



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Intra-Union Trade in Cats, Dogs and Ferrets

Notes for Guidance for the Official Veterinarian (OV) and Exporters

November 2017



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Cats-Dogs-Ferrets-NFG

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1. Scope

The following key documents must be read and understood prior to completing and signing the Intra-Trade Animal Health Certificate (ITAHC) for cats, dogs and ferrets for trade purposes.

- Cats-Dogs-Ferrets-NFG - this document
- Cats-Dogs-Ferrets-CKL - checklist procedures

The movement of cats, dogs and ferrets is governed by two regimes, the Balai Directive (92/65/EEC (as amended) for what are termed '**trade**' movements' and the Pet Travel Regulation (576/2013/EEC) for cats, dogs and ferrets that comply with pet cats, dogs and ferrets requirements. It is important that cats, dogs and ferrets travel under the correct regime for the type of movement.

The ITAHC 92/65 E1 covers the trade movement for intra-Union trade in cats, dogs and ferrets as laid down in Directive 92/65/EEC (as amended). It also covers:

- the movement of 'rescued' cats, dogs and ferrets for rehoming, in any numbers greater or lesser than five, see section 3 below.
- pet animals that are not able to fulfil the requirement of the Pet Travel regulation for travelling within five days of their owner or owner's representative.

This ITAHC **does not cover movement of pet animals that comply with the Pet Travel regulation (576/2013/EEC)** i.e. five or fewer cats, dogs or ferrets, being accompanied by their owner or owner's representative within five days of movement, and not intended to be sold or transferred to another owner or travelling with evidence of registration at a competition or event. Information for these movements can be found at: [Pet Travel - Information for pet owners](#)

These conditions apply to Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

2. Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013

Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 stipulates that the maximum number of pet animals accompanying their owner or an authorised person on a single movement must not exceed five (5). However, it also allows for a derogation to the number of animals to exceed five providing:

- The purpose of the movement is for participating in competitions, exhibitions or sporting events or training for such events;
- The owner or authorised person submits written evidence that the animals are registered either to attend an event listed above or with an association organising such events.

The pet animals must be:

- (a) more than six months old;
- (b) accompanied by their PETS passport;

Note - Pet animals exceeding the number allowed under the condition above and which do not meet the conditions of the derogation must be treated as a ‘**Trade**’ Movement’ and should fully comply with the requirements laid down in Directive 92/65/EEC (as amended). The pet animals moved under the trade rules may also be subjected to checks at destination, See section 4 below.

3. Animals moved under change of ownership

Animal moves involving a change of ownership, including rescue animals, within the EU or to and from third countries for rehoming are not classed as pets but as trade movements.

4. Traded animals (cats, dogs and ferrets)

The animals must come from premises registered under Article 4 of the Balai Directive 92/65/EEC, as amended and accompanied by ITAHC (Annex EI) which must confirm that a clinical examination was carried out 48 hours before the dispatch of the animals by a veterinarian authorised by the competent authority showing the animals to be fit for travel and in good health.

Exporters who wish to apply for their premises to become registered should contact Centre for International Trade (CIT), Carlisle.

5. Completion of the Checklist (Cats-Dogs-Ferrets-CKL)

Before signing the Intra Trade Animal Health Certificate (ITAHC), the Official Veterinarian must be satisfied that all of the relevant requirements of the Directive 92/65/EEC have been met. These requirements are covered in the checklist, **Cats-Dogs-Ferrets-CKL**.

(a) Question 1 (a): Welfare Inspection (ITAHC II.1)

The examination should take place within 48 hours of the intended time of departure.

Council Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport Article 3 lays down the provisions with respect to fitness of animals to be transported on the intended journey. Annex I, Chapter I states that:

No animal shall be transported unless it is fit for the intended journey and all animals shall be transported in conditions guaranteed not to cause them injury or unnecessary suffering.

Animals that are injured or that present physiological weakness or pathological processes shall not be considered fit for transport if:

- they are unable to move independently without pain or to walk unassisted;
- they present a severe open wound, or prolapse;
- they are pregnant females for whom 90% or more of the expected gestation period has already passed, or females which have given birth in the previous week;
- they are new-born mammals in which the navel has not completely healed;

- they are dogs and cats of less than 8 weeks of age, unless they are accompanied by their mother;

However, sick or injured animals may be considered fit if they are:

- slightly injured or ill and transport would not cause unnecessary suffering;
- transported for scientific research purposes approved by the competent authority;
- transported under veterinary supervision for or following veterinary treatment or diagnosis;

However, such transport shall be permitted only where no unnecessary suffering or ill treatment is caused to the animals concerned;

[The Welfare of Animals \(Transport\) \(England\) Order 2006](#) and parallel legislation in Scotland, Wales and N. Ireland implement the Regulation in the UK.

