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CERTIFICATION

Reliable, honest, and accurate veterinary certification is crucial to the satisfactory movement of animals. As a corollary, it is vital that the veterinary profession receives correct, usable guidance on both the interpretation of relevant legislation, and on the wording of certificates.

BVA would urge all veterinarians to observe the BVA/ RCVS/ MAFF (now DEFRA) 12 Principles of Certification.

These include the requirements that:

1. a veterinarian should certify only those matters known to or ascertainable by him (or that are the subject of a supporting certificate from another veterinary surgeon)
2. a veterinarian should not be requested to required to sign anything relating to matters which cannot be verified by the signatory
3. there should be no conflict of interests when certifying animals
4. animals should be individually identified where practical
5. certificates should be produced on one sheet of paper
6. all certificates should be signed, stamped and dated (and time recorded) by the certifying veterinarian

For further advice please contact BVA