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Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs

# INTERNATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH DIVISION
# EU POLICY BRANCH

## CUSTOMER INFORMATION NOTE

**NUMBER AE/2006/83**

To: Interested parties

27 April 2006

Dear Sir/Madam

**CONDITIONS ON THE EXPORT OF LIVE CATTLE FROM UK TO ANOTHER MEMBER STATE**

This Customer Information Note (CIN) sets out the conditions that need to be met for the export of live cattle from the UK to another Member State.

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| Section A | Provides a list of the health and welfare requirements for this trade along with an explanation on how to comply with each requirement |
| Section B | Explains the current position in respect of assembly centres, markets and multiple pick ups from holdings of origin (more information will follow after the review of some points) |
| Section C | Describes the certification procedures a consignor must follow to arrange an export from either a holding of origin or via an assembly centre and interim measures regarding export of cattle for slaughter to Republic of Ireland |
| Section D | Describes the permitted export routes of cattle from the UK to another Member State |
| Section E | Gives information about other guidance available on exports of cattle, beef and beef products from the UK to another Member State |

Specimen copies of documents mentioned in this note can be obtained from your local Animal Health Divisional Office (AHDO).

**Background**

Council Directive 64/432/EEC on animal health problems affecting intra-Community trade in bovine animals and swine sets out the EU rules for exporting cattle from UK to another Member State. In 1996, Commission Decision 96/239/EC on emergency measures to protect against bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) banned, amongst other things, the export of cattle. Subsequently the UK has successfully worked with the European Commission to implement various measures to control and manage the BSE situation. This has led to the BSE-related ban being lifted, effective 3 May 2006 when the relevant EU and UK legislation is expected to be in place.

**<u>Section A</u> / Cattle exports to from UK to other Member States**
**Health and welfare requirements and how to comply**

The following table lists the health and welfare requirements that cattle for export from UK to another Member State must meet and describes what consignors must do to comply with the requirement:

| Conditions | How to comply |
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| They must be born or reared in the UK on or after 1 August 1996 | Check own farm records and/or passports Imported animals must have been imported on or after 1 August 1996 |
| They must have a full, valid cheque-book style passport | Ensure animals have a valid (cheque book style) passport containing correct registration details, and complete movement history, without any gaps. It must have been completed and signed by each keeper in the appropriate sections. Temporary calf passports/ registration documents will not be permitted for export. **Note:** Owners must as soon as the animals are born apply for passports so that the details of the animals can be found on the Cattle Tracing System when export related checks are carried out |
| The animals are officially identified in accordance with the Cattle Identification Regulations 1998 as amended | Ensure the animals have a tag in each ear (double tag), one of which must be a primary, distance-readable tag. The tags must have the same unique identification number in each ear. **Note:** Owners must as soon as the animals are born tag their animals so that the details of the animals can be found on the Cattle Tracing System when export related checks are carried out |
| They must originate from officially tuberculosis (TB), brucellosis and enzootic bovine leucosis (EBL) free holdings. | Ensure the exporting holding is not under TB (or brucellosis/EBL) restrictions for any reason. Holdings with unresolved inconclusive reactors (e.g. to the tuberculin or brucellosois/EBL test) awaiting a retest or restricted as a result of 'zero tolerance' are not considered to be officially free. When you apply to the local AHDO for a certificate (including a support certificate), the local AHDO will then check the CPH of the holding to ensure this requirement is met and then issue disease clearance (TRACES NDC, valid for 10 days) to your LVI. This requirement must continue to be met on the date of departure of the animals from the holding. Therefore, owners of the animals must also complete a declaration (Bovine-XX-DEC) stating this and present it to their LVI on the date of departure. Note: These declarations may be audited. [XX = Breeding, or Production or Slaughter] |
| They must not have, during the past 180 days, been present on any holding on which there is a TB reactor or inconclusive reactor still unresolved at the time of departure for export | This only applies where the holding of departure is not the natal holding. In this case, ensure that you send a request for official checks (Bovine-ROC) to your AHDO, enclosing a list of ear tag numbers. The AHDO will then ascertain their previous holdings of residence, and ensure this requirement is met. They will issue official confirmation (Bovine-OFC) in respect of animals which pass. |

