

EXPORT OF BREEDING PIGS TO NIGERIA - 7233EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV's) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7233EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7233EHC.

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

1. **SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE**

Export health certificate 7233EHC may be used for the export of breeding pigs from the United Kingdom to Nigeria.

2. **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. If applicable, the import permit number should be entered in paragraph III(d) of the health certificate.

3. **CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN**

This certificate may be signed by a Veterinary Officer of the Department or a Local Veterinary Inspector (LVI) appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Government Rural Directorate, the Welsh Assembly Government Department for Rural Affairs or by an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland, who is an Official Veterinarian (OV) on the appropriate export panel for export purposes.

OVs must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any ink colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the Animal Health Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle within seven days of signing, or in the case of Northern Ireland to DARD, Dundonald House, Belfast.

The OV should also keep a copy for his/her own records.

4. **OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION OF EXPORTED PIGS**

Paragraph I refers. All pigs must be identified in accordance with The Pigs (Records, Identification and Movement) Order 2007 (as amended) or in Northern Ireland the Aujeszky's Disease Order (Northern Ireland) 1994, with an ear tag or tattoo bearing the letters "UK" and the official herd mark of the holding on which the

mark is applied (which need not necessarily be the premises from which the pigs are being exported if pigs were marked on a previous holding). The mark must also include an individual animal number. The identification mark, usually in the form of an approved tamperproof ear tag, must include the letters 'UK', followed by the officially authorised herd mark and a unique identification number allotted to the pig by the keeper (e.g. UK AB1234 0001).

OVs must be satisfied that each animal is individually identified in accordance with the schedule to the health certificate. The OV may wish to read the identification marks personally, or they may be read by a responsible person in the employment of the veterinary practice and under the direction of the certifying veterinarian. The terms "direction" and "supervision" are defined in the RCVS Guide to Professional Conduct.

5. **SCHEDULES**

Section I refers. A separate schedule may be used to identify the animals certified. This schedule must contain the same information as that required in Section I and the table in 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 inside 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 in Section I must be deleted with diagonal lines.

6. **OFFICIAL DISEASE CLEARANCES**

Paragraphs IV(a), IV(b), IV(d) and in Northern Ireland paragraph IV(f) (i) 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 Animal Health Agency in Great Britain or equivalent in Northern Ireland.

7. **ORIGIN AND RESIDENCY**

Paragraph IV(c) refers. The certifying OV should check farm movement and other records to verify that the animals have been born and raised in the United Kingdom. The OV may also wish the owner / exporter / agent of the exporter to provide a signed statement as additional verification of origin and residency.

8. **PREMISES FREEDOM FROM OTHER DISEASES**

Paragraphs IV(e) (i) and IV(f) (ii) refer. OVs should take into account their personal knowledge of the disease status of the premises of origin, or isolation premises if different. If necessary, this may be supported by discussion with the local office of Animal Health or DARD.

OVs should also carry out appropriate checks of the farm records including use of medicines, fertility and birth records and also returns from slaughterhouses to verify freedom from the named diseases.

The certifying OV may also wish the owner / exporter / agent of the exporter to provide a signed statement as further evidence attesting to the freedom of the holding of origin from the diseases listed in this paragraph.

9. **INCIDENCE OF TRANSMISSIBLE GASTROENTERITIS (TGE) IN THE UNITED KINGDOM**

Paragraph IV(f) (i) refers. TGE is Notifiable in Northern Ireland where TGE has never been recorded. TGE is not notifiable to the GB veterinary authorities, however no cases of the disease have been recorded in the United Kingdom since a limited outbreak in the north of England in 1999.

In order to certify this paragraph, OVs are advised to verify the continued freedom of the UK from TGE by contacting the Animal Health Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle via the link below:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalhealth/about-us/contact-us/centrops.htm>

10. **SUBMISSION OF TESTS TO GOVERNMENT LABORATORIES**

Paragraphs IV(e) (ii) and, if applicable, V(f) (ii) refer. The OV must ensure that any laboratory carrying out pre-export testing is officially approved for this purpose by Defra or DARD.

OVs should also note the timing of blood sampling of the exported animals, which must be carried out not less than 21 days after commencement of the isolation period.

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

For operational reasons however, the laboratories involved may change periodically. Accordingly, the OV is advised to check with the VLA 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.

11. **APPROVED ISOLATION PREMISES**

Paragraph IV(g) refers. The pigs must be held in approved isolation facilities, which may be located on the premises of origin, for a period of not less than 28 days immediately prior to shipment. The following conditions must be met by the isolation facilities before approval is given by the OV. The OV is advised to consult the local office of Animal Health or DARD in case of any problems:

(i) Any vehicles used to transport the animals for export from the farm of origin to the approved export quarantine facility must be cleansed and disinfected with an approved disinfectant prior to use;

(ii) The isolation accommodation must comprise airspace separate from any other airspace in which livestock are present and should be as remote as practicable from any other livestock accommodation.

(iii) The interior of the isolation building must be capable of being thoroughly cleansed and disinfected. The building must be cleansed and disinfected using an approved disinfectant immediately before entry of the animals to be exported.

(iv) No drainage or effluent produced by or derived from other livestock may pass through the isolation accommodation.

(v) Any person entering the isolation accommodation must first put on overalls and waterproof footwear reserved exclusively for use in the isolation accommodation.

(vi) A footbath containing an approved disinfectant, diluted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, must be located at the entrance to the isolation premises. Any person entering must first wash and disinfect their footwear.

12. DISCLAIMER

The DEFRA disclaimer (Form 372DMR) will be issued to the exporter with this certificate for his/her information. The 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 Animal Health Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle via the link below:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalhealth/about-us/contact-us/centrops.htm>

13. WELFARE

Welfare conditions during transport are laid down by Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005, implemented in England by The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006, and parallel legislation in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Exporters must comply with the UK welfare laws relating to the export of animals. If transported by air, animals should be transported in accordance with International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards.

Further information on OIE and IATA transport recommendations may be obtained from the Central Operations for Exports, Central Operations for Exports, Animal Health, Hadrian House, Wavell Drive, Rosehill Industrial Estate, Carlisle, CA1 2TB.

Email: CentralOps.Carlisle@AnimalHealth.gsi.gov.uk

Tel: 01228 403600 Fax: 01228 591900

Or via the links below:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/faranimal/welfare/index.htm>

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/faranimal/welfare/transport/euguidance/index.htm>

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/faranimal/welfare/transport/index.htm>

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