

EXPORT OF BREEDING PIGS TO THE GAMBIA - 7456EHC

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT NOTE

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV's) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7456EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7456EHC.

Exporters are strongly advised to verify the requirements of the importing country by contacting the veterinary authorities, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 7456EHC may be used for the export of breeding pigs from the United Kingdom to The Gambia.

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 Rural Directorate, the Welsh Government Department for Rural Affairs 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 any ink 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 - at Carlisle 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 given in the health certificate at paragraph III.(d).

4. OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION

Paragraph I refers: All pigs in GB 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 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 must also include an individual animal number. (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. 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 and must be signed, dated and stamped by the Official Veterinarian (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 paragraph I must be deleted with diagonal lines.

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

Paragraph IV.(a) and, in the case of pigs exported from Great Britain, paragraph IV.(f) (first option) refers: OVs may certify paragraphs IV.(a) and IV.(f) on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the AHVLA Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle or issuing office of DARD in Northern Ireland.

7. **PREMISES FREEDOM FROM OTHER DISEASES**

Paragraphs IV.(b), IV.(c), IV.(d) and, in the case of pigs exported from Northern Ireland, IV.(f)(i), refer: Official Veterinarians 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 Official Veterinarians should also carry out appropriate checks of the farm records including use of medicines, fertility and birth records to verify freedom from the named diseases.

8. **LABORATORY TESTS**

Paragraph IV.(e) and, in the case of pigs exported from Northern Ireland, paragraph IV.(f) (ii) refer: The OV must ensure that any laboratory carrying out pre-export testing is officially approved for this purpose by Defra or DARD.

In Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland), the majority of pre-export testing is carried out at the AHVLA Laboratory, New Haw, Weybridge, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 3NB, (Tel: 01932 341111). Some tests are carried out at VLA Lasswade, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik, Midlothian, EH26 0PZ, (Tel: 0131 445 6169). Certain specialist tests are carried out at regional AHVLA laboratories.

In Northern Ireland, the majority of pre-export testing is carried out at the Veterinary Sciences Division (VSD) Laboratory, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3SD (tel: 028 9052 0011).

For operational reasons however, the laboratories involved may change periodically. Accordingly, the OV is advised to check with the AHVLA or VSD to determine to which laboratories samples should be sent for testing. Samples should always be sent to the laboratory concerned sufficiently in advance of the export date to enable the tests to be carried out and reported. 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, the OV should seek the advice of the relevant laboratory.

9. TRANSPORT DECLARATION

Paragraph IV.(k) 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. OMISSION OF PARAGRAPH IV 'i'

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

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 AHVLA Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle, via the link below:

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

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 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>

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