

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Notes for Guidance: Export Health Certificate for entry into the European Union or Northern Ireland of porcine animals and animals of the family *Tayassuidae* intended for breeding or production 8450

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No: 8450 NFG

EHC for entry into, or transit through, the EU or NI of porcine animals of the family *Suidae* and animals of the family of *Tayassuidae* intended for breeding and/or production.

It is not permitted to export porcine animals 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.

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE (NFG) FOR THE CERTIFYING OFFICERS (CO) AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to COs and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with the relevant export certificate applicable for the entry into the EU or transit through the EU of domestic porcine animals of the family *Suidae* and animals of the family of *Tayassuidae* intended for breeding and/or production (excluding fattening). The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with the health certificate.

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.

[Please note, policies are being reviewed. NFG will be further amended to provide specific guidance. Traders should look at NFGs regularly for any updates]

1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION:

[Directive 2003/74/EC](#)

[Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2015/1375](#)

[Regulation \(EU\) 2017/625](#)

[Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2019/2035](#)

[Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2020/688](#)

[Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2020/692](#)

[Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/404](#)

[Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/653](#)

[Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2024/351 - Model EHC amending Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/403](#)

[Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2023/905](#)

Any EU legislation referenced in the EHC must be complied with and EU legislation can be accessed on the following link. You should ensure that you are using the latest version. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html>

Please note that Official Control Regulations 2017/625 have repealed Regulation (EC) No 854/2004, 882/2004 and Directive No 96/23/EC. Please see link:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32017R0625&from=EN>

Consolidated legislation

Consolidated texts, which integrate the basic instruments of Union legislation with their amendments and corrections in a single, non-official document, are available. Each consolidated text contains a list of all legal documents taken into account for its construction.

You can search for consolidated texts by using the 'find results by document number' option on the European Commission website. Once you have selected the relevant legislation, click 'document information', and then scroll down to 'all consolidated versions' and select the most recent version.

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html>

Please note that the consolidated text may not contain the latest amendment to the legislation, as it takes several weeks for this to be updated.

Texts provided in this section are intended for information only. Please note that these texts have no legal value. For legal purposes please refer to the texts published in the 'Official Journal of the EU'.

2. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

This certificate can be used for the entry into the EU or NI of domestic porcine animals of the family Suidae (*Sus ssp.*, *Babyrusa ssp.*, *Hylochoerus ssp.*, *Phacochoerus ssp.*, *Porcula ssp.*, *Potamochoerus ssp.*) and animals of the family Tayassuidae (*Catagonus ssp.*, *Pecari-Tayassu ssp.*) intended for breeding and/or production (excluding fattening) in accordance with the relevant requirements set out in the aforementioned regulations.

It is not permitted to export porcine animals 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.

For movements to NI please make sure that you comply with any additional health requirement stated in the link below.

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/importing-pigs-great-britain>

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OV

In **England, Scotland and Wales**, this certificate must be signed by a Government Veterinary Officer (e.g. APHA, FSA or FSS employed veterinary officers) or by an OV appointed by APHA on behalf of Ministers in Defra, the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government and who hold the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ (V)) authorisation.

OVs must sign and stamp, with the OV stamp, the health certificate in ink of a different colour to that of the printing of the EHC. There is no requirement to sign and stamp in a specific colour.

The OV should keep a copy of the signed certificate and any supporting documents for at least two years after signature or receipt/dispatch of the consignment, whichever is later. These can be electronic copies.

EHC in foreign language/s of the EU Member States (MSs).

EHC should be in English and the foreign language of the Border Control Post (BCP) of entry in the EU or NI. The original copy of the required EHC must accompany the consignment to the BCP of entry.

Listing of the EU MS BCPs can be found here: https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/vet-border-control/bip-contacts_en

The foreign language certificate as received from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or via the Export Health Certificates Online system (EHCO) and bearing the same unique reference number as the English certificate, should be considered an official and accurate translations of the English, as published in EU legislation.

The (sub-) paragraphs / options and how they are numbered and formatted is identical in the English and foreign language editions and to the legislation published by the European Commission. Therefore, the same phrases/sentences in the foreign language versions as in the English version should be struck through and these deletions should be stamped and initialled in both versions. Both versions must also be signed (as opposed to being initialled) and stamped by the OV, the foreign language certificate is deemed to be a genuine and properly authorised translation of the English version.

