



## Conflict of Interest Declaration

### Article 88 of Retained (EU) Regulation 2017/625

"2. Competent authorities shall designate the certifying officers who are authorised to sign official certificates and shall ensure that these officers:

(a) are impartial, free from any conflict of interest, and in particular are not in a situation which may, directly or indirectly, affect the impartiality of their professional conduct in relation to what is being certified."

Opinions expressed during a Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (previously the Food and Veterinary Office) mission indicate that a veterinarian who owns or part owns either a business producing a commodity for export, or who is a paid employee of that business cannot certify.

### OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code Articles 3.2.7 and 5.2.2

"The certifying veterinarian should have no conflict of interest in the commercial aspects of the animals or animal product being certified and be independent from the commercial parties."

### The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Second Principle of Certification

"Veterinarians should not issue a certificate which might raise questions of a possible conflict of interest, e.g. in relation to their own animals."

### With reference to the above paragraphs, please answer the following questions:

Name and Address of company on whose behalf you are acting:

1. Do you have any direct financial interest in the exporting company or product being exported (e.g. owner/part owner)? Yes  No
2. Are you an employee of the exporter/exporting company? (As opposed to being a sole practitioner or a partner/assistant in a veterinary practice which charges the company for work undertaken)\*\* Yes  No
3. Does your work, as an Official Veterinarian, for this company constitute a significant proportion of your, or the practice's income? Yes  No
4. In your opinion is there any possible conflict of interest, or could anyone perceive a conflict of interest if you were to certify the final health certificate for the exporting company? Yes  No

If the answers to any of the above questions are 'Yes' then the final export health certificate may have to be signed by an independent Official Veterinarian (OV) possibly on the basis of a support document or pre-certificate signed by you as a Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. Any fees incurred for this certification will be the responsibility of the exporter.

I understand that should my circumstances change in a way that would affect my answers given above then I will immediately notify the Centre for International Trade Carlisle (CITC).

After due consideration of the statements above I believe that I am / am not\* able to certify the final export health certificate for the above named company. *\*Delete as appropriate*

Signed  MRCVS Date

Print Name

Veterinary Practice/  
Company Address

If an OV is in doubt as to whether they have a potential conflict of interest they should discuss the matter with a specialist Veterinary Officer at the CITC. If in doubt or pending resolution the OV Official must not certify any consignments for export.

\*\*Named Veterinary Surgeons that are also OVs and salaried employees of Laboratories or Universities, may be permitted to certify animals from those establishments if it is unreasonable for an independent OV to gain access to or obtain sufficient knowledge of the commodities being exported.

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**DATA PROTECTION**

For information on how we handle personal data please go to [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and search Animal and Plant Health Agency Personal Information Charter.

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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.