Exporters and traders must comply with the British welfare laws relating to the export and trade of animals. If transported by air, animals should be transported in accordance with International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards.

Further information about the necessary requirements may be obtained from the Animal Welfare Team at any of the offices mentioned below.

England, Scotland and Wales Welfare in Transport Team at the APHA

Customer Service Centre at Carlisle, via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency>

Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Ballymiscaw, Belfast, BT4 3SB.

DAERA helpline number 0300 200 7852.

DAERA helpline email – daera.helpline@daera-ni.gov.uk

DAERA Textphone 028 9052 4420

(b) Question 1(b): Identification (ITAHC I.31 cats, dogs and ferrets))

The method of identification for cats, dogs and ferrets is implantation of a microchip or a clearly readable tattoo applied before 31 July 2011. The microchip should:

- comply with ISO standard 11784 and apply HDX or FDX-B technology; and
- be capable of being read by a reading device comparable with ISO Standard 11785

If the transponder does not comply with the above the owner or the authorised person must supply a reading device for reading the transponder to enable verification of the marking.

A clearly readable tattoo may also be a possible means of identification for cats, dogs and ferrets only if the tattoo is applied before 3 July 2011. The animal must be identified prior to receiving its rabies vaccination.

(c) Question 1(c): Identification – passport (ITAHC I.31 and II.2 (b) cats and dogs)

Each cat, dog and ferret must be accompanied by its own valid passport in accordance with the model for European Union Member State laid down in Annex III Part I and II of [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) No 577/2013](#) or the model in Commission Decision/2003/803/EC if issued prior to 29th December 2014

Passports issued prior to 29 December 2014 remain valid for the lifetime of the pet or until all the treatment spaces are filled.

All relevant sections of the passport must be completed – Guidance on completion of the passport together with notes can be found at [EU Pet Travel Scheme: The New Passport](#) OVAs are required to keep records of passports issued for a minimum period of three years, which must include:

- the passport number
- the location of transponder or tattoo and number as well as the date of application or reading of that number
- pet's name, species, breed, sex, colour, date of birth as stated by owner and any other notable characteristics
- name and contact information of the owner.

(d) Question 2: Registration (ITAHC II.1 –dogs, cats and ferrets)

The premises of origin must be registered with the Competent Authority of origin in accordance with Article 4 of Directive 92/65/EEC as amended.

(e) Question 3: Tapeworm treatment (ITAHC II.2 (e) dogs)

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 1152/2011 establishes preventative measures for the control of *Echinococcus multilocularis* infection in dogs.

If the dogs are moving to a Member State or part thereof listed in Part A Annex I of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 1152/2011, currently being the UK, Finland, Ireland and Malta (as well as Norway), the dogs must have been treated for *Echinococcus multilocularis* if coming from or transiting a country not on that list.

The treatment must contain Praziquantel, or an equivalent product that meets the requirements of Article 7 of Regulation 1152/2011

This treatment must be carried out not less than 24 hours and not more than 120 hours prior to arrival and must be documented in the relevant section of the pet passport.

(f) Question 4: Specific requirements (ITAHC II.2 (c) cats, dogs and ferrets)

Rabies Vaccination:

Each animal must be vaccinated using an inactivated vaccine of at least one antigenic unit per dose (WHO standard) or a recombinant vaccine expressing the immunising glycoprotein of the rabies virus in a live virus vector.

The vaccination protocol and periods of validity stipulated by the vaccine manufacturer in the country in which the vaccine is/was administered take precedence and must be adhered to. If it cannot be confirmed that the animal is being dispatched within the validity period of a previous vaccination, the animal must be considered to be unvaccinated and the vaccination must be administered as if it were the animal's primary vaccination and 21 days must elapse before arrival at the destination.

All dogs, cats and ferrets must be at least 12 weeks old at the time of vaccination.

The full details of the validity requirements for anti-rabies vaccinations can be found in Annex III of [Regulation \(EU\) No 576/2013](#)

Unvaccinated animals under three months of age:

Member States may authorise the movement of cats, dogs and ferrets into their territory from another MS if they are:

- Either less than 12 weeks old and **have not** received an anti-rabies vaccination; or
- Between 12 and 16 weeks old and **have** received an anti-rabies vaccination, but do not yet meet the validity requirements referred to in point 2(e) Annex III of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013.