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| If they originate in Great Britain and are six weeks of age or older, they must have tested negative for TB within 30 days prior to leaving the holding of origin | Ensure:<br>• All animals which will be 6 weeks of age or older at the time of departure from the holding of origin are subject to a comparative intradermal tuberculintest with negative results.<br>• The test is carried out by an LVI. Note: It takes 3 days to complete the test. |
| If they originate in Northern Ireland, they must have been tested negative for TB if six weeks of age or older and for brucellosis if 12 months of age or older. Castrated males do not require a test for brucellosis | Ensure:<br>• For TB – as above<br>• For Brucellosis, in the case of animals which arrive at an assembly centre in Great Britian, a support certificate is available which shows that the test for brucellosis has been carried out, if required. |
| They must not be the subject of a BSE-related restriction e.g. be subject to an offspring or cohort cull | Animals subject to the culls are traced very quickly and placed under movement restrictions. Herds are also restricted until the cohort can be established. Consignees must ensure that they correctly complete a declaration (Bovine-XX-DEC) to this effect on the date of departure, for the LVI. |
| They must not be the subject of an official disease or movement restriction, and nor must their holding of origin | Consignees must ensure that they correctly complete a declaration (Bovine-XX-DEC) on the date of departure to this effect, for the LVI. |
| They must have been resident on the holding for at least 30 days or since birth | Check the holdings movement records and the animals passports for evidence as to whether this requirement can be met , and present them to the LVI for inspection on the date of departure. Consignees must ensure that they correctly complete a declaration (Bovine-XX-DEC) on the date of departure to this effect, for the LVI. |
| If intended for Member States which require additional guarantees for infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR) – i.e. Denmark, Austria, Sweden, Finland, the Bolzano Province of Italy and Germany – they must be isolated for at least 30 days and tested for the disease prior to departure from holding | For exports to these Member States, ensure that you contact your LVI at least 30 days in advance of the date of departure to enable him/her to ascertain whether these additional requirements can be and are met. |

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| Welfare during transport | Consignors must ensure:<br>Transporters/carriers are authorised to carry animals.<br>Animals are not transported in a way that causes unnecessary suffering.<br>Animals must have full cattle passports and be fit for the intended journey. This includes the navel being completely healed and are inspected for this before export journeys commence. Animals are rested/fed/watered for at least 24 hours before the export journey begins, including from an assembly centre.<br>Route Plans are submitted before for all export journeys. These plans are checked to ensure compliance with journey times.<br>Calves are not transported until the navel has completely healed. Un-weaned calves on a liquid diet may only travel for 9 hours, have a mid journey rest of at least one hour on the vehicle during which they must be offered liquid and if necessary fed and then travel for a further 9 hours. If the destination has not been reached in this time a 24 hour rest must then be taken at an EU approved Staging Point before the journey can continue. Travelling times for older cattle are extended from 9 to 14 hours.<br>The animals must be fit for their intended journey, including new born animals having a completely healed navel (i.e. the umbilicus has withered, fallen off and the navel skin completely healed over), transported in higher grade vehicles throughout their journey and otherwise transported in accordance with the requirements of the Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order 1997.<br>Journeys must be properly planned and transporters should have contingency plans to care for the animals in case journeys are interrupted or the animals become ill or are injured. Appropriate feeding stuff should be carried in case of need and for young calves electrolytes. In cases where journeys are interrupted and cannot continue without exceeding journey times, transporters must ensure they can return to the point of departure or get to an EU approved Staging Point within the journey time limits and drivers hours rules. |
| Journey limits times from 5 January 2007 for calves | Calves under 10 days old may only travel up to 100 kms: calves 10-14 days may only travel up to 8 hours; calves over 14 days still on a liquid diet travel 9+1+ 9 . |

## Section B / Assembly centres/markets/multiple pick ups from holdings of origin

EU legislation allows for exports of cattle to another Member State to take place:

- Direct from a holding;
- Via an approved assembly centre.

Exports of cattle to another Member State are not permitted from markets or auctions. Auctions (or shows/sales) at assembly centres are not currently permitted but this is being reviewed and further information will follow.

Any parties with an interest in assembling cattle must first obtain approval from their local AHDO for their premises to act as such. This applies both to assembly centres previously approved (in principle) to assemble cattle and for premises seeking to be newly approved as an assembly centre. Assembly centres previously approved (in principle) to assemble cattle must ensure they are re-approved specifically to assemble cattle by the 3 May 2006, or their approval pertaining to cattle will lapse.

