

EXPORT OF BREEDING PIGS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO BRAZIL

HEALTH CERTIFICATE - NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF 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 1604EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 1604EHC.

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 1604EHC may be used for the export of breeding pigs from the United Kingdom to Brazil.

2. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

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 keep a copy for his/her own records.

3. IMPORT PERMIT

The exporter/agent should be aware that prior authorisation from the Brazilian Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply is necessary for exports of breeding pigs to Brazil. The number of the import permit should be entered at paragraph III(d) of the health certificate.

4. OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION

Paragraph I refers: All pigs 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).

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 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 should be deleted with diagonal lines.

6. **COUNTRY DISEASE CLEARANCE**

Paragraphs IV(b), IV(c), IV(d) (i) and IV(e) (regarding vesicular stomatitis) refer: OVs may certify paragraph IV(b) and, in the case of pigs exported from Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland), paragraph IV(d) (i) on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained from on form 618NDC from the local Animal Health Divisional Office (or equivalent in Northern Ireland).

OVs should discuss country freedom from Teschen disease with the local Animal Health Divisional Office (or equivalent in Northern Ireland) before the pigs commence pre-export isolation.

Confirmed clinical evidence of brucellosis or tuberculosis in swine is based on cultural confirmation of the presence of infection with *Brucella abortus*, *B. melitensis* or *B. suis* or *Mycobacterium bovis*.

7. **PREMISES FREEDOM FROM OTHER DISEASES**

Paragraph IV(e) refers: 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.

See paragraph 6 above regarding clearance for vesicular stomatitis. This declaration for vesicular stomatitis is out of place because the Brazilian Authorities have agreed to Export health certificate 1604EHC as it is and to facilitate exports additional changes to the EHC have been postponed.

8. **APPROVED ISOLATION PREMISES**

Paragraph IV(f) refers: The pigs must be held in approved isolation premises for at least 28 days immediately preceding export and must be transported only with animals which comply with Brazilian import conditions.

Premises on the farm of origin can be used for isolation.

The following conditions must be met by the on-farm or other isolation premises before approval is given by the OV. The Animal Health Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle (or equivalent in Northern Ireland) must be consulted in case of any problems.

- (i) The isolation accommodation must comprise of an airspace separate from any airspace in which any other livestock are present and be as remote as practicable from any other livestock accommodation.
- (ii) The interior of the isolation building must be capable of being thoroughly cleansed and disinfected. The building must be cleansed and disinfected using a Defra / DARD approved disinfectant immediately before entry of the animals to be exported.

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- (iii) No drainage or effluent produced by or derived from other livestock may pass through the isolation accommodation.
- (iv) Any person who requires to enter the isolation accommodation must first put on overalls and boots reserved exclusively for use in the isolation accommodation.
- (v) 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.

9. TESTING/TREATMENTS IN ISOLATION

The tests and treatments described at paragraphs IV(g), (h), (i) and (j) and, in the case of pigs exported from Northern Ireland, IV(d)(iii), should not be carried out until the animals have commenced the period of pre-export isolation.

10. TUBERCULIN TESTING

Paragraph IV(g) refers: Exporters and OVs should note that tuberculin testing should not be repeated within 45 days of a previous tuberculin test. Before a pre-export test is carried out, the OV should make due enquiries to ascertain that the animals to be tested have not had a previous test within that period.

Tuberculin Testing Method

The preferable site is the loose skin at the base of each ear. Before proceeding with the test, both injection sites should be checked for the presence of any nodules resulting from previous injections or vaccinations. The site for the injection of avian PPD tuberculin should be the left ear, and the site for the injection of bovine PPD tuberculin should be the right ear.

Each site should be cleaned, the loose skin at the base of the ear raised into a fold and the skin thickness measurement recorded. Standard strength PPD (Weybridge), as issued for cattle, must be used and a dose of 0.1 ml injected intradermally into each raised fold taking care not to inject subcutaneously

A useful aid for subsequently reading the test is, after cleaning, to draw a circle on the skin at each selected site with a black felt-tip pen and the injections are made within the encircled areas.

The owner or stockman who is in charge of the pigs must be told to avoid giving injections to the pigs at the test sites between the initial and reading visits.

Any increase in skin thickness of more than 2mm at the site of injection or any oedema, necrosis or swelling of associated lymph nodes, should be regarded as a positive reaction. If any animal has a reaction at the bovine site greater than at the avian site, the local Animal Health Divisional Office (or equivalent in Northern Ireland) must be informed.

11. SUBMISSION OF SAMPLES FOR LABORATORY TESTING

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.

12. CLINICAL EXAMINATION

The clinical examination referred to at paragraph IV(1) should be carried out within 24 hours of loading.

13. TRANSPORT DECLARATION

Paragraph IV(m) 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 20 of these notes for further guidance.

14. HEALTH CERTIFICATE TO TRANSIT THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

If animals are transiting the European Union, their transit of Member States must be accompanied by the certification appropriate to the Member State from which they exit the Community. The consignee and destination address given on the EC certificate must be the agent handling exit formalities at the port/airport where the animals leave the European Union.

Where appropriate Form 2816EHC (ANIMO certificate of completion of certificate) must be sent by fax to the Animal Health Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle, or in the case of Northern Ireland to DARD, Dundonald House, Belfast, on the day of signature.

A certified copy of the completed and signed health certificate must be sent to Animal Health Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle, or in the case of Northern Ireland to DARD, Dundonald House, Belfast, within 7 working days of signing.

The consignee details and destination address on the ANIMO must be the agent at the port of exit from the European Union. The ANIMO message will then be addressed to the Local Veterinary Unit which is appropriate to the port/airport of exit of the animals from the European Union, either in Great Britain or in another Member State.

15. 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 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>

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

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