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EXPORT OF HORSES FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO COMPETE IN THE 20TH ASIAN GAMES 2026 IN JAPAN NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE EXPORTER AND OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

Important

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 8936EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8936EHC. 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.

Scope of the Certificate

Export health certificate **8936EHC** may be used for the temporary export of international racehorses from the United Kingdom to Japan to compete in the 20th Asian Games.

1. 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.

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

Authorised Private Veterinary Practitioner (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.

2. Identification of the Horses

The silhouette on page 7 of the certificate must be fully completed or in the case of a registered horse, the passport number inserted. The OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV) must verify the identity of all registered horses against their passports, even where the silhouette on page 7 of the certificate has also been completed.

The OV must be satisfied that the horse is adequately identified at the time of inspection and each time that samples are taken for pre-export testing. Paragraph I must also be completed. Where applicable both the passport number and the microchip number must be recorded on the certificate.

3. Definitions

Country/Place of Export: The country/place where the horse has been continuously held for at least 10 days immediately prior to export in the premises listed under SECTION II(c), which is a PEQ facility approved by the authorities of the country for holding horses to export to the 20th Asian Games. The Country/Place of Export are Germany (departure airport in Belgium), Hong Kong (Temporary residency in the equine disease-free zone in the equine disease-free zone in Conghua City, China (Conghua Training Centre) is approved), Republic of Korea, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom.

Scheduled Countries/Places: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong (Temporary residency in the equine disease-free zone in the equine disease-free zone in Conghua City, China (Conghua Training Centre) is approved), Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Kingdom of Bahrain (the Bahrain International Airport and the Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club), the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (the King Khalid International Airport and King Abdul Aziz Racecourse), Lithuania, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States of America.

4. Residency

Paragraph II (d) refers. A written declaration, in accordance with Annex 1, must be received from the owner*/agent of the owner* listing all the countries where the horse has been during the 60 days prior to export. OVs should retain copies of these declarations for record purposes.

If export certificates covering the previous 60 days do not formally confirm disease clearance for the country(ies) of residence in relation to paragraphs VI(d)(i), (ii), and (iii), the OV must obtain these assurances in writing from the relevant competent authority, via the exporter. A 618NDC must be obtained for the period of residence in the UK.

IMPORTANT NOTE: When a racehorse has not been continuously resident in the 8936NFG (Revised 04/09/2026)

United Kingdom during the 60 days immediately prior to shipment to Japan, it must be accompanied by all health certificates or certified copies issued by the government of each 'Listed country' where the horse has been during the 60 days prior to shipment to Japan. The certificates should certify, for the periods of time the racehorse for export resided in that country during the 60 days immediately prior to shipment to Japan.

5. **Written Declarations**

Paragraph VI refers. These paragraphs (except VI d i, ii & iii) may be certified provided that written declarations have been obtained from the owner/agent of the owner. OVs should retain copies of these declarations for record purposes

6. **Laboratory Tests**

All laboratory tests for notifiable diseases in GB must be carried out at government approved laboratories with negative results. The tests performed in the UK should be carried out at the Veterinary Laboratories Agency laboratory at Weybridge.

For non-notifiable diseases the test can be carry out in any laboratory in any other country that the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries also accept results from e.g. Bose in Germany <http://www.labor-boese.de/index/getlang/en>

7. **Vaccination**

No vaccines are to have been administered within 14 days of export to Japan. Ovs should obtain relevant documentary evidence from the owner / keeper to this effect.

8. **Pre-export quarantine (PEQ).**

Paragraph V & VIII refer.

Only authorised premises can be used for PEQ, and the horse must be examined within 24 hours of leaving the PEQ.

Horses must be thoroughly examined within 48 hours of entry into PEQ for external parasites.

Pre-export quarantine (PEQ) premises must be inspected and formally approved by an Official Veterinarian (OV) prior to the commencement of the quarantine period. Approval should only be granted where the OV is satisfied that the premises meet the required standards for PEQ, taking into account the relevant export certification requirements for Equidae.

The OV approving the premises must be authorised and appropriately qualified, including being listed on the relevant equine export panels.

Once PEQ has commenced, the OV should, at each visit to the premises, verify compliance with the conditions set out in the Export Health Certificate (EHC). This includes ensuring that all relevant disease control, biosecurity, and management requirements are being consistently met throughout the quarantine period.

Particular attention should be given to the provisions outlined in Paragraphs V and VIII of the EHC, and the OV must ensure that the conditions specified in these sections are fully adhered to for the duration of the PEQ.

Additional documentation

The horse must be accompanied by the Annex 1 document which is an acknowledgement of compliance with the requirements of the export health certificate. The OV must endorse this document with their signature and official stamp.

9. **Post Import Quarantine**

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Exporters should be aware that horses are subject to post import quarantine on arrival in Japan. Should an infectious disease be detected in a horse during quarantine the said horse may be re-exported or humanely destroyed.

10. Equine Piroplasmosis (EP) Seropositive Horses

For the purposes of these requirements, a seropositive horse is a horse that tests positive on the prescribed antibody tests for Equine Piroplasmosis but negative on the antigen identification tests, in accordance with the conditions agreed with the Japanese authorities.

Where a horse is identified as seropositive for Equine Piroplasmosis:

- If the seropositive result is obtained from the test conducted within 30 days prior to export, the certifying officer must ensure that APHA/Defra is notified without delay so that the Japanese animal health authority (MAFF) can be informed at the start of the pre-export quarantine period. In these circumstances the certifying officer should contact APHA in the first instance at SM-APHA-Equine Exports Carlisle (APHA) <EquineExportsCarlisle@apha.gov.uk> and / or SM-APHA-Exports (APHA) <exports@apha.gov.uk>
- If the seropositive result is obtained from the test conducted within 7 days prior to export during the pre-export quarantine period, APHA/Defra must be informed immediately so that notification can be made to MAFF at the time the result is confirmed. In these circumstances the certifying officer should contact APHA in the first instance at SM-APHA-Equine Exports Carlisle (APHA) <EquineExportsCarlisle@apha.gov.uk> and / or SM-APHA-Exports (APHA) <exports@apha.gov.uk>

Exporters should be advised that additional biosecurity and transport requirements apply to seropositive horses and, where applicable, to horses travelling in the same vehicle, container, or consignment. These include tick inspections, application of tick repellents, identification of seropositive horses during transport, and measures to minimise contact between seropositive and seronegative horses.

11. 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

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

12. 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

