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**EXPORT OF WILD-CAUGHT VENISON TO HONG KONG -518EHC**

**NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN**

1) The Scientific name (Latin name) must be included by the signing OV at paragraph 1(e).

2) The Hong Kong authorities will accept consignment of venison offal for human consumption if accompanied by certificate 518EHC.

3) The Hong Kong authorities have advised us that the importer must obtain permission from the authorities to import game meat and offal. It would therefore be advisable to have sight of the import permit before certification takes place.

4) Paragraph IV(b) may only be signed (in the case of products) if the products originate from animals which have been passed fit for human consumption at the time of slaughter.

5) The certification contained in paragraph(s) IV(d) may be signed on behalf of the Department by a Official Veterinarian provided written authority on form 618NDC has been received from the issuing office within ten days of shipment.

6) Paragraph IV(e) - can be certified on the basis that only a small number of cases of Anthrax have been confirmed by the Department during the past 4 years. The second half of the paragraph may be certified on the basis that under the Anthrax Order 1991, carcasses of animals confirmed to be affected (or suspected of being affected) by anthrax by post-mortem blood smear examination are required to be disposed of by incineration or another method approved by APHA. Equivalent legislation is in place in Northern Ireland.

**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.

518NFG (Cleared 09/09/2010) (Revised 28/11/2023)

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.

7) 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)