

Livestock Export Health Certification (EHC) & Inspection

- Guidance for Exporters -

December 2018

Dear Exporters,

Animal Health wishes to clarify certain issues that have arisen recently.

EHC Request Timescales Reminder:

Application Format	Notice Required
For electronic applications (email)	3 working days
For handwritten applications (postal/fax)	4 working days
For all applications for export to the EU	10 working days

Export Application Form

The application form can be found on our website under the Export pages:
<http://www.gov.im/lib/docs/daff/Cattle/generalexportapplicationform.pdf> or by contacting the Agriculture Directorate.

This form must be completed in all cases except email notification when a spreadsheet can be used to list the required details.

Certificate Validity

An unsigned EHC is valid for 10 days – the Official Vet (OV) may change the inspection date at the first inspection.

A completed EHC, signed by the OV, is valid for 72 hours only.

ANIMAL SCHEDULE

OVs are **not** able to add any animal numbers to the Animal Schedule or change any existing numbers so they represent a different animal – this is because administrative checks completed by the Department prior to issue of the EHC will not have been carried out:

These checks are particularly detailed for cattle involving the 'Bovine, Identification and Traceability System' (BITS) and include:

Residency (30 days for further rearing certs), BVD negative checks, confirmation that the animal is of status 'moveable' (and not restricted from movement for any reason) along with the standard tag number, breed, sex and date of birth checks. Also, pre-1996 cattle can no longer be exported due to DEFRA's decision to impose movement restrictions on all cattle born before 01 August 1996.

ANIMALS WHICH DID NOT TRAVEL

The exporter must inform DEFA of any animals that have been certified but subsequently didn't travel on the load **within 2 working days**. DEFA have to inform the APHA in the UK within 2 working days.

HEALTH RESTRICTIONS

If a TB test has commenced, no animal from that holding can be exported until such time as the TB test has been completed satisfactorily.

Only cattle with a BVD result of Negative can be exported; those with a status of Unknown or Positive cannot be exported.

Transport of Horned Cattle

Horned cattle should be kept separate for travel, unless they are part of a known, compatible group and accustomed to each other; where separation would cause distress and they can be transported safely in a group or where animals are accompanied by dependent young.

Transport of Calves

- A calf is defined by EU law as a bovine animal of six months of age or less.
- A calf with a navel which is not completely healed is considered unfit for transport.
- Calves of less than 10 days of age may only travel for a maximum of 100km (approximately 62 miles); the Regulation regards them as unfit for longer journeys.
- Calves aged 14 days or less must be accompanied by their mother on journeys of over eight hours.

Transport of pregnant cows and cows which have recently given birth

- Cows in the last 10% of pregnancy (approximately 27 days), or that have given birth in the last week, are considered not fit for transport, and are also unfit for presentation at a market.
- When cows "in milk" are transported without their suckling young, they must be milked at intervals of no longer than 12 hours.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION

Please ensure you are able to provide this information at the time of inspection; as this must be completed by the OV at the time of certification.

CATTLE PASSPORTS

It is the exporter's responsibility to ensure the correct passport accompanies the animal. Cattle with mismatched passports found at destination, or later, create serious problems.

EHC CHANGES

Changes to the certificate requested by the exporter (i.e. animals, consignor, consignee and transporter details) after the certificate has been issued, necessitate a reprint by DEFA and will incur a charge to the exporter.

Please contact the Animal Health team if you need any further clarity or information.

Kind Regards

Animal Health team