



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

## APHA Briefing Note 26/22

# Equine Export Health Certificates 8431 and 8432 Clarification and A New Requirement

Date issued: 12 July 2022

## Purpose

1. To clarify the meanings of:
  - a. “...48-hour period or on the last working day prior to departure..” for physical examinations; and
  - b. “...day of loading or on the last working day before loading...” for issue of the certificate

contained within Export Health Certificate [8431](#) and [8432](#).

2. To notify of a change to EHCs for exports to the EU and movements to Northern Ireland effective from 26<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

## Background

### Clarification of Physical Examination and Certificate Issue Dates

3. Export Health Certificates 8431 and 8432 currently contain two distinct time periods for physical examination of the horse and issue of the certificate.
4. Physical examination of an unregistered horse must be completed within 48 hours prior to departure. Physical examination of a registered horse must be completed within 48 hours or on the last working day prior to departure. Therefore, a clinical examination can be performed up to 48 hours before loading, which includes the last working day. For example:

- a. For a horse being exported on a Wednesday, the clinical examination can take place on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday (although the timing on the Monday must not exceed 48 hours to the time of loading on Wednesday).
  - b. For a horse being loaded for export at 1pm on a Monday, the examination can take place on the Monday (or preceding Sunday or after 1pm on Saturday), as this is within 48 hours of loading or, for a registered horse, after 1pm on the last working day, being the preceding Friday.
5. For both registered and unregistered horse the certificate must be issued (signed) on the day of loading or on the last working day before loading (being within 24 hours of departure - without counting non-working hours). For example:
  - a. For a horse being exported on a Wednesday, the certificate can be issued on Tuesday or Wednesday (provided the timing on the Tuesday does not exceed 24 hours before departure on the Wednesday).
  - b. For a horse being loaded for export at 1pm on a Monday, the certificate can be issued on the Monday (or preceding Saturday or Sunday) or after 1pm on the last working day, being the preceding Friday.
6. The dates for the physical examination and the issue of the certificate can be the same day, or separate days, provided each falls within the applicable time limits.
7. OV's should be aware that despite the disparity in these two timings it is not permissible to sign an EHC with a date in the future e.g. if undertaking the physical examination on a Monday and at the same time signing the EHC with a date of the Tuesday or Wednesday for export on a Wednesday. The date entered onto the EHC must be the date of physical signing.

#### Upcoming Changes to EHCs for Equines exported to the EU or moved to Northern Ireland

8. From 26<sup>th</sup> July 2022 traders will need to use updated versions of Export Health certificate (EHC) 8431 and 8432 for equines exported from GB to the EU or moved to Northern Ireland.
9. The new certificate stipulates that physical inspection of an unregistered horse must take place within 24 hours of the departure of the animal from the registered establishment. Physical examination of a registered horse may still be completed within 48 hours of, or on the last working day, prior to departure.
10. The new certificate also stipulates that the certificate must be issued (signed) within the period of 10 days prior to the date of arrival of the consignment at the border control post. Where transportation is by sea, this period may be extended by an additional period corresponding to the duration of the journey by sea.

## Further Information

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