

EXPORT OF BREEDING AND PRODUCTION BOVINES TO AZERBAIJAN

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 8782EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8782EHC.

Exporters are strongly 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 8782EHC may be used for the export of breeding and production bovines from the United Kingdom to Azerbaijan.

It is not permitted to export bovines 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 must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in ink of a different colour to that of the printing.

Under the Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Act 2024, it is an offence to export bovines 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 EHC 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. Obtaining an import permit

The exporter/agent should be aware of the requirements of the importing country particularly with respect to the requirement for an import permit. The import permit number should be given in the health certificate at paragraph I.13.

4. Schedules

Paragraph I.17 refers: Separate schedules may be used to identify the animals certified. The schedule(s) must contain the same information as that required in paragraph I.17 and paragraphs I.17 must be annotated "See attached schedule". Each page of the schedule(s) must bear a page number and the health certificate reference number and must be signed, dated and stamped by the Official Veterinarian (OV).

The schedule(s) must be stapled inside the health certificate and the OV should "fan" and stamp over the pages of the schedule(s) and certificate. The top stapled corner of the schedule(s) and certificate should be folded over and stamped also. Any blank spaces in the schedule(s) or in paragraph I.17 must be deleted with diagonal lines.

5. Notifiable disease clearance (form 618NDC)

Paragraphs II.1.b), II.1.c), II.1.d), II.1.f) and II.6.a) refer: OVs may certify these paragraphs on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland.

Paragraph II.1.e) regarding tuberculosis freedom in the premises for 12 months, this can be certified if the animals have been resident in an establishment in England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland, and is recognised as officially free of tuberculosis (OTF), in accordance with WOA standards, for at least 12 months prior to

export. This means for at least 12 months prior to export there were/are no whole herd restrictions (TB2) served e.g. following the discovery of reactors, or no individual animal restrictions (TB34) served e.g. following the discovery of inconclusive reactors, or no other TB-related restrictions served e.g. because routine herd tests are overdue or because of zero tolerance. The OV must request TB checks to be performed by APHA/DAERA to confirm the herd's OTF status over a 12-month period.

6. **Additional Support Assurances required to enable certain paragraphs to be signed by the Official Veterinarian.**

Paragraphs II.1.a), II.1.e) (besnoitiosis, leptospirosis, paratuberculosis and chlamydiosis), II.2, II.3, II.4, II.5, II.6.b), II.6.c), II.7, II.8, II.9 and II.10 refer: OVs may certify these paragraphs based on personal knowledge of the herd(s) of origin of the animals for export or supporting certification from a private veterinarian with knowledge of the herd(s) of origin.

If further guidance is required, CIT / DAERA should be contacted.

BSE

Paragraph II.1.a) shall be certified on the basis the United Kingdom is officially recognised as negligible or controlled BSE risk by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, formerly known as OIE). Please check the WOAH website for the official disease status listing of the UK:

<https://www.woah.org/en/disease/bovine-spongiform-encephalopathy/#ui-id-2>

Paragraphs II.3 and II.4 (feed of animal origin) refer- The WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code recommend that surveillance and monitoring is in place to establish the BSE negligible/controlled risk status of a country - see Article 11.4.3 (negligible risk) and Article 11.4.4 (controlled risk) at:

https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/terrestrial-code-online-access/?id=169&L=1&htmlfile=chapitre_bse.htm

These paragraphs can be certified on the basis that BSE is notifiable in the UK and the UK TSE Regulation (including Regulation 999/2001) in the UK goes beyond WOAH in that it sets out requirements for the control and eradication of TSEs as well. This includes implementation of the feed ban and tracing and culling animals genetically linked to confirmed BSE cases (e.g. parents).

Treatment and quarantine

Paragraphs II.5, II.7 and II.8 refer:

In the case of II.5, a declaration by the owner/exporter and veterinary surgeon responsible for the animals confirming non-treatment with natural or synthetic oestrogens or hormonal or thyreostatic substances, is required.

