



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 49/24

New Regulations to Enforce the Live Exports Ban

Date issued: 20 December 2024

Purpose

OVs involved in live animal exports are reminded that since 22 July 2024, it has been an offence to export live cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and horses or other equines for fattening or slaughter. This applies to journeys from or through Great Britain to anywhere outside the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man. The export of cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and horses or other equines for other purposes, for example, for breeding and competitions can still continue but must meet legal requirements to protect animal welfare during transport.

From 1 January 2025 the journey log approval process will be changing for cattle, sheep, pigs and goats but not unregistered horses. Journey organisers will be required to submit evidence of the purpose of their export or transit journey with their journey log application, supporting that the animals will not be exported and will not transit Great Britain for slaughter or fattening. These additional checks will apply to journeys that commence or are due to commence on or after 1 January 2025.

Background

The Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Enforcement Regulations 2024 come into force on 1 January 2025. The Regulations provide APHA and Local Authorities with enforcement powers across Great Britain, which will enable investigation and enforcement of an offence against the live export ban, contained in the Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Act 2024.

The Regulations create a new requirement that organisers of export and transit journeys of livestock must provide evidence of the purpose of their journey. Once the evidence has been verified as proof of export for permitted purposes, the organiser will be given a code which they must insert into a new box in section 1 of the journey log form. This applies to export or transit journeys of cattle, sheep, pigs and goats only (not unregistered horses).

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.

APHA will not approve a journey log without being satisfied that the journey is for a permitted purpose.

Whilst this pre-export control is designed to prevent illegal exports occurring, it will be important to gather intelligence on any potential non-compliances. The Notes for Guidance for relevant Export Health Certificates were updated in line with the live export ban coming into force on 22 July 2024. This update included a new referral process for OV's certifying consignments for export, to report any consignments that OV's consider may be in breach of the ban.

Action

OV's should be aware that the journey log approval process is changing for cattle, sheep, pigs and goats but not unregistered horses. Organisers of export and transit journeys of livestock must provide evidence of the purpose of their journey and insert a code into section 1 of the journey log, to demonstrate that the evidence has been verified. APHA will not approve a journey log without being satisfied that the journey is for a permitted purpose.

As detailed in the Notes for Guidance, if you have any concerns that a consignment is being exported for fattening and slaughter in contravention of section 1 of the Act, this should be reported as soon as possible by calling 03000 200 30.

Further Information

For further information about the journey log process, please contact the WIT team (wit@apha.gov.uk) and for queries relating to general certification please contact the export team (exports@apha.gov.uk).