This also applies to any instructions in the guidance notes to strike out certain paragraphs or to certify statements that the country is free of certain notifiable diseases etc.

Additional information can be found in APHA Official Veterinarian Training:

[Official Veterinarian Training](#)

SIGNING AND STAMPING

When signing a certificate, the CO should ensure that the certificate contains no deletions or alterations, other than those which are indicated on the certificate to be permissible and any corrections to permitted entries, subject to such changes being initialed and stamped (in the margin) by the CO.

Permissible deletions are normally indicated in the 'Notes' section at the end of the certificate, with the instruction 'Keep as appropriate' or 'delete if not applicable'.

- Where the certificate contains optional or contextual statements, the statements which are not relevant shall be crossed out, individually initialled and stamped by the CO, or completely removed from the certificate.
- Permitted paragraphs and sections may be crossed out by applying a 'Z' across the section or paragraph rather than crossing out line by line.
- There is no requirement for a date and time to accompany each stamp. The date is only entered at the required entry field in Part I of the certificate, and at the end where the CO signs, stamps and dates that action.
- We are aware of some BCPs demanding that all handwritten information in Part 1 of the EHC is initialed and stamped, including handwritten scoring out of otherwise blank boxes. There is no legal requirement in EU legislation that all the hand-written information entered in the certificate must be signed and stamped. It is only in the case of correction, in any part of the certificate, or in the case of statements to be crossed out, that the certifier must add signature (or initials) and stamp. This has been confirmed by the European Commission. The Commission noted however, in the case of a hand-written certificate, it is expected that the same one person completes the document. If not, the BCP might suspect that empty boxes were completed by another person after the certificate has been signed by the official.

You should consider checking with the specific BCP regarding their preference when it comes to the stamping and initialling of handwritten scoring out of otherwise blank boxes in Part I of the EHC.

- **Clarification from the European Commission means that all pages (as opposed to sheets of paper) are signed and stamped once individually in place of fan stamping and in addition to any permitted alterations. There is no requirement to fan stamp.**
- COs are reminded to consult the NFG prior to the certification of each EHC. NFG will be updated with this new information in due course.

Further Information COs should make sure they are familiar with all relevant guidance and other documents relating to EHCs and that they discuss requirements with exporters in advance.

See <https://improve-ov.com/instructions/instructions.php?ta=8>

You can also contact APHA's Centre for International Trade (CIT) on 03000 200 301.

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PART I: DETAILS OF THE CONSIGNMENT

All boxes in Part I of the certificate must be completed. When a box is not applicable/optional, and not filled, please score it through.

Please use a schedule, to be attached to the certificate if there is not enough space to fill the information. See Section 'Addition of Schedules' below.

Please complete all the boxes in Part I of the certificate in accordance with the guidance laid down in Chapter 4 of Annex I to [Commission Implementing Regulation](#)

[\(EU\) 2020/2235](#), Amended by [Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2023/2744](#).

The Harmonised System (HS) Code is a commodity classification system used as a basis for customs tariffs and for international trade statistics.

It is the exporter's responsibility to ensure that the HS code is entered correctly and accurately reflects the product(s) being consigned.

Further information on HS Codes can be found online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/trade-tariff/sections>

and <http://madb.europa.eu/madb/euTariffs.htm>

PART II: CERTIFICATION

The OV signing the export veterinary certificate must ensure that the public and animal health attestations set out in Part II of the veterinary certificate have been complied with.

The OV must ensure that they are aware of the relevant provisions of the aforementioned regulations laying down the public/animal health requirements applicable to the dispatchment of domestic porcine animals of the families *Suidae* and *Tayassuidae* from the UK into the EU.

Under the Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Act 2024, it is an offence to export porcines for slaughter and fattening, beginning in or transiting through Great Britain to a third country. Movements to NI for this purpose are permitted.

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

Details of the animals in the consignment (number, species, age)

The reason for reporting your concern

Any relevant additional information

II.1 Public Health Attestation [To be deleted if the EU is not the final destination of the animals]

The OV signing the export veterinary certificate must ensure that the public health attestations set out in Part II of the veterinary certificate have been complied with.

The animals described in the certificate must meet the public health requirements of Directive 96/22/EC concerning the prohibition on the use in stock farming of certain substances having a hormonal or thyrostatic action, and of beta-agonists.

