



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 28/24

Ban on the export of livestock and horses for slaughter and fattening – new legislation now in force.

Date issued: 25 July 2024

Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) located in England, Scotland and Wales that the Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Act came into force on **22nd July 2024** and **it is now an offence to export livestock and horses for slaughter and fattening from Great Britain.**

OVs should be aware that the ban does not apply to exports for other purposes, such as breeding or competitions, nor to exports of other species such as poultry.

2. New Export Health Certificate Notes for Guidance have been published for any certificates pertaining to the export of livestock for fattening. All certificates for slaughter have been limited to movements to Northern Ireland, and the corresponding Notes for Guidance have been amended.

Background

3. The Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Act 2024 makes it an offence to export livestock and horses for slaughter and fattening, beginning in or transiting through Great Britain to another country. Thereby stopping the stress, exhaustion and injury caused by this unnecessary trade.
4. The legislation also ensures that animals are slaughtered domestically, in high welfare UK slaughterhouses; preventing the export to unknown and possibly lower welfare slaughterhouse conditions.

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

5. The ban applies to:
 - cattle and other bovines (such as bison or buffalo)
 - horses and other equines (such as ponies, donkeys, and mules)
 - sheep and goats
 - pigs, and wild boar.

6. The ban **does not** apply to livestock and horse movements **within the UK**, and does not apply to exports for other purposes, such as breeding, competition, racing and scientific purposes, nor to exports of other live animals, such as poultry. The **ban does not apply in Northern Ireland**.

Action

OVs involved in live animal exports should be aware that **it is now an offence to export livestock and horses for slaughter and fattening** and should familiarise themselves with the new Export Health Certificate Notes for Guidance.

Further Information

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