Intra-Union Trade in Registered equidae, equidae for breeding and production equidae for slaughter (Moving under Annex III of 2009/156/EC)

Notes for Guidance of Official Veterinarians and Consignors (Exporters)

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1. Key Documents

The following document must be read and understood prior to completing and signing the Intra-trade Animal Health Certificate for registered equidae, equidae for breeding and production equidae for slaughter (Moving under Annex III of 2009/156/EC).

- Equine NFG - registered equidae, equidae for breeding and production equidae for slaughter

2. Notifiable Disease Clearance

Official Veterinarians (OV) may certify the following paragraphs of the ITAHC on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained from Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), Centre for International Trade (CIT)–Exports Carlisle, on form TRACES-NDC;

- Part II Paragraph (3) (1st sentence) of the ITAHC

- Part II Paragraph (5)
  1st main option, but only in relation to the health status of the holding of origin, (refer to ITAHC 1.12), in respect of the specific prohibitions listed. The OV must make due enquiry about any possible contact between the equid to be exported and equidae from other holdings subject to animal health prohibitions, in order to be satisfied that s/he can certify all of this paragraph.
  In the case of dourine, restrictions (prohibitions) should apply for 6 months from the date of confirmation (rather than from when the disease was suspected) and the 1st sub option in paragraph II.5 (a) may be certified. Please delete the 2nd sub option referring to a stallion being castrated.

  2nd main option to be deleted.

  In case one of the diseases listed here is confirmed in the UK, this guidance will be updated.

The TRACES-NDC must bear the same certificate reference number and the ITAHC to which it relates.

3. Scope

The ITAHC, which is based on Annex III of 2009/156 (Registered equidae, equidae for breeding and production equidae for slaughter), may be used for more than one equid provided that each animal is uniquely identified in Part I Box I.31.

Under this ITAHC exporters have the option to move more than one registered equid on the same certificate. If exporters choose to use this option then the registered
equid will have to meet/move under the conditions of Annex III i.e. the registered equid will need to be re-certified if it is intended for further EU movement (including return to the UK). In other words, the original Annex III ITAHC will no longer be valid for these movements (in the same way that an Annex II ITAHC or attestation would be).

Chapter 1, Articles 2(c), (d) and (e) of EU Council Directive 2009/156/EC, state:

(c) “registered equidae” means any equidae registered as defined in Council Directive 90/427/EEC of 26 June 1990 on the zootechnical and genealogical conditions governing intra-Community trade in equidae identified by means of an identification document issued by:

(i) the breeding authority or any other competent authority of the country where the animal originated which manages the studbook or register for that breed of animal; or

(ii) any international association or organisation which manages horses for competition or racing;

(d) “equidae for slaughter” means equidae intended to be transported either directly or after transit through a market or an approved marshalling centre, referred to in Article 7 to the slaughterhouse for slaughter”.

(e) “equidae for breeding and production” means equidae other than “registered equidae” and “equidae for slaughter” as defined in Article 2(c) and (d) of EU Council Directive 2009/156/EC or “equidae for slaughter”.

Tripartite Agreement (TPA)

A revised Tripartite Agreements (TPA) came into force on 18 May 2014. Under the revised TPA movement of horses between the UK (which now include the Channel Islands and Isle of Man)) and Republic of Ireland remain unchanged. This means that equidae can continue to move freely except for those moving for slaughter.

Changes to the TPA affect movement of equidae between the UK and France and between France and Republic of Ireland The new agreement limit eligibility of the TPA to only include certain categories of horses.

Under the revised agreement movements between the UK and France are limited to:

- Thoroughbreds used for racing, breeding, in training or moving to a sale. Sporting horses competing in Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) sponsored competition;
- Horses registered on the Weatherbys Non Thoroughbreds Register or Autre Que Pur Sang (AQPS) horses for breeding, sale, training and racing in France.

Only horses with ‘higher health status’ accompanied by a Commercial Document (DOCOM) together with their passport may be moved between UK/Ireland and France (TPA signatory Member States). The DOCOM which will contain the identification details of the horse will need to be notified through the TRACES system.
This procedure will be managed by the TPA approved bodies. Their contact details can be found on the list in Appendix II of the new TPA.

Equidae travelling between the UK and France, or Ireland and France that do not qualify as being of high health status under the control of an Approved TPA body MUST fully comply with the requirements of Council Directive 2009/156/EC.

Any equidae destined for slaughter MUST be accompanied by a passport as well as Annex III ITAHC.

4. Official Identification

(a) All equidae intended for intra-Union trade must be uniquely identified by a valid passport (and a microchip in the case of equidae born or identified for the first time on or after 1 July 2009) in accordance with Council Directive 2009/156/EC and Regulation (EC) No. 504/2008.

In Great Britain, this aspect of the Directive and the Regulation is implemented by the Horse Passports Regulations 2009, the Horse Identification (Scotland) Regulations 2009 and the Equine Identification (Wales) Regulations 2009, as appropriate.

The passport must accompany the animal during consignment. Section IX must be present in the passport but does not have to have been signed before departure.

The passport number must be clearly entered in Part I Box I.31. The species, breed, age and sex of the animal may also be entered.

OVs must:

- not certify any equidae for intra-Union trade unless they have seen a valid passport which matches the equid presented;
- check that the passport complies with the format specified in the passport legislation;
- in cases where a valid passport is not available, return the export health certificate (not certified) to CIT Exports, Carlisle within one working day and annotate it to say that it could not be certified because a passport was not seen or because the passport did not match the equid presented and inform the exporter that APHA may decide to pass this information to the local authority.

5. Specific Guidance

(a) Part II Paragraph (1)

The clinical examination must be carried out within 48 hours of loading.

(b) Part II Paragraph (4)
There is no African horse sickness (AHS) vaccine licensed for use within the UK. Imported equidae vaccinated against AHS may have their vaccination history detailed within the owner’s records as well as perhaps a brand mark.

Certification as to the non-vaccination status of imported equidae should be based on an owner’s declaration.

(c) Part II Paragraph (6)

Article 4.2 of Council Directive 2009/156/EC laying down the rules for intra-Union trade and import of equidae states that:

“Without prejudice to the requirements of paragraph 5 (of Article 4.2) regarding compulsorily notifiable diseases, the official veterinarian must, at the time of inspection, be satisfied that there are no grounds - in particular on the basis of declarations by the owner or breeder - for concluding that the equidae have been in contact with equidae suffering from an infectious or contagious disease during the 15 days immediately preceding inspection.”

For the purpose of this certification infectious or contagious disease means any notifiable disease included in Directive 82/894/EEC that affects equines: African horse sickness, dourine, equine encephalomyelitis (of all types, including Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis), equine infectious anaemia, glanders and vesicular stomatitis.

Therefore, paragraph (e) may be certified if none of these notifiable diseases has been confirmed in the UK during the previous 15 days. If disease has been confirmed during this period, the OV should obtain a signed written declaration from the veterinarian, owner, breeder, or person responsible for the care of the equid, stating where the equid has been kept during the previous 15 days, and establish - by contacting CIT Exports, Carlisle if necessary - whether any of these holdings has been affected by the disease. In the case of horses that were resident in another MS (other than France and the Republic of Ireland) or a third country during this period, paragraph (e) may be signed on the basis of the EU certificate (for trade/imports). In the case of horses originating from France and the Republic of Ireland, the paragraph may be signed on the basis that the Tripartite Agreement requires prompt notification to the signatory countries of an outbreak and rapid tracing of movements to enable dangerous contacts to be located as soon as possible. VIPERS (Defra) will issue instructions to CIT Exports, Carlisle in such cases, asking for certificates for the traced horses to be withdrawn if any are being prepared for export. It may be that the only pragmatic solution in these cases is to ensure that the horses remain in the UK for 15 days before they are certified for export.

(d) Romania - Part II Paragraph (8)

Commission Decision 2010/346/EU refer to protective measures with regard to equine infectious anaemia in Romania and is not applicable to movement from the United Kingdom.
6. Welfare

Part II. 7 of the ITAHHC refers.