II.1.1 and II.1.2–

The national surveillance scheme implements Council Directive 96/22/EC (and 2017/625), which is transposed into national legislation by The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) (England and Scotland) Regulations 2015 and parallel legislation in the other devolved administrations.

Said provisions fulfil the guarantees covering live animals provided by the residue plans submitted in accordance with Article 6(2) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/2292. GB is listed in Annex -I to Commission Implementing Regulation 2021/405 and marked with an X under the category porcine.

GB has a surveillance programme in place to monitor residues of authorised veterinary medicines, prohibited substances, and other contaminants in animals covered under this EHC. The Directive and Regulations prohibit the routine administration of the hormones mentioned to livestock. Administration for therapeutic and zootechnical reasons is allowed. The paragraph can be certified on this basis but a written declaration from the owner / exporter to this effect should be obtained as part of due diligence.

II.1.3.- Trichinella attestation and Controlled Housing Conditions guarantees

The EU recognises Great Britain as a third country applying the derogations referred to in Article 13(2) of Regulation (EU) 2015/1375 (*the Trichinella Regulation*), as enacted in EU law in [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/519](#).

Great Britain is listed as a Third Country that may apply the following derogations from *Trichinella* testing in domestic pigs:

- Recognition of application of Controlled Housing Conditions (CHC): compliance with the conditions laid down in Article 3 (3)(a) or (b) of Regulation (EU) 2015/1375
- Exempt un-weaned porcine animals under the age of 5 weeks from the requirement for trichinella examination compliance with the conditions laid down in Article 3(2) of Regulation (EU) 2015/1375.

Only the following Member States may apply [derogations](#) from Trichinella testing in domestic pigs coming from a holding or compartment officially recognised as applying controlled housing conditions, based on:

- historical recognition as free of Trichinella in accordance with Article 3 (3)(c) of Regulation (EU) 2015/1375: Belgium and Denmark
- compliance with the conditions laid down in Article 3 (3)(a) or (b) of Regulation (EU) 2015/1375: Finland, Italy; and
- NI is also already listed separately by the EU, as a Region benefiting the derogations under Article 3 (3)(a) or (b) of Regulation (EU) 2015/1375.

This paragraph may be certified on the basis recognition and listing of the GB by the EU as a Third Country applying Controlled Housing Conditions (CHC) for trichinella (including the derogation/exemption for testing of meat from porcine animals which are not weaned and under the age of 5 weeks).

This paragraph only applies to exports to holdings in the countries of Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Italy, and NI. In all other cases, this clause can be crossed out

regardless of the official recognition status of the GB holding(s) of origin regarding Controlled Housing Conditions.

Animals intended for breeding or production, only need to comply with this attestation if:

- the holding of destination is in the above countries; and
- such holdings are also officially recognised as complying with Controlled Housing Conditions by the authorities of the country of destination. The status of transit countries is irrelevant.

Where applicable, the OV may certify the first option/statement of this paragraph if he/she has received written confirmation from APHA or FSA/FSS that the holding of origin of the animals is on the GB list of officially recognised holdings applying CHC.

Porcine animals which are un-weaned and under the age of 5 weeks do not need to originate from holdings officially recognised as applying CHC and the OV may certify this option, if applicable, without the need for official clearances/permission. However, in the unlikely event of such exports, the Welfare in Transport team in APHA must be consulted to confirm if such movement can be allowed under existing welfare rules.

In any case, and regardless of which option is used (Controlled Housing or un-weaned pigs under the age of 5 weeks), if this attestation is applicable and included in the certificate, the entirety of the paragraph must be left intact and certified as a whole.

If this clause is not applicable or cannot be certified, it must then be crossed out and such deletion initialed and stamped by the certifying OV.

II.1 (a) - This attestation on antimicrobial medicinal products is added which must be crossed out or deleted until 3 September 2026.

II.2 Animal Health Attestation

The OV signing the export veterinary certificate must ensure that the animal health attestations set out in Part II of the veterinary certificate have been complied with.

Animals described in the certificate must also meet the animal health requirements listed in the certificate and in accordance with the relevant sections of Commission Regulation (EU) No 2020/692.

II.2.1. - Enter territory code. GB is listed for porcine animals. The relevant listing is in Part 1 of Annex II to Regulation (EU) [2021/404](#). This Regulation has been amended by Regulation [2021/634](#), adding the Great Britain and the Crown Dependencies to the relevant lists. This amending regulation should be consolidated into the updated Regulation 2021/404. Please note, “GB-1” code is for exports from the England and Wales and “GB-2” is for exports from Scotland.

