

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Notes for Guidance for Animal Health Certificate for the non-commercial movement into a Member State from a territory or third country of dogs, cats, or ferrets in accordance with Article 5(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council

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No: 8233 NFG

Model animal health certificate for the non-commercial movement into a Member State from a territory or third country of dogs, cats, or ferrets in accordance with Article 5(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE (NFG) FOR THE CERTIFYING OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 577/2013 as amended.

Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 as amended.

Any EU legislation referenced in the certificate must be complied with and EU legislation can be accessed on the following link. You should ensure you use the latest consolidated version including all updates and amendments:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html>

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV). The NFG should have been issued to the OV together with the relevant animal health certificate for the non-commercial movement into a Member State from a territory or third country of dogs, cats, or ferrets in accordance with Article 5(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

2. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

This animal health certificate may be used for the non-commercial movement into an EU Member State from a territory or third country of dogs, cats, or ferrets in accordance with Article 5(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council. This certificate may also be used for non-commercial movements into Northern Ireland from Great Britain, as non-commercial pet travel in Northern Ireland will continue adhere to Regulation (EU) No 576/2013. It is intended for the movement of up to 5 such pets. However, there is an option to certify more than 5 pets in specific circumstances detailed in the certificate (e.g. pets over 6 months old that are taking part in competitions). Certificates for movements to other countries that are not EU Member States can be found on GOV.uk.

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

In Great Britain, this certificate shall be signed by an Official Veterinarian of the Department or by an Official Veterinarian (OV) appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Government or the Welsh

Government as such and holding the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation.

OVs must sign and stamp the veterinary certificate with the OV stamp in ink in a different colour to that of the printing.

You are advised to keep a copy of every Animal Health Certificate (AHC) you issue for 3 years. The APHA Centre for International Trade Carlisle (CITC) may ask to review copies of any AHCs you have issued.

Further guidance for OVs on completing export certification is available here:

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/index.htm

4. **VALIDITY OF THE CERTIFICATE**

This certificate is valid for movements of up to five pet dogs, cats or ferrets from Great Britain to an EU member state (but see scope above) and is valid for 10 days from the date of issue by the Official Veterinarian.

Pets must enter the EU via a designated Travellers' Point of Entry (TPE) (see List of TPEs https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/pet-movement/eu-legislation/non-commercial-non-eu/tpe_en).

Pets need an AHC written in one of the official languages of the EU Member State in which it will enter the EU (or Northern Ireland). For example, a pet entering the EU in France would need an AHC in French. All AHCs used to enter the EU, except the English only AHC, are dual language (they are written in English as well as another language).

Following documentary and identity checks by the competent authority at a designated Travellers' Point of Entry (TPE) this certificate is valid **for four months** for onward movement between EU member states or until **the date of expiry of the validity of the anti-rabies vaccination** (whichever is earlier).

The certificate is also valid for return to Great Britain from the EU or Northern Ireland within four months of the date of issue provided that rabies vaccination is kept up to date and, for dogs, appropriate tapeworm treatment is administered and endorsed on the certificate.

5. **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

A **declaration** must be attached to this certificate confirming the non-commercial nature of the movement. A copy of this declaration is included at the end of the certificate (Section A).

The owner or a person who has authorisation in writing from the owner to move the animal(s) on the owner's behalf should:

- enter their name in block capitals on the dotted line following "I the undersigned"
- Delete all statements marked with a ⁽¹⁾ that do not apply

- Complete the table to include each animal's ID number and the corresponding Animal Health Certificate reference number for the movement
- State the place and date of signature
- Sign at the end of the declaration

The certificate must also be accompanied by **OV certified copies** of:

- the identification and vaccination details (e.g. a copy of relevant sections of a vaccination card/pet passport)

To make a certified copy: the certifying OV should photocopy the original document twice. On each copy, the OV should write the words 'Certified Copy' in the top right-hand corner and initial (it is also correct to add a signature, date and an OV stamp). The OV should attach one certified copy to the certificate and retain one copy along with their copy of the Animal Health Certificate. Retaining such copies may help provide future evidence in cases where certificate tampering is suspected.

Each page of the certificate, declaration and certified copies of supporting documentation must have the certificate reference number at the top of each page and be numbered in the format "Page x of y", where "x" is the relevant page and "y" the total number of pages, at the bottom of each page.