The conditions related to fitness of animals for transport during the intended journey are set out in Article 3(b) and Annex I, Chapter I of Council Regulation 1/2005. This paragraph can be signed if the conditions below are met. The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 and parallel legislation in Scotland, Wales and N. Ireland implement the EU Regulation in the UK. Guidance on the legislation issued by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) gives the following advice on the fitness to travel of animals for transport.

Annex I, Chapter I of Council Regulation 1/2005 states that:

1. 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.

2. Animals that are injured or that present physiological weaknesses 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.

   The requirements of paragraphs 2(c) and 2(d) above do not apply to registered equidae if the purpose of the journeys is to improve the health and welfare conditions of birth, or for newly born foals with their registered mares, provided that in both cases the animals are permanently accompanied by an attendant, dedicated to them during the journey.

3. However, sick or injured animals may be considered fit for transport if they are:
   - a. slightly injured or ill and transport would not cause additional suffering – in cases of doubt, a veterinary judgement should be made;
   - b. transported for the purposes of Council Directive 86/609/EEC if the illness or injury is part of a research programme;
   - c. 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.

4. Sedatives shall not be used on animals to be transported unless strictly necessary to ensure the welfare of the animals and shall only be used under veterinary supervision.

**Council Regulation (EC) No.1/2005 - Chapter VI - additional provisions for long journeys (over 8 hours) of domestic equidae**

“Except if animals accompanied by their mother, long journeys should only be permitted for domestic equidae if domestic equidae are older than four months, with the exception of registered equidae;
Unbroken horses shall not be transported on long journeys”.

For further guidance, certifying veterinarians or exporters should the Animal Welfare Team at the address as below.

Exporters must comply with the British welfare laws relating to the export 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.


**Northern Ireland** Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Ballymiscaw, Belfast, BT4 3SB. DARD helpline number 0300 200 7852. DARD helpline email – dardhelpline@dardni.gov.uk DARD Textphone 028 9052 4420

### 7. Journey Logs

Where a journey log is required, the Official Veterinarian must not sign and issue an export health certificate without having received an approved journey log from APHA CIT. The approved journey log will include a unique reference number on page one, in box ‘APHA Journey Log Reference.’

All OV’s must stamp, initial & date within the stamp the journey log in the ‘Official Stamp’ box on page one of the journey log. OV’s who are present at the time of loading should also complete section two, boxes one to eleven of the journey log. If the OV is not present at the time of loading, section two should be left blank.

The OV should not stamp or complete sections one and/or two unless they are in receipt of a WIT30 which will be issued by APHA CIT.

A copy of the journey log is not required to be returned with the certified copy, however the OV should make a copy for their own records.

If the export is delayed for 10 days or more and the WIT30 has expired, a new journey log is required to be applied for. APHA CIT will not reissue a WIT30.

### 8. Completion of ITAHC

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.
9. Notification to CIT Exports, Carlisle of Completion and Signature / Amendment of ITAHC

In order to meet the requirement for notification of animal movements to other Member States, Official Veterinarians must notify CIT Exports, Carlisle that an ITAHC has been completed and signed. Completed copies of the following documents must be emailed (preferred option) or faxed to CIT Exports, Carlisle on the same day the ITAHC is signed:

- part 1 of the ITAHC (indicating any amendments)
- completed Part 2 of the ITAHC

Any amendments to Part I of the ITAHC, must be clearly indicated, and endorsed with Official Veterinarian stamp and initials, so that the necessary amendments can be made by CIT Exports, Carlisle prior to sending the TRACES movement notification to the destination Member State.

Certified Copy 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 or fax a copy of the ITAHC to CIT Exports, 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 the issuing office 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 CIT Exports, Carlisle for advice.

10. Cancellation or Changes to the Consignment Details Following Certification

If the consignment is

- cancelled, or
- its date/time of departure has changed significantly, or
- a different vehicle is used.

The exporter must notify CIT Exports, Carlisle by email fax, giving details of changes, so that a replacement TRACES message can be sent.