II.2.2 -

(a) and (b) - These paragraphs may be signed based on a written declaration from the owner / exporter and following the examination of movement records and the holding registers to check the veracity of the declarations. If necessary, supporting certification from the veterinarian responsible for the holding should be obtained.

(b) - If any animals introduced onto the holding during the 40 days prior to dispatch or

since birth of animals intended for export, then those animals introduced onto the holding must be held in isolation during this period. The animals subject to isolation would not be considered as animals that have entered the establishment. Isolation must be authorised and supervised by an OV. A declaration may be required by the owner too.

II.2.3 - This may be signed based on a written declaration from the owner/exporter.

II.2.4 - Can be certified, on the basis of a declaration from the owner/exporter and Notifiable Disease Clearance, please check Section 4 on Notifiable Disease for more information. Diseases relevant to terrestrial animals are listed in Annex I to Regulation [2020/692](#). This list refers to listed diseases for live animals in the Annex to Regulation [2018/1882](#). All listed diseases are notifiable/reportable in GB. Relevant diseases where there is a national eradication programme for porcine animals include: Foot and Mouth Disease, Rinderpest, Brucellosis, Tuberculosis, Rabies, Anthrax, Classical Swine Fever, African Swine Fever and, Aujeszky's disease.

II.2.5 – Two 'either/or' options:

Either: The OV signing the certificate must ensure the animals will not stop or pass through any other establishment on export to the EU. Declaration from the owner must be sought. And for example, the journey log can be provided as evidence.

Or: This may be certified when the OV has personal knowledge that the animals have been assembled in a single assembly operation, and that the assembly operation took place in an establishment which is listed by APHA as being approved for such operations. Documentation of such approval must be evidenced by the OV. The owner of the Assembly Establishment must provide a declaration that the assembly operation took no longer than 6 days. Approved assembly centres in UK can be found [here](#). Animals exported from an assembly centre to a Member State must, for entry into the assembly centre, be accompanied by support health certification showing that they are eligible for exports to the EU. Further details of assembly centre approval may be obtained from APHA, Carlisle.

II.2.6 – This may be certified based on a signed declaration from the Owner/Transporter/Exporter. And for example, the journey log can be provided as evidence.

II.2.7 – The certifying OV must ensure that the transport was cleaned and disinfected with an authorised disinfectant before loading in accordance with the relevant provisions of Assimilated EU Regulation No 1/2005. See section 7 on Animal Transport Attestation and [gov.uk](#) for further information on approved disinfectants. Every animal should be fit for the journey that is planned. A declaration from the owner/transporter must be sought.

II.2.8 – The certifying OV must perform a clinical inspection of the animals within 24-hour period prior to loading in the means of transport. The OV should ensure they check for clinical symptoms of diseases relevant to Porcine animals as listed in Annex I to Regulation [2020/692](#). This list refers to listed diseases in the Annex to Regulation [2018/1882](#). All listed diseases are notifiable/reportable in GB.

II.2.9 – This may be certified based on the prohibition of the use of vaccines in the UK for FMD and CSF in the absence of an outbreak.

II.2.10.1 –

Either: should be certified, on the basis of UK notifiable disease clearances. See Section 4 Notifiable Disease Clearance.

Or: may be certified as vaccination of animals against Foot and Mouth Disease is not permitted in the UK. The certifying OV may confirm with the owner / exporter as per written declaration that the no animals vaccinated against Foot and Mouth Disease have been introduced into the holding.

II.2.10.2 - This should be certified on the basis of UK notifiable disease clearances. See Section 4 Notifiable Disease Clearance.

II.2.10.3 and II.2.10.4 –

Certify the first option for II.2.10.3. GB is listed as a territory free of CSF and ASF. See Section 4 Notifiable Disease Clearance. Last case of CSF was in 2000 and GB is historically free from ASF. The relevant listing is in Part 1 of Annex II to Regulation (EU) [2021/404](#). This Regulation has been amended by Regulation [2021/634](#), adding the Great Britain and the Crown Dependencies to the relevant lists.

II.2.11.1 - Should be certified on the basis that the animal establishments are registered and under the control of APHA. The certifying OV should verify that records are kept for minimum of 3 years by the owner regarding the points stated in this attestation. Supporting evidence may be required from the owner / exporter.