All documentation should be stapled together and all pages (as opposed to sheets of paper) must be signed and stamped once individually and in addition to any permitted alterations.

6. COMPLETING THE CERTIFICATE

The certificate should be completed in BLOCK CAPITAL LETTERS.

OVs must ensure that the animal's ID is verified (e.g. by scanning the microchip) before any entry is made in the AHC and that the date of microchip implantation (or tattoo if applied before 3 July 2011) precedes rabies vaccination.

Note: If a tattoo is used to prove animal ID the OV must verify that it is clearly legible and that it was applied before 3 July 2011.

PART I: DETAILS OF THE CONSIGNMENT

Please complete Part I of the certificate other than those boxes which are struck through with a diagonal line or prepopulated.

The following boxes should be struck through if not already struck though on the certificate: I.2.a, I.6, I.8, I.9, I.10, I.11, I.12, I.13, I.14, I.15, I.16, I.17, I.21, I.22, I.23, I.24, I.26, I.27.

I.1 Consignor

Details of owner

I.3 Central competent authority

DEFRA

I.4 Local competent authority

APHA for export from Great Britain

I.5 Consignee

This box must indicate the country of the first destination (an EU Member state or Northern Ireland) – for example if the traveler is going to Portugal via France, France must be indicated on the certificate (e.g. in the Address section, a full address is not essential). Other details should be the same as the consignor (Box I.1) as change of ownership is not permitted for a non-commercial move.

I.18 Description of commodity

Enter “Pet dogs”, “Pet cats” and/or “Pet Ferrets” as applicable

I.20 Quantity

Insert number of pet animals (up to five)

I.25 Commodity Certified for

Tick the box “Pets” to certify that the consignment contains only pet animals

I.28 Identification of the Commodity

In the free text box include the following fields and the relevant data to identify the consignment:

- Species (scientific name):
 - Dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*)
 - Cats (*Felis silvestris catus*)
 - Ferrets (*Mustela putorius furo*)
- Sex: as appropriate
- Colour: as appropriate
- Breed: as stated by owner and agreed by OV
- Identification number: microchip number (or tattoo number, if it was applied before 03/07/2011)
- Identification system: Use the term “Transponder” for a microchip or “Tattoo”
- Date of Birth: as stated by owner and as far as OV can confirm on the basis of enquiries (e.g. dentition check) and evidence available

PART II: CERTIFICATION HEALTH INFORMATION

The Official Veterinarian signing the certificate must ensure that the health attestations set out in Part II of the health certificate have been complied with.

OVs must ensure that they are aware of the provisions of Annex III to Regulation 576/2013, laying down the requirements on anti-rabies vaccinations.,

OVs must ensure that they are aware of the provisions of Article 6 to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 2018/772, laying down the requirements on treatments for the consignment against *Echinococcus multilocularis*.

Text clauses within the certificate that do not apply should be struck through with a single horizontal line ~~as in this text~~.

Boxes within tables that do not apply should be struck through with a single diagonal line with the exception, for dogs only, of boxes in the anti-tapeworm treatment table referred to in clause **II.4** (see below)

II. Health information

OVs must read each statement carefully. And complete all 'delete as applicable' options to eliminate ambiguity. It is not necessary to apply the OV stamp or initial when deleting optional conditions.

In the first paragraph, Official Veterinarians completing the certificate should strike through “veterinarian authorised by the competent authority”.

II.3 – The first II.3 clause referring to the movement of unvaccinated animals less than 12 weeks old should be completed when certifying an animal that is destined for a country that allows for the movement of young animals. **It is important to note** that the movement of pets into Great Britain under 15 weeks old is not allowed. Owners should be made aware that if a young pet is certified for travel out of Great Britain, it will not be able to return until that pet is 15 weeks old, if travelling from a country listed in Annex II of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 577/2013 as amended.

Before certifying the movement of young pets in accordance with Article 11 of Regulation 576/2013, you should check that the destination country accepts these movements. Information on this can be found here:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/pet-movement/eu-legislation/young-animals_en

In these cases, the animals must be accompanied by either:

- a declaration of the owner (see [model set out in Part 1 of Annex I to Regulation \(EU\) No 577/2013](#)) attached to the AHC that from birth until the time of dispatch, the animals have had no contact with wild animals of species susceptible to rabies, or
- their mother on whom they still depend and from the animal health certificate of their mother it can be established that the mother received a valid anti-rabies vaccination before their birth.

