



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

## APHA Briefing Note 29/22

# Equine Export Health Certificates 8431 and 8432 Clarification on timeframes for physical examination and issue of certificate

Date issued: 16 August 2022

## Purpose

1. To clarify the meanings of timeframes for physical examination and issue of certificate for export to the EU.

## Background

### Clarification of Physical Examination and Certificate Issue Dates

2. Export Health Certificates 8431 and 8432 currently contain two distinct time periods for physical examination of the horse and issue of the certificate.
3. Physical examination of an **unregistered horse** must be completed within 24 hours of the departure of the animal from the registered establishment<sup>1</sup>. Example:
  - a. For an equine leaving a registered establishment at 10:00am on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May, it must have the physical examination between 10:00am on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May and the time of departure on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May.
  - b. For an equine leaving a registered establishment at 10:00am on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, it must have the physical examination between 10:00am on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May and the time of departure on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

<sup>1</sup> Registered establishment refers to the premises/establishment from which the equine is exported from and that it has a registered CPH ("County Parish Holding") issued by the Competent Authority (Animal and Plant Health Agency, or Rural Payment Wales for Welsh keepers).

4. Physical examination of a **registered horse** must be completed within 48 hours of, or on the last working day, prior to departure from the registered establishment. 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 leaving a registered establishment at 10:00am on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May, the clinical examination must take place between 10:00am on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May and the time of departure on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May.
  - b. For a horse leaving a registered establishment at 10:00am on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, the examination can take place between 10:00am on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April (being the last working day before departure) and the time of departure on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May.
5. For both registered and unregistered horses 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.
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, and that the certificate is not issued (signed) before the physical examination has taken place.
7. OVs 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.

## Examples:

- The date of arrival for an equine at an EU Border Control Post is 15<sup>th</sup> August.
  - The equine is leaving the registered establishment on 12<sup>th</sup> August.
  - The physical examination must take place on either 11<sup>th</sup> August (unregistered horse) or 10<sup>th</sup> August (or last working day if registered horse) – being within 24 hours or 48 hours/last working day of departure (as applicable for registered/unregistered).

<sup>1</sup> Registered establishment refers to the premises/establishment from which the equine is exported from and that it has a registered CPH ("County Parish Holding") issued by the Competent Authority (Animal and Plant Health Agency, or Rural Payment Wales for Welsh keepers).

- The EHC must be issued (signed) on or after 11<sup>th</sup> August (unregistered horse), or 10<sup>th</sup> August (or last working day if registered horse) – being within 10 days of arrival at the EU Border Control Post (subject to extension for sea journeys).
- The date of arrival for an equine at an EU Border Control Post is 15<sup>th</sup> August,
  - The equine is leaving the registered establishment on 5<sup>th</sup> August.
  - The physical examination must take place on either 4<sup>th</sup> August (unregistered horse) or 3<sup>rd</sup> August (or last working day if registered horse) – being within 24 hours or 48 hours/last working day of departure (as applicable for registered/unregistered).
  - The EHC must be issued (signed) on or after 5<sup>th</sup> August – being within 10 days of arrival at the EU Border Control Post (subject to extension for sea journeys).

## Further Information

- APHA's Centre for International Trade – Carlisle, email: [exports@apha.gov.uk](mailto:exports@apha.gov.uk)  
Telephone: 03000 300 201

<sup>1</sup> Registered establishment refers to the premises/establishment from which the equine is exported from and that it has a registered CPH ("County Parish Holding") issued by the Competent Authority (Animal and Plant Health Agency, or Rural Payment Wales for Welsh keepers).