

**EXPORT OF PIGS FOR BREEDING TO THE PHILIPPINES.**

**HEALTH CERTIFICATE - NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTERS**

**Scope**

1. Export health certificate 129EHC covers the export of pigs for breeding from Great Britain to the Philippines.

**Official Signature**

2. This certificate may be signed by an Official Veterinarian appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department or the National Assembly for Wales who is appointed to the appropriate panel for export purposes. Official Veterinarians should affix the official stamp to the certificate in the normal manner.

**Signatures required for the certificate**

3. Please note that the export health certificate is divided at section IV: Part 1 is for certification regarding the premises of origin and Part 2 is for certification regarding the approved isolation premises. If the premises and Official Veterinarian's responsible for the premises are different, each Official Veterinarian must certify the part for which he or she is responsible.

**Official identification**

4. Paragraph I refers. All pigs must be identified in accordance with The Pigs (Records, Identification and Movement) Order 1995 (as amended), 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 should also include an individual animal number which in the case of an eartag should be prefixed by the letter "P".

Official Veterinarians must be satisfied that each animal is individually identified in accordance with the schedule to the health certificate. This may be done by reading the identification marks personally, or by having the ear numbers read by someone in the employment of the veterinary practice and under the direction of the certifying veterinarian, or by the Official Veterinarian or an employee of the veterinary practice supervising the marking of the animals to be exported. The terms "direction" and "supervision" are defined in the RCVS Guide to Professional Conduct.

**Age**

5. Paragraph I refers. The age of each animal may be stated on the schedule to the health certificate as either the date of birth or age in days, weeks, months or years. In the case of large consignments, it is acceptable for the Official Veterinarian to give a range of ages, e.g. 5-6 months. Vague descriptions of age, e.g. over 5 months are not acceptable. The Official Veterinarian should obtain an owner's declaration of the age of the animals and check its validity on the basis of breeding records, when available, and the physical characteristics of the animals. If the Official Veterinarian has

doubt as to the validity of the declaration, the DVM should be consulted.

#### **Schedules**

6. Paragraph I refers. A separate schedule may be used to identify the animals certified. This schedule must contain the same information as that required in paragraph I and paragraph I must be annotated "see attached schedule". Each page of the schedule must bear a page number and the health certificate reference number. The schedule must be stapled inside the health certificate and the Official Veterinarian should "fan" and stamp over the pages of the schedule and certificate. One corner of the schedule and certificate should be folded over and stamped also. Any blank spaces in the schedule or in paragraph I should be deleted with diagonal lines.

#### **Brucellosis-free swine herd**

7. Paragraph IV a) refers. A brucellosis free swine herd is defined by OIE International Animal Health Code Chapter 3.5.2 as a herd which satisfies the following conditions:
  - (i) it is under official veterinary control which means that the Veterinary Authority is aware of the location of the animals and the identity of their owner or the responsible keeper and is able to apply appropriate animal health measures, as required;
  - (ii) it contains no animals found to be infected with porcine brucellosis during the past 3 years. All suspected cases are subjected to laboratory investigation;
  - (iii) all cattle in the same establishment are officially free from brucellosis. All cattle herds in Great Britain are OBF unless subject to official movement restrictions under the Brucellosis Order. If there is any doubt as to the status of any cattle herd on the holding, the DVM should be consulted.

#### **Approved isolation premises**

8. Section IV Part 2 refers. The pigs must be held in approved isolation premises for at least 30 days immediately preceding shipment so that any direct or indirect contact between the animals for export and any other cloven-hoofed animals has been prevented. The premises are to be approved for this purpose by the Official Veterinarian and exporter should be reminded that before the Official Veterinarian can approve the premises the conditions laid down in Annex 1 must be met.

#### **Laboratory testing**

9. Laboratory Test samples should always be submitted to the relevant VLA laboratory in good time to allow reports to be received in advance of the export date. If in doubt as to the length of time a test is likely to take, Official Veterinarians should seek advice from the relevant laboratory.

#### **Official Disease Clearance**

10. Official Veterinarians may certify paragraphs IV.1 (a), IV.1 (e), IV.2.(b), IV.3(a) (b) and (c) on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained from the local Animal Health Divisional Office on Form 618NDC.

#### **Transport Declarations**

11. The Philippine authorities have requested that certain declarations regarding transport of the consignment to its destination are verified by the Official Veterinarian. These conditions are at

Section IV part 4 of the certificate.

The exporter must obtain a copy of the declaration from the person or representative of the company known to be in charge of transport of the consignment to the Philippines, attesting that the conditions laid down in the certificate will be met.

The certificate may be signed on the basis that the Official Veterinarian is satisfied the transportation declaration is correct and originates from a valid source.

#### **Completion of certificate and submission of duplicate to the DVM**

12. The Official Veterinarian must sign and stamp the health certificate in ink other than black. A copy of the completed and signed certificate must be sent to the local Divisional Veterinary Manager within 7 days of signing.

