

**EXPORT OF BREEDING PIGS TO BAHAMAS**

**NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS**

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**IMPORTANT NOTE**

These notes are not intended to operate as a standalone document but must be read in conjunction with Export Health Certificate 7119EHC.

We would also strongly advise exporters to verify the requirements of the importing country by contacting the appropriate veterinary authorities, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

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**1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE**

Export health certificate 7119EHC may be used for the export of breeding pigs from the United Kingdom to Bahamas.

**2. REQUIREMENT FOR AN IMPORT PERMIT**

The exporter/agent must be aware of the requirements of the importing country and in particular whether or not an import permit is necessary.

The number of any import permit should be entered at 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 the 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.

**4. OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION**

Paragraph I refers. All pigs must be identified in accordance with The Pigs (Records, Identification and Movement) Order 2007. Animals intended for export from the United Kingdom must be marked with an identification mark. 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).

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**

Paragraph I refers. A separate schedule may be used to identify the animals certified. The schedule must contain the same information as that required in paragraph I of the certificate and this paragraph must be annotated "See Attached Schedule". Each page of the schedule must bear a page number and the health certificate reference number and be signed, dated and stamped by the Official Veterinarian. 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. The top stapled 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.

6. **OFFICIAL DISEASE CLEARANCE (FORM 618NDC)**

Paragraphs IV (a) and IV (b), and, in the case of breeding pigs exported from Great Britain, paragraph IV (c) (i) refer. Official Veterinarians may certify these paragraphs on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC issued by Animal Health or DARDNI.

7. **LABORATORY TESTS**

Samples must be sent for testing to the laboratories of the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA). The majority of pre-export tests are carried out at the Veterinary Laboratory Agency (VLA) New Haw, Weybridge, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 3NB, Tel:01932 357335). Some tests are carried out at the regional VLA laboratories. For operational reasons however, the laboratories involved may change periodically.

Accordingly, Official Veterinarians are advised to check with the VLA to determine to which laboratories samples should be sent for testing. Samples should always be received in advance of the export date. 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, Official Veterinarians should seek the advice of the relevant laboratory.

8. **TRANSPORT DECLARATION**

Paragraph IV (e) 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. Please refer to paragraph 12 of these notes for further guidance.

10. **COMPLETION OF THE CERTIFICATE AND RETURN OF CERTIFIED COPY**

Official Veterinarians must sign and stamp the health certificate with the Official Veterinarian stamp in ink of any colour other than black.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to Animal Health Central Operations for Export at Carlisle within seven days of signing, or in the case of Northern Ireland to DARD, Dundonald House, Belfast.

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

11. **DISCLAIMER**

The DEFRA disclaimer (Form 372DMR) will be issued to the exporter with this certificate for 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 Central Operations for Exports in Carlisle via the link below:

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

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 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](mailto:CentralOps.Carlisle@AnimalHealth.gsi.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01228 403600  
Fax: 01228 591900

Or via the links below:

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

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

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

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