

**EXPORT OF DAIRY PRODUCTS TO GEORGIA - 5549EHC**

**NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE EXPORTER AND THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN**

**Associated Documents: 5549EHC**

**IMPORTANT**

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 5549EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 5549EHC. 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.

1. **SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE**

Export health certificate 5549EHC may be used for the export of dairy products to Georgia.

2. **CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)**

This certificate may be signed by an OV appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Scottish Government, Welsh Government or the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Northern Ireland, who is on the appropriate panel for export purposes or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation.

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

**Certified Copy Requirements - England, Wales and Scotland**

Guidance concerning return of certified copies of EHCs has changed and only specific certified copies are required to be returned to the APHA. Certifying OVs must return a certified copy of EHCs only for the following EHC types:

- if the exported commodity is cattle, pigs, sheep, goats or camelids;
- if the certificate was applied for manually and the application documents have been emailed to APHA and not applied for via the Exports Health Certificates Online (EHCO) system.

Certified copies should be emailed on the day of signature to the Centre for International Trade Carlisle (CITC) at the following address: [certifiedcopies@apha.gov.uk](mailto:certifiedcopies@apha.gov.uk).

For certificates that have been issued to the Certifying OV via the EHCO system, the Certifying OV must complete the certifier portal with the status of the certificate and the date of signature.

A copy of all EHCs and supporting documentation certified must be retained for two years.

Certifying OVs are not required to return certified copies of other EHCs issued, however CITC may request certified copies of EHCs and supporting documentation in order to complete Quality Assurance checks or if an issue arises with the consignment after certification.

## **DAERA Export Health Certificates: Provision of certified copies**

aPVPs certifying DECOL produced Export Health Certificates must return a legible, scanned copy of the final EHC to the relevant DAERA Processing Office within 1 working day of signing.

Good quality photographic copies will be accepted by the department, where obtaining a scanned copy is not feasible - for example, where 'on site' certification is undertaken and scanning facilities are not available.

For record purposes, a copy of the final Export Health Certificate and associated Support documents should be retained by the aPVP for a period of 2 years from the date of certification.

The Department will carry out periodic audits of all aspects of export certification to ensure that a high standard of certification is being maintained.

3. Paragraph IV 1 may be certified on the basis of oval marks which demonstrate compliance with EU Regulations (EC) 853/2004 and 854/2004 and Transitional Arrangements under which stocks produced in accordance with Council Directive 92/46/EEC, as implemented in GB by the Dairy Products (Hygiene) Regulations 1995 can be traded until 31/12/2009.
4. Paragraph IV 2 may be certified on the basis of the restrictions imposed by the Animal Health Act 1981 (as amended) and the relevant Disease Orders in respect of OIE listed diseases.
5. Paragraph IV 3 may be certified on the basis that the TSE Regulations 2002 prohibits the sale or supply for human or animal consumption of milk from animals affected with or suspected of suffering from BSE. Similar legislation exists in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
6. Paragraph IV 4 refers to the TSE Regulations 2002.
7. Paragraph IV 5 can be signed by an Official Veterinarian on the basis of the following:  
The Food Standards Agency, in association with the UK environmental agencies, monitors food and the environment in the UK. They publish an annual report - Radioactivity in food and the Environment - which summarises the results of monitoring. The results of these monitoring supports the conclusion set out in the paragraph.

8. **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 APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle or DAERA, via the link or e-mail address below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-apha>

DAERA - Email: [vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk)