EXPORT OF FISHERY PRODUCTS INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION TO MOLDOVA - 7991EHC

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF EXPORTERS AND OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS

IMPORTANT

These Notes for Guidance (NFG) provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export health certificate 7991EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7991EHC. We strongly suggest that exporters obtain full details of the importing country's requirements from the veterinary authorities in the country concerned, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

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1. SCOPE

Export health certificate 7991EHC may be used for the export from the UK to the Republic of Moldova of fishery products intended for human consumption.
Exporters and OVs should note, however, that the certificate has been drafted to cover export of fish oils to be used as food supplements. These oils are derived from wild caught fish and, therefore, the animal health requirements for live aquaculture products do not apply.

2. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

In Great Britain, this certificate may be signed by a Veterinary Officer of the Department or by an authorised Official Veterinarian (OV) appointed to the appropriate panel for export purposes by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government, or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation.

In Northern Ireland, this certificate may be signed by an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed as an OV to the appropriate export panel for export purposes by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (Northern Ireland) (DAERA).

OVs must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any ink colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the Animal Plant and Health Agency (APHA) Centre for International Trade at Carlisle within seven days of signing, or in the case of Northern Ireland to DAERA, Dundonald House, Belfast.

The OV should keep a copy for his/her own records.

3. FORMAT OF THE CERTIFICATE

The format, paragraph numbering and content of this certificate is closely based on the specific model certificate provided by the importing country.

As a result, some of the text may not directly apply to exports from the UK and some paragraphs may appear out of sequence whilst others may be intentionally left blank.

4. COMPLETION OF PART I - DETAILS OF DESPATCHED CONSIGNMENT

I.2a. - Intentionally left blank.

I.3. - Central Competent Authority
This has been pre-populated with 'Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)'

I.4. - Local Competent Authority
The certifying OV should enter the name of the local office of APHA responsible for the exporting establishment. Where the exporting establishment is located in Northern Ireland, "DAERA" should be entered.

I.6. - intentionally left blank.

I.7. and I.9 - Country ISO Codes
ISO 3166 is the commonly accepted International Standard for country codes. The ISO Code for the whole of the United Kingdom is "GB" and is entered at Box I.7.

The ISO Code for Moldova is "MD" and is entered at Box I.9.

Both these boxes have been pre-populated.

I.8. - Region of Origin
In line with the Explanatory Notes referred to in paragraph 3 above, this paragraph may usually be left blank.

However, if the UK and the product fall within the scope of emergency disease control legislation laid down by the importing authorities then this paragraph should be completed with the appropriate region names and ISO codes, if these are specified under such emergency legislation. In these cases, the APHA Specialist Service Centre - International Trade in Carlisle or DAERA in Northern Ireland should be consulted for further specific guidance.

I.10. - Intentionally left blank.

I.11. - Approval/Registration Number
The approval or registration number may be confirmed on sight of a valid approval document or by reference to the responsible local APHA office. OVs should enter the relevant approval or registration number in addition to the address of the premises of origin.

I.12. - intentionally left blank.

I.13. - Place of loading
The place of loading or the port of embarkation must be entered.

I.14. - Date of departure
The date of departure must be entered.

I.15. - Means of transport
The means of transport i.e. aeroplane, ship, railway wagon, road vehicle must be indicated. The option 'Other' is not applicable to the movement of products and should **not** be selected. The flight number, name of the vessel, the train number and rail car or the number plate of the road vehicle should be entered as the means of identification, as appropriate.

If the means of transport changes after the certificate has been signed, the consignor must inform the officials at the intended point of entry. Optionally, the number of the airway bill, bill of lading, or the commercial number of the train or road vehicle may be entered as the documentary reference.

I.16. - Entry point
The exporter must advise the OV of the point of entry into the destination country and this must be entered here.

I.17. - Intentionally left blank

I.18. - Description of commodity
A veterinary description of the goods or a description based on the applicable HS Code (see below) must be entered

I.19. - HS Code
The Harmonised System (HS) Code is a commodity classification system used as a basis for customs tariffs and for international trade statistics. The appropriate HS Code, from the permitted options referred to in the 'Notes' section of the certificate, should be entered in Box I.19:

The closest HS Code to the type of export covered in this certificate is ***15.04*** *- Fats and oils and their fractions, of fish or marine mammals, whether or not refined, but not chemically modified*

However The OV should confirm with the exporter which of the permitted HS Codes best describes the products being consigned.

I.20. - Quantity of Product
Insert the total gross and net weights in Kg.

I.21. - Temperature of product
Indicate whether the transport/storage temperature is ambient, chilled or frozen.

I.22. - Number of packages
Insert the number of packages in the consignment.

I.23. - Seal/container no.
The seal or container number of consignment may be entered here.

I.24. - Type of packaging
Enter the type of packaging in the space provided.

I.25. - Commodities certified for
Indicate the intended use of the product, taking into account any guidance which may be offered in the footnote of the certificate.

I.26. - Intentionally left blank

I.27. - For import or admission into Moldova
The box should be ticked to confirm that this is an import or admission into Moldova, as opposed to a transit through Moldova.

I.28. - Identification of the Commodity
Further to Box I.11. above, OVs should enter the relevant approval number of the processing plant in addition to the other required information.

OVs and exporters should also refer to the 'Notes' section in the body of the certificate for further guidance on completion of all sections.

