

## EXPORT OF PIGS FOR BREEDING AND PRODUCTION TO NORTHERN IRELAND

### NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF EXPORTERS AND THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

#### 1. Official Identification

All pigs exported from Great Britain must be identified in accordance with The Pigs (Records, Identification and Movement) Order 2011 (PRIMO) and equivalent legislation in Wales and Scotland.

Identification is by means of an ear tag or ear 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 the pigs were marked on a previous holding). The mark must also include a unique individual animal number.

#### 2. Schedule of Number and Identification of Animals

A schedule may be used to identify the certified animals but it must contain the information identifying each individual animal as requested. Separate pages of a schedule must each be numbered with the corresponding Health Certificate number and with a page number and must be individually stamped and signed by the certifying veterinarian. Unused blank space on the schedules must be rendered void by making diagonal lines after drawing a line under the last valid entry and signature. All separate pages must be made indivisible from the health certificate by stapling securely and fanning and over stamping separate pages of certificate and schedule.

#### 3. Isolation Premises

The Competent Authorities of Northern Ireland require that all animals for export to Northern Ireland are held in isolation on the premises of origin/or other suitable premises for at least 30 days prior to export and are tested for transmissible gastro-enteritis within the 30 days immediately preceding shipment, but not earlier than 21 days after entering isolation premises. The premises are to be approved for this purpose by the Official Veterinarian. It would be advisable for this to be done, by arrangement, before the period of isolation commences.

Exporters should be reminded that before the OV can approve premises the following conditions must be met:-

Requirements:-

- a. The isolation accommodation must comprise of an airspace separate from any airspace in which any other livestock are present, and be as remote as practicable from any other livestock.
- b. The interior of the isolation building must be capable of being thoroughly cleansed and disinfected, and must be cleansed and disinfected using an approved disinfectant immediately before the animal(s) to be exported are placed therein.
- c. No drainage or effluent produced by/derived from other livestock may pass through the isolation accommodation.
- d. Any person who requires to enter the isolation accommodation must first put on overalls and boots reserved exclusively for use in the isolation accommodation.
- e. A footbath containing an approved disinfectant, diluted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions must be located at the entrance. Any person entering must first wash and disinfect their boots using the footbath.

#### 4. Serum Neutralisation Tests for TGE

In the case of the serum neutralisation tests for transmissible gastro-enteritis negative means no neutralisation when undiluted serum is tested against 100 tcid 50 of virus - (permitted range 30-300 tcid 50).

#### 5. Test Requirements

The test requirements have been worded to ensure that all animals isolated together will meet Northern Ireland's import requirements in full. Animals not passing all tests cannot simply be removed from the isolated group, leaving the negative animals free to be exported to Northern Ireland. Tests can be carried out at either the Veterinary Laboratories Agency, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 3NB or the Veterinary Sciences Division (AFBI), Stormont, Stoney Road, Belfast, Northern Ireland BT4 3SD.

#### 6. Aujeszky's disease:

Paragraph IV(d) refers. Aujeszky's disease is a notifiable disease in GB and DARD would have been notified if this was present in GB. GB is officially free of AD. If in doubt about the possible presence of clinical or other evidence of Aujeszky's disease, Official Veterinarians must firstly contact the local Animal Health Office. If disease is not officially suspected, Official Veterinarians may seek further advice from the Animal Health, Specialist Service Centre - Exports at Carlisle.

Absence of clinical occurrence or clinical evidence of Aujeszky's disease during the previous twelve months can be based on the absence of:

**In sows:** Coughing, fever, nervous signs and reproductive failure including abortions and the births of mummified piglets, stillbirths, birth weak litters in sows.

**In piglets:** Nervous signs, incoordination, sneezing, coughing, high mortality and poor viability in piglets.

**In weaners and growing pigs:** Fever, sneezing, coughing, pneumonia, nervous signs including incoordination, fits and meningitis, usually with low mortality.

Vaccination of pigs against Aujeszky's disease is not permitted in GB.

#### 7. Swine influenza

Paragraph IV(d) refers. Official Veterinarians should note that swine influenza is a notifiable disease in Northern Ireland. Absence of clinical occurrence of swine influenza during the previous twelve months can be based on the absence of a transient episode of rapidly spreading respiratory disease associated with reduced feed consumption and pyrexia in pigs of all ages. Lack of clinical occurrence of swine influenza cannot be certified for a pig herd which has been vaccinated for influenza in the last 12 months or herds in which serological monitoring/testing or other testing has confirmed the presence of active influenza virus infection even if clinical signs of influenza are not present.

#### 8. Ports of Landing

Pigs may only be landed at the ports of Larne, Belfast Port or Ballycastle Harbour.

#### 9. No paragraph V (i)

Note that the paragraph notation in the certificate reads V h) to V j) with paragraph V i) omitted. This is intentional as roman numeral 'i' is used to number indented paragraphs. (Use of both i) and i. could lead to confusion where advice related to specific paragraphs is given in Notes for Guidance).

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<sup>1</sup> A licensed vaccine for swine influenza is not currently available in GB

10. **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 or the Welsh Government, who is on the appropriate panel for export purposes or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary)(OCQ(V)) authorisation.

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

After certifying the consignment, the Official Veterinarian must ensure that a copy of the signed EHC is emailed (preferable option) or faxed to the APHA Customer Service Centre (CSC) Carlisle on the day of signing, to enable the production of a TRACES message (as a replacement for the ANIMO message).

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

11. **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 Centre for International Trade - Carlisle, via the link below:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening>

12. **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 about the necessary requirements may be obtained from the Animal Welfare Team at any of the offices mentioned below:

England, Scotland & Wales

Welfare in Transport Team at the APHA Customer Service Centre in Carlisle, via the link below:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening>