

## **Welfare Arrangements - Guidance Notes for Exporters**

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These notes are intended to give guidance to exporters on the requirements of the law. They should not be regarded as a complete statement of the law or a substitute for it.

Further information, application forms, list of valuers, judges and approved premises may be obtained from:

Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency,  
Specialist Service Centre for Exports,  
Hadrian House,  
Wavell Drive,  
Rosehill Ind. Estate,  
Carlisle  
CA1 2TB

**Tel No:** 01228 403600 (option 7)

**Fax No:** 01228 591900

### **1. Legislation**

(a) In Great Britain the export of horses and ponies is regulated by the provisions of the following legislation:

- The Animal Health Act 1981 (Sections 40-49)
- The Export of Horses (Veterinary Examination) Order 1966 (SI 1966 No. 507)
- The Export of Horses (Excepted Cases) Order 1969 (SI 1969 No. 1742)
- The Export of Horses (Protection) Order 1969 (SI 1969 No. 1784).

The main effect of the above legislation is to require the veterinary inspection or examination and resting of certain horses and ponies prior to export unless an exemption has been granted by the Secretary of State.

(b) It is unlawful for the master of any vessel or the pilot of any aircraft to allow the shipment of any horse or pony unless the appropriate documents are delivered to him or his representative at the time of shipment. These documents must be produced on demand to any police officer, officer of the Secretary of State, local authority or HM Revenue and Customs.

The requirement for a licence does not apply to:

- I. Horses and ponies sent from Great Britain to Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man;
- II. Horses exported to the Republic of Ireland;
- III. Horses and ponies exported directly to countries outside of Europe;
- IV. Thoroughbred horses certified in writing by a steward or the Secretary of the Jockey Club:
  - To have arrived in Great Britain not more than one month before the date of shipment for the purpose of being in a race;
  - To be shipped for the purpose of being run in a race, training; or
  - To be shipped in order to be used for breeding purposes.

### **2. Horses over 147cm (14.2 hands) including any accompanying foals exported for exhibition, jumping, polo, racing or thoroughbred horses intended for breeding.**

You should apply for an export licence to the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency's (AHVLA) Specialist Service Centre (SSC) for Exports, Carlisle (the address is given above and on page 1) on form EXH 1 **not less than 7 days before the intended date of shipment**. The licence will state that:

- I. **Exemption from rest and inspection is granted:**

**OR**

- II. **Exemption from rest is granted but inspection will be required.**

You will be required to notify the Department of the date and time of arrival of the horse at the port/airport and the place at which the horse may be inspected. Inspections will only be carried out at places with such facilities and assistance as may be required by the veterinary inspector;

**OR**

### III. Rest and inspection will be required.

You will be required to make arrangements for the horse to be detained at officially approved premises (see paragraph 7). You must give sufficient warning of the arrival of the horse at the approved premises to enable the person in charge of the premises to give the statutory minimum 48 hours notice of arrival of the horse(s) to the Department and the local authority.

#### 3. Horses over 147cm (14.2 hands) exported for work purposes

You should apply for a veterinary examination of each horse on form EXH 3. In addition, the horse must meet additional requirements of minimum value and maximum age and will have to rest at an officially approved premises (see paragraph 7) prior to export. Further details are available from the Department.

#### 4. Ponies (including horses) of 147cm 14.2 hands) or less.

(a) You should apply to the appropriate department on form EXH 2 **not less than 7 days before the intended date of shipment**. The application should be accompanied by either:

- Proof that the pony meets the minimum value levels

**OR**

- A certificate of minimum value (EXH 4)

**OR**

- A declaration (EXH 5) from an officer of an international competition organisation stating that the pony is being exported to take part in, or after taking part in, an official international competition.

(b) The certificate of minimum value (**valid for one month only from the date of issue**) must be obtained from one of the valuers on the list held by the Department and the Department must be satisfied that the pony is intended for breeding, riding or exhibition and that it is not of less value than:

- £300 – Ponies over 122cm (12 hands) and up to 147cm (14.2 hands)
- £220 – Ponies up to 122cm (12 hands) (other than ponies of the Shetland breed up to 107cm (19.2 hands))
- £145 – Ponies of the Shetland breed up to 107cm (10.2 hands).

Alternatively a minimum value certificate may be obtained from one of the judges on the list held by the Department if the pony is registered in the Stud Book of one of the following breed societies:

#### 5. Native Breed Societies

(a) Native Breed Societies

- Dales
- Dartmoor
- English Connemara
- Exmoor
- Fell
- Hackney
- Highland
- New Forest
- Shetland
- Welsh.

(b) None Native Breed Societies

- Irish Draught
- Arab Horse Society
- British Miniature Horse Society
- Haflinger Society
- Mixed Mountain and Moorland Pony Society
- Caspian Pony Society
- Spotted Horse and Pony Society

- National Pony Society
- Coloured Horse and Pony Society
- British Palomino Society
- Icelandic Horse Society.