Multiple pick-ups from assembly centres are not currently permitted but this is being reviewed and further information will follow.

The multiple pick up of individual cattle consignments from several farms is allowed. The animals must meet the residency and other certification requirements. In the case of multiple pick ups the journey time begins when the first animal is loaded and each consignment loaded must have its own final ITAHC and route plan.

## Section C / Certification

An Intra Trade Animal Health Certificate (ITAHC) must accompany cattle intended for export to another Member State. This certificate is on the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES). As with porcine animals, the ITAHC covers animals for breeding, production and slaughter. The requirements that need to be certified are slightly different, depending on the category of the animals. For example, a 30 day residency period and test for tuberculosis is not required for cattle intended for slaughter. Also, the additional IBR-related guarantees are less stringent for production and even less so for slaughter cattle. Therefore, separate guidance / support documents are being produced for each category of animals and these will be available on the Defra support certification website shortly.

For the export of cattle for slaughter direct to the Republic of Ireland please contact EU Policy Branch (Sonia Guthrie at the contact number below) as there is currently an unresolved issue with this trade.

The tables below gives a step by step list of activities that consignors must ensure are completed successfully to facilitate the export of cattle from the UK (holding or via assembly centre) to another Member State.

## Procedure For Arranging The Export Of Cattle From the UK To Another Member State direct from a holding

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| Obtain final ITAHC | The consignor must submit an application form to the local AHDO for a final EU trade ITAHC 10 days in advance of the proposed export date along with either a Route Plan (not the TRACES one) or an Animal Transport Certificate (ATC). Once the AHDO is satisfied with the application and the proposed route they will send the EU ITAHC and supporting documents to the nominated LVI |
| LVI Certifies consignment for trade | Within 24 hours before loading the animals the LVI will visit the holding to perform an inspection and to check the animals are eligible for trade. The inspection will entail ensuring the animals comply with the health and identification requirements set out in the guidance notes, examining documentary evidence (including owner's declaration Bovine-XX-DEC, and if appropriate, official confirmation Bovine-OFC), ensuring the animals are fit to travel Once the LVI is satisfied all the conditions have been met by all the animals they will sign, stamp and date the final ITAHC and leave the originals with the consignor. The LVI will fax copies of the papers to the AHDO so that the consignment can be entered onto TRACES |
| Loading animals for trade | Within 24 hours of the LVI's inspection the consignor will load the animals along with the final EU trade ITAHC and schedule, the route plan or (ATC for single animals) and the passports of the animals. These documents must accompany the consignment for the entire ongoing journey. |
| Validation of EU trade certificate on TRACES | The consignor will send a Consignor Confirmation document (Bovine-CON ) and a copy of the EU trade ITAHC appropriately annotated to BCMS at RPA Workington and copy these to the local AHDO. OFF movement cards from the passports must be enclosed with the documents sent to RPA Workington; alternatively movements can be reported electronically, in which case this should be noted on the Bovine-CON form. These documents will have details of any animals that were not loaded and based on this information the AHDO will validate the final ITAHC on TRACES. |
| Commencing the journey | The haulier will proceed as stated on the Route Plan or ATC. Once the journey has begun, if an animal dies or needs to be withdrawn because of welfare reasons the haulier must notify the Local Authority and/or SVS who will take charge of the animal and their passport and serve the haulier with a Notice. Local Authority and/or SVS will immediately send a copy of the Notice to the Defra Animal Welfare Division |
| The journey from the UK port/airport onwards | The animals will depart from the port in lorries on Roll on Roll off ferries, or they are unloaded from lorries into pens on dedicated livestock vessels, or they are transported to airports and loaded onto aircraft and transported in compliance with IATA rules. |
| Arrival at destination | The haulier must sign the Route Plan and return it to the AHDO within 15 days of completion of the journey along with copies of any annotated EU trade certificates |