The declaration shall also be drawn up in at least one of the official language(s) of the Member State of destination/entry and in English.

The second II.3 clause referring to “animals at least 12 weeks old” should be completed as appropriate. The second II.3 clause contains two sub-clauses: the first one is applicable to Great Britain, as Great Britain is listed in Annex II to the EU Implementing Regulation. The box detailing rabies vaccination information must contain details of the current anti-rabies vaccination.

II.4 – This section is for dogs only. Dogs travelling from Great Britain to EU listed tapeworm free countries including Northern Ireland, Malta, Ireland, Finland and Norway must be treated for tapeworm prior to travel in accordance with EU requirements. Tapeworm treatment is not required for dogs travelling from Great Britain to non-‘tapeworm free’ countries in the EU. Where tapeworm treatment is given, the second II.4 clause should be struck through and the table containing the details of anti-echinococcus treatment given should be fully completed. Where tapeworm treatment is not given then the first II.4 clause should be struck through but the boxes in the anti-echinococcus treatment table should be left blank (i.e. not struck through) in order to permit future anti-tapeworm treatments to be recorded if required (e.g. prior to re-entry into the UK from a non-‘tapeworm free’ country).

The box below the OV signature box at the end of the certificate for “endorsement by the competent authority” should be struck through with a diagonal line as this is not necessary when the certificate is signed by an OV.

7. PET DOGS RETURNING TO Great Britain

Before returning to Great Britain, dogs must be treated against the tapeworm *Echinococcus multilocularis* by a veterinarian (who may or not be an Official Veterinarian) who is registered with the veterinary professional body in the country in which the treatment is administered. **Pets travelling directly to Great Britain from Northern Ireland, Finland, Ireland, Malta or Norway are exempt from this treatment.**

The treatment must be carried out not less than 24 hours and not more than 120 hours before the pet is landed.

The administering veterinarian should record tapeworm treatments by completing the table referred to in clause II.4 of the certificate.

If the veterinarian administering the treatment is an Official Veterinarian they should apply their OV stamp in the box. If the veterinarian is not an OV they should use their practice stamp.

The treatment used must contain praziquantel or an equivalent containing a product (active substance) proven to be effective against *Echinococcus multilocularis*.

Dogs leaving the UK on a day trip will need to have this treatment administered prior to departure from Great Britain. It is advisable in this case that dogs receive a follow up treatment 28 days later.

8. WELFARE

Welfare conditions during transport are laid down by Council Regulation EC 1/2005, implemented in England by The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006, and parallel legislation in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Exporters must comply with welfare laws in Great Britain relating to the export of animals. If transported by air, animals should be transported in accordance with International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards. Information about the necessary requirements may be obtained from the Animal Welfare Team at any of the offices mentioned below:

ENGLAND, SCOTLAND AND WALES

Centre for International Trade, Animal and Plant Health Agency, Eden Bridge House, Lowther Street, Carlisle,
CA3 8DX,
Tel: 03000 200 301
E-mail: wit@apha.gov.uk

NORTHERN IRELAND

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Animal Welfare Section
Ballykelly House
111 Ballykelly Road, Ballykelly, Limavady
BT49 9HP
Tel: 0300 2007840
E-mail: WITPolicy@daera-ni.gov.uk

9. LEGAL STATEMENT

The existing EU legislation that governs movements into Great Britain will become domestic “retained EU law” under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018. References in our guidance and certification to such EU instruments should be taken to be references to this “retained EU law”.

10. ORDERING MORE ANIMAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE REFERENCE NUMBERS

To request more AHC Unique Certificate Numbers please complete the (PETS10) order form available on the Vet Gateway: <http://apha.defra.gov.uk/external-operations-admin/library/documents/exports/PETS10.doc> and email it to the PetPassports.Carlisle@apha.gov.uk mailbox.

You must complete all the sections on the (PETS10) order form.

11. DISCLAIMER

This certificate and NFG are provided on the basis of information available at the time and may not necessarily comply fully with the requirements of the importing country. It is the exporter's responsibility to check the certificate against any relevant import permit or any advice provided by the competent authority in the importing country. If these do not match, the exporter should contact the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) in Carlisle, contact details can be found using the link below:

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

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This publication is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at:

PetExports@apha.gov.uk

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