(c) You will be responsible for the payment of fees and other expenses connected with minimum value certification. You must also meet the requirements of Section 42 of the Animal Health Act 1981 in respect of registered ponies.

Each pony must be identifiable by means of a tamper proof numbered tag. This tag must be properly attached to the pony's mane, or, if the mane has been clipped, to the tail, before the minimum value certificate is issued. The tag may be attached by the valuer or judge who must also enter the tag number or judge who must enter the tag number on the minimum value certificate. It is your responsibility to ensure that this is done and also provide appropriate facilities for and assistance to the valuer or judge.

Competition ponies are not tagged but must be identifiable by means of a passport issued by the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI), or the Showjumping Association of Ireland. The rules of both these bodies require the passport to be in the possession of the person in charge of the pony during transit and it must also be produced to the veterinary inspector at the time of export. **Untagged ponies or competition ponies without passports may not be exported.**

(d) The licence issued will indicate that either:

- i. **Exemption from rest is granted but inspection is required.** You must notify the department of:
  - The date and time of arrival of the pony at the port/airport and
  - The place at which the pony may be inspected. Inspections will only be carried out at places with such facilities and assistance as may be required by the veterinary inspector.

**OR**

- ii. **Rest and inspection is required.** You will be required to make arrangements for the ponies to be detained at officially approved premises (see paragraph 10). You must give sufficient warning of the arrival of the pony to enable the person in charge of the premises to give the statutory minimum 48 hours notice of the pony's arrival to the Department and local authority.

**Note:** If you hold a valid Export Health Certificate this inspection will not be required.

## 6. Applications

Please submit applications at least 7 days before the intended date of travel. Applications received with less notice will be processed as quickly as possible but no guarantees can be given that the licence will be issued in time for the intended journey. If a licence is issued this does not confer any consent or approval that maybe required under any other regulations in connection with this export.

### Data Protection Act 1998

The information supplied in connection with your application will be retained by the department, which receives your application, for enforcement action in connection with this or any other application and non-attributable statistical purposes. The information may also be made available to HM Revenue and Customs, Local Authorities and other enforcement authorities in the United Kingdom or European Union Countries to aid investigations concerning breaches or potential breaches of law and for enforcement purposes. The information may be supplied to Defra, the Scottish Government, the Welsh Assembly Government, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Jersey, the Department for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Isle of Man and the State Agriculture and Countryside Board Guernsey as appropriate for enforcement and non-attributable statistical purposes.

Information (Including personal data) may also be released on request, including under the Environmental Information Regulations, the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information Act 2000.

Defra, the Scottish Government Rural Directorate, Welsh Government or its appointed agents may use the name, address and other details on your application form to contact you with occasional customer research aimed at improving the services that they provide to you.

## 7. Pre-embarkation rest

Horses and ponies required to be rested before shipment must be detained at officially approved premises at or near the port/airport of embarkation. A list of such premises may be obtained from the Department. You should approach the person in charge of the premises to arrange their use and you are responsible for meeting the costs involved.

## 8. Fitness to travel

- (a) No horse or pony will be certified as being fit to travel if, in the opinion of the veterinary inspector, it is not capable of being conveyed to its destination and disembarked without unnecessary suffering. Furthermore, pregnant horses or ponies must not be transported within Great Britain or exported if it is likely that they will foal during transport.
- (b) Horses or ponies shall not be certified as being fit to travel if they;
- Have given birth in the previous week
  - Are new born animals in which the navel has not completely healed or
  - They are pregnant females for whom 90% or more of the expected gestation period has already passed.

## 9. Health Certificate

You must also comply with the animal health requirements of the importing country and any other country of transit. Information concerning health requirements of the importing country can be obtained from Carlisle SSC (01228 403600 option 7). Advice on whether you require a journey log under the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 or parallel legislation is available from the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) Welfare in Transport Team (Tel: 0845 603 8395).

## 10. HM Revenue and Customs requirements

HM Revenue and Customs require the entry for ponies and horses which are subject to welfare requirements to be logged at the port/airport of export before the export takes place.

<b>Height Conversion Table</b> <b>1 Hand = 4" = 10.2cm</b>			
<b>Hands</b>	<b>Cm</b>	<b>Hands</b>	<b>Cm</b>
8	81	13	132
8.1	84	13.1	135
8.2	86	13.2	137
8.3	89	13.3	140
9	91	14	142
9.1	94	14.1	145
9.2	97	14.2	147
9.3	99	14.3	150
10	102	15	152
10.1	104	15.1	155
10.2	107	15.2	157
10.3	109	15.3	160
11	112	16	163
11.1	114	16.1	165
11.2	117	16.2	168
11.3	119	16.3	170
12	122	17	173
12.1	124	17.1	175
12.2	127	17.2	178
12.3	130	17.3	180

The Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs working across Great Britain on behalf of Defra, the Scottish Government and Welsh Assembly Government.