In the case of II.7, the OV must inspect the quarantine facilities and supervise the quarantine with daily inspections. The test details must include the laboratory name, date and method of testing. Test results/reports must be attached to the 8761EHC and included in the page numbering. Testing for IBR virus or BVD virus is not required if animals have been vaccinated for the disease(s) and are still within the immunity/validity period of the vaccine. The OV must include vaccination details (e.g. ID of animals, date of vaccination, batch number, name and manufacturer details) in the 8761EHC. Vaccination information may be attached to the 8761EHC and included in the page numbering. In the case where animals are not vaccinated for IBR or BVD or have past the validity period of the vaccine then testing is required.

Test methods must be WOAHA listed and approved in the WOAHA Manual:
<https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/terrestrial-manual-online-access/>

Serology or antigen testing is acceptable provided the tests are WOAHA listed and the results are negative. Please note, the PCR test is specifically required for testing schmallenberg virus.

In the case of II.8, the OV must also observe treatment for internal and external parasites or can be given documentary evidence of treatment in the form of a certificate signed by a veterinary surgeon detailing the treatment performed, the date(s) of treatment and the identification of the animals treated.

Transport

Paragraph II.10 refers- The OV signing the export veterinary certificate must ensure that the animals described in the certificate have been treated before and at the time of loading in accordance with the relevant provisions of Regulation No 1/2005. A written declaration should be requested from the exporter/transporter stating that the animals would be so treated and that any animals which may become unfit to travel following certification will not be loaded if the OV is not able to inspect the animals at the time of loading. Every animal should be fit for the journey that is planned.

GB/NI transport requirements:

The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 and parallel legislation in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales implement Regulation No 1/2005. If transported by air, animals should be transported in accordance with International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards.

Every animal should be fit for the journey that is planned. Animals should be in good health, free of illness, free of significant wounds and able to walk without pain on all legs. Animals that are in sufficiently good health, should be able to withstand the stress of a journey without experiencing any unnecessary pain or distress, and should arrive at their destination in good health. Animals that are injured or that present physiological weaknesses or pathological processes shall not be considered fit for transport and in particular if:

- they are unable to move independently without pain or to walk unassisted;
- they present a severe open wound, or prolapse;
- they are pregnant females for whom 90% or more of the expected gestation period has already passed, or females who have given birth in the previous week;
- they are new-born mammals in which the navel has not completely healed.

Except for animals which are accompanied by their mother, long journeys should only be permitted for domestic animals of bovine species if calves are older than fourteen days.

If the place of loading and holding of origin is different, then the OV must obtain a written declaration from the transporter/ exporter that the animals were transported from the holding in vehicles previously cleansed and disinfected with a Defra approved disinfectant and "in such a way as to provide effective protection of the animals' health status". This means transport without coming into contact with cloven hoofed animals other than those of a similarly certified level of health status.

OVs should also receive a declaration from the exporter / transporter that the animals will be transported to the place of destination in vehicles (or another means of transport) which have first been cleaned and disinfected with a Defra approved disinfectant and without coming into contact with cloven hoofed animals other than those of a similarly certified level of health status.

7. **Laboratory tests**

The OV must ensure that any laboratory carrying out pre-export testing is officially approved for this purpose by Defra or DAERA. **Test results/reports must be attached to the 8761EHC.**

In Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland), the majority of pre-export testing is carried out at the APHA Laboratory, New Haw, Weybridge, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 3NB, (Tel: 01932 341111). Some tests are carried out at APHA Lasswade, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik, Midlothian, EH26 0PZ, (Tel: 0131 445 6169). Certain specialist tests are carried out at regional APHA laboratories.

In Northern Ireland, the majority of pre-export testing is carried out at the Veterinary Sciences Division (VSD) Laboratory, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3SD (tel: 028 9052 0011).

If tests for bluetongue are required, samples must be sent to the Pirbright Institute. Guidance on submission of samples, including the submission forms to use, can be found at:

http://www.pirbright.ac.uk/files/quick_media/Diagnostic%20Price%20List.pdf

For operational reasons however, 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. Samples should always be sent to the laboratory concerned sufficiently in advance of the export date to enable the tests to be carried out and reported. If in doubt as to the procedures for collection, the requirement for transport medium if any, dispatch of samples and the length of time a test is likely to take, the OV should seek the advice of the relevant laboratory.

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 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