13. **Disclaimer**

The Department 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 exporters 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 International Trade Unit at the address given below.

**Welfare**

14. Exporters are reminded that they must comply with all British welfare laws relating to the transport and export of livestock. Information about the necessary requirements may be obtained from the Animal Welfare Department at the following offices:-

**ENGLAND** Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
1A Page Street, London, SW1P 4PQ  
Tel: 020 7904 6345/Fax: 020 7904 6428 or 6395;

**SCOTLAND** The Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs  
Department, Pentland House  
47 Robb's Loan, Edinburgh. EH14 1TW;  
Tel: 0131 556 8400 ext6181/Fax: 0131 244 6616;

**WALES** National Assembly For Wales  
Crown Buildings, Cathays Park  
Cardiff, CF1 3NQ  
Tel: 01222 823593/Fax: 01222 823352

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
1A Page Street  
London  
SW1P 4PQ

**Annex 1**

#### **CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL AND OPERATING PROCEDURES OF PRE-EXPORT ISOLATION PREMISES**

##### **Construction and Location**

1. The isolation premises must be a clearly demarcated area surrounded by a stock proof wall or fence and containing suitable facilities for the accommodation of the animals during the isolation period. It should be as remote as practicable from any other livestock

accommodation. Measures should be taken to prevent the entry of rodents or wild and domestic birds to the animal accommodation or feed storage areas.

2. The interior of the isolation building must be capable of being thoroughly cleansed and disinfected.
3. A footbath containing an approved disinfectant, diluted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, must be located at the entrance / exit of the facility. Any person entering must first wash and disinfect his/her boots using the footbath.
4. The premises should have facilities for veterinary examination and collection of samples and facilities for the segregation of sick or suspect animals.
5. Access to the premises should be controlled and secured with a lockable door and/or a padlocked gate or similar.
6. All drainage of liquid waste must be away from the isolation premises. No drainage or effluent produced by/derived from other livestock may pass through the isolation accommodation.
7. An adequate supply of water must be available at all times for the isolated livestock and for cleaning purposes.
8. Adequate supplies of food and bedding material for the whole of the isolation period must be stored either within the isolation premises or in a nearby secure and separate vermin and bird-proof store.
9. Equipment and utensils used for feeding etc. must be used only in the isolation premises during the isolation period.
10. Protective clothing and footwear must be made available at the entrance to the isolation premises for use exclusively in the isolation premises.
11. There should be adequate facilities for the cleansing and disinfection of vehicles, either on or near to the isolation premises.
12. In making a decision as to the suitability of the location of the isolation premises, the Official Veterinarian should take into consideration the epidemiology of the diseases for which certification is being provided, in particular with respect to the distance and presence of physical barriers between the isolation premises and other premises. Advice may be sought from the DVM if required.

### **Procedures**

1. Immediately before the commencement of the isolation period, the interior of the isolation buildings and all fixed and moveable equipment and utensils used for feeding etc. must be cleansed and disinfected to the satisfaction of the supervising Official Veterinarian using a disinfectant approved by DEFRA.
2. The isolation period shall be deemed to start from the time of entry of the last animal into the isolation premises. Livestock must not leave the premises during the isolation period except with the permission of the Official Veterinarian.
3. Personnel entering the quarantine are restricted to those who have no contact with other livestock with the exception of the supervising

veterinarian who must take appropriate sanitary precautions.

4. No person may enter the isolation premises unless specifically authorised by the supervising Official Veterinarian.
5. No staff supervising the livestock may come into contact with any other livestock during the period of supervision.
6. Any person who requires to enter the isolation accommodation must first put on overalls (disposable or waterproof) and boots reserved exclusively for use in the isolation accommodation. Footwear and waterproof protective clothing must be cleansed and disinfected before entering the isolation premises.
7. On leaving the isolation premises, boots and waterproof footwear should be cleansed and disinfected. Disposable overalls should be placed in appropriate storage (e.g. plastic refuse sacks) and stored on site until the end of the isolation period. They should be disposed of in such a manner that they do not come into contact with other livestock, ideally by incineration on site.
8. When no staff are on duty, the premises must be securely locked to prevent the entry of unauthorised persons.
9. Isolated livestock must have no contact with any livestock of lower health status during the isolation period.
10. A health record should be kept of the isolated animals during the isolation period. This record should be available for inspection by the Official Veterinarian.
11. The operator should report any illnesses or other problems to the supervising Official Veterinarian. Where there is any cause for concern about the export certification of the consignment, the Divisional Veterinary Manager (DVM) should be consulted.
12. No animal may be removed from the isolation premises during the isolation period without the written authorisation of an Official Veterinarian. The DVM should be consulted as to further action with respect to animals remaining in the isolation premises.
13. If the Official Veterinarian is not satisfied that the conditions of approval are being met, the DVM should be notified.