

**EXPORT OF CATTLE TO NORTHERN IRELAND FOR IMMEDIATE SLAUGHTER**

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

**Associated Documents:** 2105EHC, 618NDC

**Note:** Exporters are advised to consult the Import Permit to be obtained from DAERA (Northern Ireland) for any additional import requirements.

1. **IMPORTED CATTLE**

With the exception of cattle in transit from another Member State to Northern Ireland accompanied by a valid health certificate listing the premises of destination in Northern Ireland, cattle imported from Member States must be accompanied on re-export for immediate slaughter by certificate 2105EHC. It is a legal requirement for the original import health certificate to remain at the address in Great Britain to which the animals were consigned, for one year from the date of import. In case of cattle imported to a market or collection centre, a validated copy of the export health certificate which accompanied animals entering Great Britain may be used to support the health assurances relating to cattle exported to Northern Ireland.

2. Paragraph I refers. The number of animals should be completed in letters and figures.

3. **IDENTIFICATION MARKS**

Paragraph II refers. Cattle born after 1.1.1998 must be tagged in both ears with the holding number and an individual number so that the individual animals can be readily identified as being those described on the accompanying health certificate. Cattle born before 1.1.1998 must bear at least one ear tag with the holding number and the individual number on the animal.

4. **SCHEDULES**

Paragraph II refers. A separate schedule may be used to identify the animals certified. This schedule must contain the same information as that required in paragraph II, and paragraph II 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 II should be deleted with diagonal lines.

5. **AGE**

Paragraph II refers. OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN's should note that the date of birth of the animals exported must be given at paragraph II on the attached schedule.

6. **EXAMINATION**

Paragraph V(a) refers. The examination should be carried out within 24 hours of loading. Infectious and contagious disease includes infestation with external parasites and active lesions of ringworm.

7. **DISEASE CLEARANCE**

**Tuberculosis**

The Northern Ireland import permit requires cattle to originate from Officially Tuberculosis Free (OTF) herds. For the purposes of the certificate, OTF means any herd which is not under whole herd (TB2) restrictions. Therefore, cattle cannot be exported via *slaughter markets\** which admit cattle from TB restricted herds, even if the cattle intended for export originate from OTF herds. This is because such a market or 'gathering' will not be 'OTF'. However, this restriction only applies to gatherings or markets receiving cattle from TB restricted herds on the day.

**NOTE: Animals not subject to individual TB (i.e. TB34) restrictions can be certified for export as long as the herd of origin is not under TB2 restrictions.**

**Brucellosis**

The Northern Ireland import permit requires cattle to originate from Officially Brucellosis Free (OBF) herds. For the purposes of the certificate, OBF means any herd which is not under whole herd (BS2) restrictions. In the case of cattle exported directly from markets, the Officially Brucellosis Free (OBF) status of the holding(s) of origin may need to be ascertained if domestic policy allows animals from BS2 restricted herds to be moved to markets..

**NOTE: Animals not subject to individual Brucellosis (i.e. BS26/27) restrictions can be certified for export as long as the herd of origin is not under BS2 restrictions.**

**FMD vaccination**

OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN's may certify paragraph V(c) on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained from the local AHVLA office in form 618NDC.

8. **STANDSTILL**

Their current import licence does not specify any standstill requirement. Therefore, exports to NI from dedicated cattle slaughter markets are possible.

9. **DESTINATION OF THE ANIMALS**

Cattle certified on health certificate 2105EHC must be consigned for immediate slaughter to a meat plant/abattoir in Northern Ireland. The address of the premises must be stated at paragraph IV (b). If the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN has any reason to doubt the validity of the stated destination, the local APHA office should be consulted.

10. **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>

11. **CERTIFICATION BY OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN**

This certificate may be signed by an Official Veterinarian appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Scottish Government, Welsh Government, who is an Official Veterinarian (OV) on the appropriate panel for export purposes. 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).

If the consignment date/time of departure has changed significantly, or a different vehicle is used, the exporter should contact the APHA CSC, 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 on OIE and IATA transport recommendations may be obtained from:

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>