



SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPORTING HORSES

Since Brexit, travelling horses out of Great Britain has unfortunately become much more complicated than previously. Even if you want to hop across the water to Northern Ireland, significant paperwork is involved due to its nature as a 'grey area' between the UK and EU.

If you want to move your horse, whether temporarily or permanently, it is essential to **do your homework first**.

Every equine, which includes horses, ponies, donkeys and mules, requires documentation in order to travel into and out of GB. You will need some veterinary services from an approved 'official veterinarian' (OV), but most of the work is the responsibility of the owner or the commercial agent.

The good news is that the **UK government will currently cover the costs of acquiring this documentation if travel is exclusively between GB and NI**.

There are different rules and regulations depending on whether or not the journey is for **economic purposes** and whether or not the horse is registered with a **recognised breed society** or **competition authority**.

Documentation that may be required, depending on destination country, includes:

- a valid passport
- an Export Health Certificate (EHC)
- a customs declaration form
- a Common Health Entry Document (CHED)
- proof of negative blood test for Equine Infectious Anaemia

An **EHC** is issued by the UK government and must be **signed by an OV following an examination of the animal**. It is the owner/transporter who registers for this document, the vet cannot do it for you. In order for the OV to sign the EHC they must examine the horse up to 48 hours before travel. For weekend travel this window can sometimes be extended for examination during working hours on the Friday.

A **CHED** is issued by the EU, and it is the responsibility of the owner or transporter to obtain and complete this document, **no veterinary input is required**.

What we have learnt so far this year is that all of these processes can be time consuming and confusing to begin with, so it is advisable to begin the process with plenty of time before the date on which you wish to travel.

Four of our practice vets are OVs, so with enough notice we can almost always accommodate requests for exports, but please bear in mind that the 48 hour window sometimes means weekend examinations are required. These can still be arranged provided one of our OVs is available.

All the above information is correct at time of writing, but we would advise you check current regulations every time you travel, as there could be further changes in future. We will do everything we can to help you out, but ultimately it is your responsibility as the owner to ensure the correct process is followed.

For more information please see the government website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/export-horses-and-ponies-special-rules> or give us a call to talk it through. We also have a more detailed fact sheet available on our website.