

ANIMAL MOVEMENT CERTIFICATE

The Animal Movement Certificate is a merging of two former documents: the Waybill and the Animal Transport Certificate (used by transporters). **The Animal Movement Certificate is for all commercial stock movements, not just those to the abattoir.**

This document is immensely important, and if incompletely filled, may result in refusal of stock at the abattoir. It covers three major facets of the EU abattoir accreditation:

1. Traceability of stock. This allows monitoring for disease in the abattoir as well as a fast and efficient response should a potentially infectious disease be identified in the carcass.
2. Good welfare for the animals when transported. This is important for the animals, for meat quality, to satisfy external audits, and to satisfy overseas customers. The modern consumer expects good welfare or refuses the product.
3. Control of drug residues entering the food chain.

Drug residues:

The control of drug and chemical residues is of vital importance. Each year the abattoir operates an EU approved programme of sampling for a wide range of chemical residues in meat. Positive tests can have a major impact on future exports and any future organic or part organic status. The last section of the form, Section 13, contains a farmer's declaration for any treatments administered within the past 5 months to the stock being sent. **THIS MUST BE FILLED IN.** This does not mean they cannot be killed. 5 months has been chosen because it covers some of the longest meat withdrawal times of any drug. It allows us to check that the animals have not been sent to slaughter for human consumption before the withdrawal time has passed. It also allows us to trace back and explain any anomalous lab results. For example: if the antibiotic Noracillin LA has been used, the withdrawal time stated on the bottle is now 60 days. If this was over 60 days ago there is no problem, but the drug still needs to be declared. All farmers should keep an animal medicine record book in their drugs cabinet for all treatments administered. It is good practice, provides quick and easy reference, and prevents mistakes. Perhaps one of the greatest risks posed comes from wormers, often used to finish off stock in the period before slaughter, and easily forgotten about. The injectable wormers particularly have long withdrawal times. If you are sending sheep to the abattoir, plan ahead, look up withdrawal periods and work out dates.

Withdrawal time:

The withdrawal time - otherwise known as the withholding period - is literally the period of time that must elapse after a treatment is given before the meat (milk/eggs) can be used for human consumption. This information is provided by the drug company and is an obligatory requirement where necessary. Some drugs and treatments, such as mineral supplements and most local anaesthetics, do not have a withdrawal time, but always check on the label or enclosed leaflet. If for whatever reason the information is missing, eg: the label has rubbed, contact the Veterinary Service. The department will provide the information for drugs dispensed already drawn up into a syringe. It should be noted that this also applies to meat destined for local consumption, whether pork, beef or mutton/lamb (as well as milk and even eggs). Falkland islanders need to be protected too!

Some common examples of withdrawal times (but always check container):

Drug	Action	Meat withdrawal period
Noracillin	Antibiotic	Cattle, sheep and pigs 7 days
Noracillin LA	Antibiotic	Cattle, sheep and pigs 60 days
Oxytetrin LA	Antibiotic	Cattle 14 days. Sheep 21 days. Pigs 35 days
Ivomec Classic Injection	Wormer	Cattle 35 days. Sheep 42 days
Ivomec Pour-on Cattle	Wormer	Cattle 28 days
Panacur 10%	Wormer	Cattle 12 days. Sheep 15 days.
Coopers Spot-On	Insecticide	Cattle 3 days. Sheep 7 days

Filling in the form on farm:

A filled in example will be found attached to the back of form pads. Transporters will also carry pads as a back up in case the farmer forgets to bring theirs to the stock pens - but don't rely on it! The following will act as reference:

Section 1: The full name and address of the owner.

Section 2: The 'address of the origin of the stock'. If same, just 'As Above'. But this may of course differ – a farmer may be based in say Fox Bay, but send stock from his land near Chartres, or live in Stanley and run stock on a plot near Fitzroy.

Section 3: 'Intended route of travel of the stock'. Fill this in to the best of your knowledge. The transporter may be able to help.

Section 4: 'Full name and address of person/company taking delivery of the stock'. This applies to the final destination eg: FIMCo., Sand Bay Abattoir, Stanley.

Section 5: 'Full address of the destination of the stock'. Usually the same as Section 4, in which case state 'As above'. Fill in if new owner of stock does not reside at the place where the stock will be held.

Section 6: 'Particulars of stock'. Three options are now available: (1) Official movement tags (record numbers including numbers missing due to mistagging etc); (2) Body brands (record official brand letters and paint colour); (3) Recognised and accepted farm specific ear tags. Fill in the number of stock accurately and the breed of animal.

Section 7: 'The name and signature of the owner or occupier of the farm of origin of the stock'. Self explanatory, except that the last box requires departure information (time and date). The departure time is actually the time you begin loading the stock (this records the maximum amount of time any one animal spends on the vehicle).

Sections 8-12: For others to fill in en route and on arrival. Section 8 will apply to the transporter receiving the animals on the farm. He will fill in the arrival time at his destination.

Section 13: 'Treatment declaration'. Please don't forget this. As explained above, this section will be checked at the abattoir and if incomplete the stock cannot be slaughtered. Either declare those used, or tick the box if none.

Retain the white copy for your records, and fax it to the abattoir ASAP if this is the destination of the stock. This needs to arrive ahead of the stock, and is used by the Official Veterinary Surgeon to plan and resolve any problems. **Pink copy to be sent to DOA when complete and yellow copy for person taking delivery of stock.**