

**EXPORT OF BREEDING PIGS TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE
- 7506EHC**

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT NOTE

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7506EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7506EHC.

CERTIFICATE 7506EHC HAS NOT BEEN FORMALLY AGREED WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN THE IMPORTING COUNTRY.

Exporters are therefore strongly advised to verify the requirements of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe by contacting the veterinary authorities, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment. They should obtain an import permit and check this certificate against the requirements of the import permit.

If the health requirements do not match, the exporter may choose to proceed with the export using certificate 7506EHC BUT STRICTLY AT THE EXPORTERS RISK AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ANY POTENTIAL PROBLEM THAT MAY COMPROMISE THE WELFARE OF THE CONSIGNMENT.

1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 7506EHC may be used for the export of breeding pigs from the United Kingdom to the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe.

Exporters and certifying OVs must take particular note of the information contained in the disclaimers at paragraph 12.

2. 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, Welsh Government or by an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland (DARD), 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 ink of any colour other than black.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) Specialist Service Centre Exports - within seven days of signing, or in the case of Northern Ireland to DARD, Dundonald House, Belfast.

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

3. OBTAINING AN 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. The import permit number should be entered at paragraph III (d).

4. OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION

Part I refers: All pigs in Great Britain 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 bearing the letters "UK" and the official herd mark of the holding on which the mark is applied. This 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 (e.g. UK AB1234 0001). Exporters and OVs should note that the use of tattoos as a means of identification is not acceptable to the importing country.

Official Veterinarians must be satisfied that each animal is individually identified in accordance with the schedule to the health certificate. The Official Veterinarian 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 Official Veterinarian. The terms "direction" and "supervision" are defined in the RCVS Guide to Professional Conduct.

5. SCHEDULES

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

6. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE (FORM 618NDC)

Paragraphs IV (a), IV(b), IV(c) and IV(e) (with regard to area freedom from African swine fever) 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 AHVLA Specialist Service Centre Exports - or issuing office of DARD in Northern Ireland.

7. PREMISES FREEDOM FROM OTHER DISEASES

Paragraph IV (d) refers. OVs should take into account their personal knowledge of the disease status of the premises of origin, if necessary with the support of a written declaration from the person in charge of the animals, confirming freedom from certain diseases.

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

8. PREMISES FREEDOM FROM PORCINE BRUCELLOSIS

OVs may certify paragraph IV (h) on the basis that porcine brucellosis caused by infection by *Brucella suis* has not been recorded in the United Kingdom.

9. APPROVED ISOLATION PREMISES

Paragraph IV (f) refers. The pigs intended for export to the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe must be held in approved isolation facilities, which may be located on the premises of origin, for a period of not less than 30 days immediately prior to embarkation.

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 AHVLA 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.

10. TRANSPORT DECLARATION

Paragraph IV (n) refers. The certifying Official Veterinarian must obtain a written declaration confirming these arrangements from the person in charge of transporting the animals.

The design of the containers, the recommended species requirements and preparation for transport must be in accordance with the recommendations of the OIE International Animal Health Code and International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animal Regulations.

11. **OMISSION OF PARAGRAPH IV 'i'**

The omission of a paragraph IV (i) is deliberate to avoid any confusion between the letter 'i' used alphabetically and 'i' used as a Roman numeral in sub-paragraphs.

12. **DISCLAIMER**

Exporters and certifying OVs must be aware that, whereas export health certificate 7506EHC takes into account the important recommendations by the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) for trade in breeding pigs, it has not been officially agreed with the veterinary authorities of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe.

Accordingly, the exporter and the Official Veterinarian must note that use of 7506EHC is used at the exporter's risk. OVs must ensure that the exporter is aware of this and also of any other issues which may adversely affect the welfare of the consignment throughout its journey and on arrival at the destination port or airport.

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 are available. If official advice is provided by authorities in the importing country or if an import permit is provided, the exporter must copy these to the AHVLA Specialist Service Centre Exports.

If the advice or the permit does not match the assurances provided on 7506EHC, the exporter should contact the AHVLA Specialist Service Centre Exports via the link below:

<http://animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/about/contact-us/tradeexports.html>

If there is any doubt that the exported animals may not be permitted entry to the destination country, dispatch of the consignment from the UK must be delayed until the necessary assurances have been received.

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 AHVLA Specialist Service Centre Exports - Hadrian House, Wavell Drive, Rosehill Industrial Estate, Carlisle, CA1 2TB, via the link below:

<http://animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/about/contact-us/tradeexports.html>