II.2.11.2 –

This should be certified if the establishment receive regular animal health visits from a private farm veterinarian or veterinary inspections from APHA or farm assurance schemes. Farms would be visited for several reasons, such as notifiable disease investigation, export certification, TB testing and herd health management. Frequency of such visitation is proportionate to the risk. Visitations from a Veterinarian should automatically include the purpose for detection of relevant diseases for porcine animals as listed in Annex I to Regulation 2020/692. This list refers to listed diseases in the Annex to Regulation [2018/1882](#). All diseases listed are notifiable/reportable in GB. See [here](#).

Assurances from the owner / exporter and private veterinarian responsible for the holding may be sought.

II.2.11.3 – This may be certified on the basis of notifiable disease clearances, as referred to in Section 4 of this guidance. The diseases of relevance are listed in Annex I to Regulation 2020/692. The OV should check disease freedom for relevant diseases in the Annex to Regulation 2018/1882. All diseases are notifiable/reportable in GB. Relevant diseases where national restriction measures for porcine can be imposed include: Foot and Mouth Disease, Rinderpest, Brucellosis, Tuberculosis, Rabies, Anthrax, Classical Swine Fever, African Swine Fever and, Aujeszky's disease.

II.2.11.4, II.2.11.6, II.2.11.7, II.2.11.8 –

These may be certified based on Notifiable Disease Clearances (Section 4).

II.2.11.5 – *Supplementary assurances for brucellosis*

GB is recognised as free from brucellosis. However, Commission Delegated Regulation 2020/688 contains supplementary assurances for the movement/entry of porcine animals for further keeping, in regard to brucellosis.

This paragraph may be certified on the basis of GB freedom from brucellosis and one of the following options:

Either – The establishments comply with the biosecurity and risk mitigating conditions for housing and feeding to prevent transmission of brucellosis infection from wild ungulates. This option may be certified if:

- The holding of origin is recognised as applying controlled housing conditions for trichinella; **and/or**
- A support attestation from the farm veterinarian confirming that the biosecurity conditions and risk mitigation measures are appropriate and that:
 - All pigs come from premises where, at least during the 12 months preceding the date of export, general husbandry, management and biosecurity practices and disease prevention and control measures for farmed animals apply
 - All pigs, were farmed in premises where measures have been in place for at least the 12 months prior to export to contain the animals within specific controlled buildings or enclosures (electric fencing, stock-proofing or other natural barriers may be used)

The use of private standards such as assurance schemes can be used to provide support evidence for the above attestations.

Or – The relevant conditions referred to in Annex III to Commission Delegated Regulation 2020/688 have been met.

II.2.12. -

The first option may be certified based on the listing of the zones with an entry "ADV" in column 7 of the table in Part 1 of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2021/404 (as amended by Regulation 2021/634), when UK is recognised free from infection with Aujeszky's disease virus, or when an eradication programme is approved and fulfils the requirements laid down in Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689.

4. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

Some export certificates for animals and animal products will include statements that will require the OV to certify that specified zones or the entire country of origin are free from certain diseases.

COs must check the following sources of disease information for the United Kingdom immediately prior to certification, to ensure disease freedom statements can be certified:

- the Notifiable Disease Occurrence List for Great Britain ([ET171 Notifiable disease occurrence list for Great Britain and Northern Ireland](#)) available on [Official Veterinarian Training](#).
- the UK Status for Non-Notifiable Diseases Relevant to Export Certification ([ET152 UK status for non-notifiable disease relevant to export certification](#)) available on [Official Veterinarian Training](#).

For Great Britain:

In the absence of a specific Notifiable Disease Clearance (618NDC) from CITC: COs may certify that GB has disease free status or region free status for those

diseases mentioned in the health certificate, once they have checked the disease list(s) for the last occurrence of the disease, and have ensured it complies with the time frames in the certificate.

In the event of a disease outbreak that affects a CO being able to obtain their own disease clearance, CITC will notify COs to make it clear which disease freedom statements should not be certified and where necessary, will issue a 618NDC notifiable disease clearance if the EHC can continue to be issued for certain regions that retain free status.

In the event of a disease outbreak after the EHC has been issued that affects the disease clearance, COs must not certify the EHC and must contact CITC immediately for advice on whether certification can still take place. If a disease outbreak affects the disease clearance procedures for this EHC, a 618NDC will be reinstated by CITC which will be issued with the EHC until a time when disease clearance can be reinstated.

