

EXPORT OF BREEDING PIGS TO GHANA - 7245EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV's) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7245EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7245EHC.

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

1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 7245EHC may be used for the export of breeding pigs from the United Kingdom to Ghana.

2. 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. If applicable, the import permit number should be entered in 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 an 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.

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 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 also keep a copy for his/her own records.

4. OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION OF EXPORTED PIGS

Paragraph I refers: All pigs in Great Britain must be identified in accordance with The Pigs (Records, Identification and Movement) Order 2007 or in Northern Ireland the Aujeszky's Disease Order (Northern Ireland) 1994. 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).

OVs must be satisfied that each animal is individually identified in accordance with the schedule to the health certificate. The OV 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 certifying 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 the table in 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 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. **OFFICIAL DISEASE CLEARANCES**

Paragraphs IV(a), IV(c) and IV(f) refer: OVs may certify these paragraphs on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from Animal Health in Great Britain or equivalent in Northern Ireland.

7. **ORIGIN AND RESIDENCY**

Paragraph IV(b) refers: The certifying OV should check farm movement and other records to verify that the animals have been born and raised in the United Kingdom. The OV may also wish the owner / exporter / agent of the exporter to provide a signed statement as additional verification of origin and residency.

8. **PREMISES FREEDOM FROM OTHER DISEASES**

Paragraphs IV(d) (on progressive atrophic rhinitis (toxigenic *Pasteurella multocida* infection)) and IV(g)(ii) (on transmissible gastroenteritis) refer: OVs should take into account their personal knowledge of the disease status of the premises of origin, or isolation premises if different. If necessary, this may be supported by discussion with the local office of Animal Health or DARD.

If necessary OVs should also carry out appropriate checks of the farm records including use of medicines and vaccines and also returns from slaughterhouses to verify freedom from the named diseases.

The certifying OV may also wish the owner / exporter / agent of the exporter to provide a signed statement as further evidence attesting to the freedom of the holding of origin from the diseases listed in these paragraphs.

9. **INCIDENCE OF TRANSMISSIBLE GASTROENTERITIS (TGE) IN THE UNITED KINGDOM**

Paragraph IV(g) (i) refers: While TGE is a notifiable disease in Northern Ireland (NI), TGE is not notifiable in Great Britain (GB). TGE has never been recorded in NI. TGE was last diagnosed in GB in 2001. This information is correct as at the date of these NFG.

If the OV requires an update on the lack of occurrence of TGE in the UK in order to certify this paragraph, the OV should contact DARD in NI or in GB the Animal Health Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle via the link below:

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

10. **SUBMISSION OF TESTS TO GOVERNMENT LABORATORIES**

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 Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) 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 VLA 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 VLA 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.

11. **DISCLAIMER**

The DEFRA 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 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 DARD in NI or in GB the Animal Health Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at 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

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/guidance/index.htm>

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

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