must verify that an import permit has been issued to the exporter and that its expiry date falls within the anticipated time of arrival at the destination.

The number of the import authorisation must be entered in the space provided immediately above Part I of the certificate.

3. SCHEDULES

Section I refers. A separate schedule may be used to identify the animals certified. In this case, Section I must be annotated 'See attached schedule'. Each page of the schedule must bear a page number and the health certificate reference number and must be signed, dated and stamped by the OV.

The schedule must be stapled to the health certificate, and the OV 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 certificate must be deleted with diagonal lines.

4. **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**.

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

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.

5. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

OVs may certify paragraphs IV(a), IV(b) and IV(c) on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA CIT at Carlisle or via disease clearance procedures in DAERA.

6. VACCINATION AGAINST SWINE ERYSIPELAS

Paragraph IV(e) refers. OVs and exporters should note the requirement for exported pigs to be vaccinated against swine erysipelas and the specified timing of vaccination prior to the date of shipment.

7. **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