MSs making use of this derogation are required to notify the Commission and publicise eligibility on their websites. Further information is available at https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/pet-movement/eu-legislation/young-animals_en and you must confirm that the country of destination and any countries through which the animal will transit are prepared to accept the movement. If the destination MS does not accept unvaccinated animals, the second option at II.2 (c) must be deleted along with its sub options (i) and (ii)

Exemptions from rabies vaccination:

Article 7 of Regulation (EC) 576/2013 allows Member States to exempt each other, under their national rules, from the rabies vaccination for accompanied pet animals described above only if:

either

- (a) the owner/authorised person provides signed declaration that since birth until the time of movement the pet animals has not come in contact with any animal susceptible to rabies; or
- (b) they are accompanied by their mother on whom they still depend and the identification accompanying their mother shows that before their birth the mother received an anti-rabies vaccination complying with the validity requirements in Annex III of Regulation (EC) 576/2013.

6. Completion of ITAHC: Specific Guidance

PART I of ITAHC

(a) Box I.31 of the ITAHC – Identification of the Animals

All the fields in Box I.31 of Part I must be completed with the following information:

- Species
- Identification system
- Identification number
- Passport Number
- Age
- Quantity
- sex (female, male, castrated)

The Official Veterinarian must be satisfied that the animals are suitably identified in accordance with the details recorded in Part I.31 of the health certificate. The “Official Veterinarian (NOT someone in the employment of the exporter, transporter or agent) is responsible for verifying the identification marks and other details of each animal included in the certificate.

PART II of ITAHC – Health Information

(b) **Paragraph II.2 of the ITAHC – Ruminant animals, Birds and lagomorphs (Specific Certification)**

These Paragraphs do not apply to the intra-Union trade in cats, dogs or ferrets and **must be deleted**.

(c) **Paragraph II.2 of the ITAHC –Cats, Dogs and Ferrets (Specific Certification)**

There are two possible statements which can be certified under this paragraph. The animals in the consignment must comply with either Articles 6 and 17(1) OR 7 (for unvaccinated animals) and 17(1) of Council Regulation (EC) 576/2013. **Question 4 of Cats-Dogs-Ferrets- CKL** may be certified if the answer is **Yes**

Articles 6(b) and 7 relate to the requirements and options for rabies vaccination, as well as the rules governing the movement of animals under three months of age. **Question 4 of Cats-Dogs-Ferrets- CKL** may be certified if the answer is **Yes**

Article 6(c) refers to preventative health measures for diseases other than rabies (treatment against tapeworms (dogs only) in accordance with Regulation (EU) 1152/2011. **Question 3 of Cats-Dogs-Ferrets-CKL** may be ticked and the ITAHC may be certified if the answer is **Yes**

The statement certified will depend on the species of animal and the destination member state. **The statement which does not apply must be deleted**.

(d) **Paragraph II.3 of the ITAHC – Additional Guarantees**

No additional guarantees are currently required. This paragraph **must be deleted**.

(e) **Stamp and Signature**

Having completed all the checks, ensuring the ITAHC is fully completed and all the appropriate deletions and/or additions have been made, the Official Veterinarian must sign and stamp the ITAHC with the Official Veterinarian’s official stamp in ink of any **colour other than black**. The completed ITAHC will accompany the consignment to its final destination.

7. Notification to CSC, Carlisle of Completion and Signature/ Amendment of ITAHC

Official Veterinarians must notify the Customer Service Centre, Carlisle that an ITAHC has been completed and signed. Completed copies of the following documents must be emailed (preferred option) or faxed to CSC, Carlisle within one working day following signature of the ITAHC:

- Part I of the ITAHC (indicating any amendments)
- Completed Part II of the ITAHC

8. Certified Copies of ITAHCs

Official Veterinarians should make at least one photocopy of the completed (i.e. signed and stamped) ITAHC and endorse the front of each copy with “Certified copy” and their initials. One copy should be retained by the Official Veterinarian for record purposes for a minimum of one year. Where it is not possible to email a copy of the ITAHC to CSC, Carlisle on the same day on which the ITAHC is signed, the Official Veterinarian should make an additional photocopy and ensure this is delivered to CSC, Carlisle on the same day on which the ITAHC is signed. However, where this requirement for photocopying is likely to give rise to considerable practical difficulties, the OV should contact CSC, Carlisle for advice.

9. Notification of cancellation or changes

If the consignment is

- cancelled, or
- its date/time of departure has changed significantly, or
- a different vehicle is used, or
- all the animals are not loaded,

the exporter must notify CSC, Carlisle by fax or email, giving details of changes, so that a replacement TRACES message can be sent.