NOTE: This does not apply to Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) or Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) freedom statements.

For paragraphs II.2.2., II.2.3., II.2.4., II.2.5. and II.2.6. additional support documentation is needed (owner/exporter declarations) to certify the attestation with regards to inspection of the movement records and absence of notifiable diseases

For paragraph II.2.8. additional support documentation is needed by the OV as a declaration to certify the absence of symptoms of the diseases referred to in Annex I to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 and emerging diseases (Rabies, African swine, fever, classical Swine fever, Aujeszky's disease, porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus disease.)

For paragraph II.2.10. and II.2.11. to be certified, the CO should provide a declaration with regards to vaccinations status and disease status (for Foot-and-mouth disease, Rinderpest virus disease, classical swine fever, African swine fever, Brucella abortus, B. melitensis and B. suis, anthrax and surra) of the zone of origin of the animals in case they have not been residents in UK since birth. Additionally, in case of surra and Aujeszky's disease a declaration should be provided for the movements of animals and negative testing after an infection.

5. COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE

Certification Support Officers may not be utilised for gathering evidence relating to this certificate.

6. DECLARATION BY MASTER OF THE SHIP

A declaration by the master of the ship, as set out in Annex III of Commission Regulation (EC) No 403/2021, shall be attached to veterinary certificates for imports into the EU of terrestrial animals where the transport of those commodities includes transport by ship, even for part of the journey.

You can find the Master of the ship declaration here: www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates/master-of-the-vessel-declaration-8466

Consignments of live animals usually have to arrive at the EU BCP of introduction within 10 days of the date of issue of this certificate.

In the case of animals transported by sea, that period of 10 days shall be extended by an additional period corresponding to the duration of the journey by sea, as certified by a signed declaration of the master of the ship. This declaration must be drawn up in accordance with article 14 to regulation (EU) 2020/692 (as amended) (link below) and attached in its original form to the certificate. The declaration states any ports of call in route and that the animals have not been in contact with animals of a lower health status and have remained on board.

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32020R0692>

7. DECLARATION BY CAPTAIN OF THE AIRCRAFT

Where consignments of live animals are transported by air, the crate or container in which they are transported, and the surrounding area shall be sprayed with an appropriate insecticide.

That spraying shall be carried out immediately prior to the closing of the aircraft doors after loading, and after any subsequent opening of the doors in a third country, until the aircraft reaches its final destination.

The captain of the aircraft shall certify that the spraying has been carried out by signing a declaration, drawn up in accordance with Part 4 of Annex I of Regulation (EU) No 206/2010 (link below) and attached in its original form to the veterinary certificate.

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1554915289101&uri=CELEX:02010R0206-20170701>

8. ANIMAL TRANSPORT ATTESTATION

The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 and parallel legislation in Scotland and Wales implement Council Regulation (EC) 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 un-assisted
- 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

- they are pigs of less than 3 weeks, unless they are transported less than 100km. Except where animals are accompanied by their dam, long journeys should only be permitted for domestic porcine species if: **Pigs** are heavier than 10 kgs.

If the place of loading and holding of origin is different, then the OV must obtain a written declaration from the owner/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. In this case, where a consignment is grouped in an assembly centre and comprises animals that were loaded on different dates, the date at which the journey commenced for the whole consignment is considered to be the earliest date when any part of the consignment left the holding of origin.

OVs should also receive a declaration from the exporter/transporter that the animals will be transported to the place of destination in vehicles 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.

9. CLINICAL EXAMINATION

The inspection must be carried out within 24 hours of loading. The pre-export inspection should consist of a visual appraisal and, if deemed appropriate, physical examination of the animals for export. Each animal subject to an inspection must be assessed as an individual.

OVs must use their professional judgement to determine the level of inspection required, in order to ensure that no animal is exported which shows signs of infectious disease and that animals are fit to travel to their intended destination.

10. LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION

Official ISO codes for the United Kingdom of Great Britain are ‘GB’ (or ‘GBR’) and the numeric code ‘826’. Livestock intended for dispatch to the EU or NI must therefore be identified with an ear tag which meets this ISO identification requirement.