5. REFERENCES TO REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA (RoM) DOMESTIC LEGISLATION

References to RoM domestic legislation are made throughout the health declarations.

Since March 2002, the European Commission has reported regularly to the EU Council and Parliament on the progress made by the countries of Eastern Europe, including the RoM.

Amongst other things, there is a recent progress report of an audit which took place in late 2014 to evaluate whether the official controls put in place by the competent authority can guarantee that the conditions of production of fishery products in the RoM, destined for export to the EU, are in line with the requirements laid down in EU legislation.

The report concludes that *'in principle the current organisation and implementation of official controls can be considered as meeting requirements equivalent to those of the EU. This control system allows the competent authority to provide adequate guarantees with regard to the food safety of certain fishery products. However, those guarantees are weakened by the shortcomings observed during the audit, notably concerning standards applied to fishery products, implementation of procedures (including establishment listing), labelling and some elements of the official controls on fishery products.'*

For the purposes of this certificate, OVs should note that personal familiarity with RoM legislation is not a requirement in order to certify the health attestations. However, with reference to the EU model certificate on which certificate 7991EHC is based, the following guidance regarding equivalence of RoM and EU legislation may be considered to apply with regard to paragraph II(1):

- Relevant previsions of Law No.78 on foodstuffs of 18.03.2004, General hygiene foodstuffs rules approved by Government decision No.412 of 25.05.2005, Specific hygiene foodstuffs rules approved by Government decision No.435 of 28.05.2010 and Specific Rules for the organization of official controls of food of animal origin are regarded as being equivalent to the relevant provisions of the following EU Regulations: 178/2002, 852/2004, 853/2004 and 854/2004;

- General hygiene foodstuffs rules approved by Government decision No.412 of 25.05.2005, are regarded as equivalent to the relevant provisions of EU Regulation 852/2004;

- Specific hygiene foodstuffs rules approved by Government decision No.435 of 28.05.2010, regarded as equivalent to the relevant provisions of EU Regulation 853/2004;

- Rules on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs approved by Government decision No.221 of 16.03.2009, regarded as equivalent to the relevant provisions of EU Regulations 853/2004 and 2073/2005;

- Specific hygiene foodstuffs rules approved by Government decision No.435 of 28.05.2010, regarded as equivalent to the relevant provisions of EU Regulation 853/2004.

In summary, provided that the fishery product to be exported to the RoM meets UK/EU hygiene standards of production, the health attestations may be certified on the basis that these standards have been officially recognised as being equivalent to those laid down in RoM legislation.

6. PART II.1 - HEALTH INFORMATION

The health attestations may be certified on the basis of the OV's familiarity with the EU Food Hygiene Regulations and the sourcing, processing, handling and storage arrangements in place at the processing establishment and/or examination of relevant records and documentation including applicable laboratory test results.

Approval and supervision of establishments producing health supplements containing fish oil can be delegated by the Competent Veterinary Service to a service which has competence in this area, when EU legislation provides for such a delegation of competence. In the case of Great Britain, this responsibility has been delegated to the Food Standards Agency (FSA).

The establishment must be registered as a food business by the FSA, which in the case of a standalone premises means by the local authority in whose area the processing establishment is situated.

7. PUBLIC HEALTH STATEMENTS

The products being certified must have been prepared and stored in an establishment approved or registered in accordance with Regulations (EC) No 178/2002, (EC) No 852/2004, (EC) No 853/2004 and (EC) No 854/2004, or derived from start material which is similarly compliant.

The products or their starting material will bear the oval identifying marks in accordance with Section 1 of Annex II of 853/2004 or must be accompanied by evidence that it is similarly compliant.

8. MICROBIOLOGICAL CRITERIA

With regard to microbiology, the EU has specified criteria for cooked crustaceans and molluscan shellfish only - Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 on the microbiological criteria for foodstuffs.

This Regulation is implemented in the UK by the Food Hygiene Regulations 2006. On this basis Section II.1 (third indent) may be signed for all shellfish and fish produced in accordance with the Regulations.

9. RESIDUES CRITERIA

Section II.1(sixth indent) mat be certified on the basis of compliance with Council Directive 96/23/EC, which is implemented by the The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 and a programme referred to as the National Surveillance Scheme (NSS).

On the basis of this scheme, it can be considered that animal products for human consumption do not contain levels exceeding the limits permitted in the European Union of any antibiotic and/or veterinary medicinal product; any beta-agonist or any substances having a thyrostatic, oestrogenic, androgenic or gestogenic action, which do not occur naturally; any pesticide; or any heavy metal, known to be harmful to human health. The NSS also covers PCBs.

10. PART II.2 - ANIMAL HEALTH ATTESTATION FOR FISH AND CRUSTACEANS OF AQUACULTURE ORIGIN

All of Section II.2 of 7991EHC does **not** apply where the fishery product for export is *derived solely from wild-caught fish*, and this entire section should therefore be deleted.

In any case, IF paragraph II.2. is not to be certified, it should be struck through in its entirety and the remaining treatment options which do not apply should also be struck through and these deletions should be signed and stamped by the OV in the usual manner.

11. DISCLAIMER

This certificate is provided on the basis of information available at the time and may not necessarily comply fully with the requirements of the importing country. It is the exporter's responsibility to check the certificate against any relevant import permit or any advice provided by the competent authority in the importing country. If these do not match, the exporter should contact the Centre for International Trade - Carlisle, via the link below:

http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening#centre-for-international-trade-carlisle