



DAERA authorised Private Veterinary Practitioner

Information Bulletin: aPVP 06/23

Issued: 22 September 2023

Audience: All DAERA authorised Private Veterinary Practitioners (aPVPs)

Subject: Assurance from the Chief Veterinary Officer to Certifying Officers regarding veterinary attestations required under Animal Health Law

Purpose

The Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO), Robert Huey, has issued a letter of assurance for private veterinary practitioners providing certification of behalf of DAERA. The CVO letter, reproduced below, provides assurance that he is content to allow ongoing completion of veterinary attestations confirming compliance with Animal Health Law required for some export health certificates. This assurance is provided against a background of the considerable work being undertaken by DAERA to close compliance gaps and with the EU Commission's awareness of the DAERA approach, similar as it is, to that of other Member States.

CVO Letter

Private Veterinary Practitioners

Regulation (EU) 2016/429, Animal Health Law (AHL) became directly applicable in Northern Ireland (NI) on 21/4/2021. This legislation introduced many changes to official controls and official activities. In response to this major change, DAERA established a team to identify all the changes required and implement a pathway to compliance to ensure that our controls and activities fulfil the requirements of AHL.

You can find an overview of the scope of AHL and its implementing legislation here:

[AHL + Delegated and Implementing Tertiary Legislation + Official Controls Legislation LIST - 28 10 2021.pdf \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Some current official export certificates contain veterinary attestations that require certifying officers to attest compliance with AHL requirements that have not yet been implemented in NI – these are outlined below in **Annex 1**. Many of the outstanding issues are complex and require considerable effort and resource to resolve, for example, legislative changes and enhancements to IT systems. As Chief Veterinary Officer, I wish to assure you that considerable work is being done by my officials across multiple programmes in DAERA to address the remaining gaps.

This letter is to provide assurance that I am personally aware of these risks to certification and to state that I am content to allow certifying officers to continue to certify compliance with the AHL requirements stated below, on official export health certification issued on behalf of DAERA. This may apply to trade from NI to EU Member States or to Third Countries.

This assurance is given based on the transparent pathway to compliance which DAERA has put in place. The Project Team gives regular updates to senior management in the AHL Project Board, which I chair. The EU Commission is aware of this approach to management and implementation of the requirements of AHL. Similar approaches are being taken in other Member States.

This letter does not absolve certifying officers from conducting all the necessary checks to satisfy the requirements of an export health certificate for a particular consignment and fulfilling all the other requirements of that certificate.

Yours sincerely



ROBERT HUEY

Chief Veterinary Officer

ANNEX 1

OUTSTANDING AHL REQUIREMENTS AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATION

1. ID 899 requirement

There is a requirement for kept Terrestrial Animals and germinal products to be identified with prefix XI 899.

2. Notifiable Disease Domestic Legislation

List of notifiable diseases must be extended to include all diseases (including BVD).

3. Statutory Animal Health Visits

Regular statutory animal health visits are not in place and Assurance schemes / FQAS do not provide assurances needed for certification.

4. TB status of sheep

There is no mechanism to identify sheep flocks which also have other TB susceptible species on the same establishment. An IT solution is required to document live sheep and other species movements from establishments with TB in last 42 days. Currently no legislation controls movement of sheep with TB.

5. TB status of other species

A TB survey is required for species other than cattle. Its absence may impact trade in camelids and cervids. Currently covered by the requirement for owner and PVP to arrange private testing if necessary for alpacas.

6. Relationship between Germinal Product approved establishments and TB freedom

Maintenance of TB Free establishment status requires all germinal product on that establishment to have come from an approved germinal product establishment.

7. Germinal Product donors require TB life freedom.

Cattle used as germinal product donors cannot ever have been in an OTS/OTW* herd.

8. New poultry requirements not met by previous legislation / NIPHAS**

For poultry and hatching egg certification under NIPHAS, labs for salmonella testing and establishments must be approved. Establishments are not approved in line with AHL and Reg (EU) 2019/2035 article 7 & 8.

9. Captive birds approved quarantine establishments

NI has no approved quarantine facilities for captive birds imported from Third Countries to enable specific requirements in to be complied with for onward trade. (2020/692, Part II, Title 3, Chap 2, Section 2)

10. Animal disease requirements of transporters

Registration of transporters of kept dogs, cats and ferrets and poultry in accordance with article 3, 2019/2035 goes beyond what exists in current welfare legislation; requires disease control measures.

11. AHL requirements vs previous legislation covering exotic species (BALAI)

AHL certificates require registered establishment approval number to be provided. An approval process is required for species such as alpacas and species that were formerly covered by Balai regulations but are now incorporated into AHL.

*OTS: Official TB status suspended; OTW: Official TB Status withdrawn

** NIPHAS: Northern Ireland Poultry Health Assurance Scheme

Further Information

Any queries relating to this bulletin should be sent to: DAERATradeExports@daera-ni.gov.uk

Trade Programme

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