For pigs: Export ear tag must read GB or 826

Currently pigs are usually batch identified by their herd mark, using double slap marks (shoulder tattoos). Some pigs such as those for show or moved to Artificial Insemination centres may be individually identified, usually with a single ear tag. On export, pigs are currently identified with an export ear tag or ear tattoo bearing UK plus the animal’s herd mark and an individual number. Following exit, for dispatch to the EU or NI, the ear tag or ear tattoo will need to read GB or 826 plus the animal’s herd mark and an individual number.

You should identify pigs you want to export or move to the EU or NI with an ear tag or tattoo that states:

- UK, with the GB suffix (UK-GB)

- the animal's herd mark
- an individual ID number

Ear tagging guidance for after Brexit can be found on GOV.UK here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/exporting-animals-and-animal-products-to-the-eu-from-1-january-2021#identify-animals>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pig-keepers-identify-animals-before-moving-them>

11. ADDITION OF SCHEDULES

When the space in Part I or Part II of the certificate is insufficient to accommodate full details of the consignment a schedule may be used. In the relevant section of the certificate the CO should annotate the certificate 'see attached schedule'. A new schedule should be created (typed or clearly written) containing the same information as that required in the certificate.

The schedule must include the certificate reference number on each page and must be signed, dated, and stamped by the CO in a colour other than the printed text on each page and under the last entry. The schedule forms part of the certificate. All pages of the certificate, including the schedule, must be sequentially numbered. Any blank spaces in the schedule or the certificate should be struck through with diagonal lines.

Further guidance is available here:

<https://improve-ov.com/instructions/instructions.php?ta=8>

12. CERTIFIED COPIES OF EHCs

When completing export certification, the CO and, if applicable, FCCO must make photocopies of, or scan and save all documents they certify. OV's must retain copies of certification documents in accordance with RCVS Certification principles.

<https://www.rcvs.org.uk/setting-standards/advice-and-guidance/code-of-professional-conduct-for-veterinary-surgeons/supporting-guidance/certification/>

COs must retain copies of all export documentation for a period of two years. A certified copy of this EHC will need to be returned to the APHA CITC on the day of signing. For the purposes of completing routine Quality Assurance checks on export certification, CITC may request certified copies of certification from COs.

Further details on Post Certifying Procedures, 'certified copies' of certification and the types of documents that should be retained by COs can be found on [APHA Official Veterinarian Training](#).

13. LEGAL STATEMENT

References in this guidance to "assimilated EU Regulation" should be interpreted as references to assimilated law, as defined under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018

14. DISCLAIMER

This certificate and NFG, are 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 APHA in Carlisle.

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Version History

EHC

Published November 2025

- II.2.2. – Lettering added to attestation (a and b)
- II.2.7. – Lettering added to attestation (a, b and c)
- II.2.11.1. – Lettering added to attestation (a, b and c)

Published 30 August 2024

Part II:

II.1 (a) - Attestation about the administration of antimicrobial medicinal products is added.

Notes - Footnote 11 is added.

Published 31 July 2024

II.1.2 – Amended from residue to control plans with new legislative references

II.2.12.5 – Brucellus attestation option amended

II.2.12 – Aujeszky attestation EITHER option amended

Footnote I.27: Expanded with further information

Footnote 8 – Amended to change disease status requirements

NFG

Version 8: Published 29 October 2025

References to Vet Gateway updated to Official Veterinarian Training throughout.

Legal Statement: Wording updated.

Version 7: Published 30 August 2024

Applicable Legislation: Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/905 added

Part II: II.1 (a) - guidance is added about the attestation related to antimicrobial medicinal products.

Version 6: Published 31 July 2024

Applicable Legislation: Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/351 added

Part 2:

II.1.1 and II.1.2: amended

II.2.12 – Amended to reflect changes to footnote 9 in the EHC

Version 5: Published 22 July 2024

Highlighted guidance added throughout regarding the Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Act 2024. It is now an offence to export porcine animals for slaughter and fattening, beginning in or transiting through Great Britain to a third country.

Movements to NI for immediate slaughter in NI or for fattening for slaughter in NI are permitted.

Version 4: Published 12 May 2023

Section 7: Declaration by Master of the Ship: Link to Regulation (EU) 2020/692 is added as it has replaced the Regulation (EU) 2010/206.

Version 3: Published 1 March 2023

Section 14 amended added guidance advising that a certified copy of the certificate needs to be returned to APHA CITC on the day of signing.