## Procedure For Arranging The Export Of Cattle From the UK To Another Member State via an approved assembly centre

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| Obtain holding to assembly centre support ITAHC | Consignor applies to AHDO for support ITAHC for movement from holding to assembly centre by submitting 10 days in advance of the export date a completed TRACES EXA application form marked 'SUPPORT ITAHC'. Support ITAHC and related documents including owner's declaration (Bovine-XX-DEC) will be sent to nominated LVI. |
| Complete support ITAHC and Declaration | Consignor completes part 1 of the support ITAHC including the schedule of identification No.s (SCH) and the declaration (Bovine-XX-DEC) and arranges for the LVI to complete part 2 of the support ITAHC and to sign/stamp it. |
| Movement from holding to assembly centre | The consignor moves the animals accompanied by the support ITAHC and a valid (cheque book style) passport from the holding to the assembly centre within 1 day of the support ITAHC being signed/stamped. The farmers at the holding must notify BCMS off the 'OFF' movement in the normal way within in 3 days of the event (The subsequent 'ON' movement is to be notified by the assembly centre). **Note:** Animals arriving at an assembly centre that have travelled more than 50km must be rested for 24 hours. If the animals have travelled less than 50km to the assembly centre and providing this can be proved by the support ITAHC and route-plan a 24 hour rest is not needed |
| Obtain final ITAHC | The consignor must submit an application form to the local AHDO for a final EU trade ITAHC 10 days (5 days in the case of familiar routes) in advance of the proposed export date along with either a Route Plan (not the TRACES one) or an Animal Transport Certificate (ATC). Once the AHDO is satisfied with the application and the proposed route they will send the EU trade certificate and supporting documents to the nominated LVI |
| LVI Certifies consignment for trade | Within 24 hours of loading the animals the LVI will visit the assembly centre to perform an inspection and to check the animals are eligible for trade. The inspection will entail ensuring the animals comply with the health and identification requirements set out in the guidance notes, examining documentary evidence (the support ITAHCs in respect of al the animals assembled), ensuring the animals are fit to travel and that the animals will have been on the export premises for 24 hours by the intended date of departure unless the animals have come in from 50km when proof of this will be sought and checked. Once the LVI is satisfied all the conditions have been met by all the animals they will sign, stamp and date the final ITAHC and leave the originals with the consignor. The LVI will fax copies of the papers to the AHDO so that the consignment can be entered onto TRACES |
| Loading animals for trade | Within 24 hours of the LVI's inspection the consignor will load the animals along with the EU trade certificate and schedule, the route plan or ATC and the passports of the animals. These documents must accompany the consignment for the entire ongoing journey. |
| Validation of EU trade certificate on TRACES | The consignor will send a Consignor Confirmation document (Bovine-CON ) and a copy of the EU trade certificate appropriately annotated to BCMS at RPA Workington and copy these to the local AHDO. These documents will have details of any animals that were not loaded and based on this information the AHDO will validate the final ITAHC on TRACES. ON and OFF movement cards from the passports must be enclosed with the documents sent to BCMS, OR if movements are reported electronically, this should be noted on the Bovine-CON form. |
| Commencing the journey | The haulier will proceed as stated on the Route Plan (or ATC). Once the journey has begun, if an animal dies or needs to be withdrawn because of welfare reasons the haulier must notify the Local Authority and/or SVS who will take charge of the animal and their passport and serve the haulier with a Notice. Local Authority and/or SVS will immediately send a copy of the Notice to the Defra Animal Welfare Division |
| The journey from the UK port/airport onwards | The animals will depart from the port in lorries on Roll on Roll off ferries or they are unloaded from lorries into pens on dedicated livestock vessels. |
| Arrival at destination | The haulier must sign the Route Plan and return it to the AHDO within 15 days of completion of the journey along with copies of any annotated EU trade certificates |

**Section D / Permitted Exports Routes From UK To Another Member State**

Annex 1 is a diagram that illustrates the different permitted export scenarios for cattle being exported from Great Britain to another Member State.

**Section E / Leaflets about exports of live cattle and of beef and products containing bovine material.**

Defra has produced two leaflets that provide guidance on exports of live cattle and beef and products containing bovine material. These can be viewed at the links given below and a Welsh version of each will be available shortly. A copy of the leaflet on live cattle is attached at Annex 2. The leaflet on beef and products containing bovine material has already been circulated.

- Exporter Guide on Exports of Cattle
  http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/bse/pdf/leaflet_cattle-exports.pdf

- Exporter Guide on Exports of Beef and Products containing Bovine Material
  http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/bse/pdf/guidancebeef2.pdf

**Section F / Further Enquiries**

If you have any comments concerning this CIN please contact IAHD EU Policy Branch:


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