

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7189EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7189EHC.

Exporters are strongly advised to verify the requirements of the importing country by contacting the veterinary authorities, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment. The health requirements specified in the health certificate should be checked against the requirements of a valid import permit.

OVS AND EXPORTERS ARE ADVISED THAT CERTIFICATE 7189EHC HAS NOT BEEN FORMALLY AGREED WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN THE IMPORTING COUNTRY.

If the health requirements do not match or no import permit is available, the exporter may choose to proceed with the export using certificate 7189EHC, however this decision and any consequences thereof are taken strictly at the exporter's own risk.

1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Certificate 7189EHC may be used for export to Mauritius of fresh meat/meat products of domestic ovine animals (*Ovis aries*) and domestic caprine animals (*Capra hircus*), as specified in a valid Import Permit issued to the **importer** by the Livestock and Veterinary Division of the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security of the Republic of Mauritius.

2. OBTAINING AN IMPORT PERMIT

As referred to in paragraph 1 above, exports to Mauritius must take place in accordance with a valid import permit covering a single consignment. Each consignment must be accompanied by a health certificate reflecting the health conditions specified in the import permit.

If the health conditions specified in the health certificate are found to differ from those in the import permit, in the case of export from Great Britain the exporter should contact the Animal Plant and Health Agency (APHA) Centre for International Trade at Carlisle using the link below before making further arrangements:

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

or, in the case of export from Northern Ireland the exporter should contact the DAERA Trade Administration Team for meat and dairy exports by e-mail at: vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk or by telephone 028 77442 060.

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

In **England, Scotland and Wales**, this certificate must be signed by a Veterinary Officer of the Department or by an Official Veterinarian (OV) appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government as such and holding the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ (V)) authorisation.

In **Northern Ireland** (NI), this certificate must be signed by a Veterinary Officer/Inspector (VO/VI) of the Department or 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 (DAERA). For the purposes of these notes VOs, VIs and AVIs shall be referred to as OVs unless a specific reference is required.
OVs must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in ink of a different colour to that of the printing.

In **England, Scotland and Wales**, a certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle within seven days of signing.

The OV should also keep a copy of the signed certificate and any supporting documents for at least three years after signature or receipt/dispatch of the consignment, whichever is later.

4. **SCHEDULES**

Section I refers. A separate schedule may be used to identify the commodities certified. In this case, Section I must be annotated 'See attached schedule'. Each page of the schedule must bear a page number and the health certificate reference number and must be signed, dated and stamped by the OV.

The schedule must be stapled to the health certificate and the OV should 'fan' and stamp over the pages of the schedule and certificate. The top stapled corner of the schedule and certificate should be folded over and stamped also. Any blank spaces in the schedule or certificate must be deleted with diagonal lines.

5. **NOTIFIABLE/REPORTABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE**

In the case of animals originating from the UK, OVs may certify paragraph IV(h) on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA CIT at Carlisle or via disease clearance procedures in DAERA.

In **Great Britain**, OVs may also wish to check the Gov.UK link for UK's Notifiable Disease Status prior to certification to ensure that paragraph IV(h) can still be certified, particularly with respect to cases of blue tongue:

<http://apha.defra.gov.uk/external-operations-admin/library/documents/exports/ET171.pdf>

In the event of a disease outbreak: APHA Carlisle will also notify OVs to make it clear which of those disease freedom statements should not be certified.

In the absence of a specific disease notification from APHA Carlisle: OVs may certify that the UK has disease free status or region free

status for those diseases mentioned in the health certificate once they have checked the disease list for the last occurrence of the disease and have ensured it complies with the time frames in the certificate.

NOTE: The above two paragraphs do not apply to Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) or Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) freedom statements.

In **Northern Ireland**, OVs may certify that the UK/NI has disease free status for those diseases mentioned in the health certificate if in possession of a valid DAERA Veterinary Support Certificate. DAERA OVs use the Notifiable Disease Clearance (NDC) system to obtain the required disease status necessary for certification. The NDC system is based on obtaining daily updates on disease status from NI, GB and the Republic of Ireland.

6. LEGAL STATEMENT - RETAINED EU LAW

Existing EU legislation, with which the UK already complies, will be incorporated into UK domestic law as 'retained EU law' under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018.

References in guidance and certification to such EU instruments should be taken to be references to this retained EU law. Under the Withdrawal Act, the UK will ensure that current EU standards remain in force, without amendment, in the immediate months after EU exit as part of UK domestic law (apart from corrections to make the EU legislation fully operable).

7. COMPLIANCE WITH HYGIENE REGULATIONS AND FITNESS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Paragraphs IV(b), IV(e), IV(i) and IV(j) of 7189EHC may be certified on the basis of evidence that all establishments in the supply chain for the meat and/or meat product intended for export - slaughterhouse, cutting plant, meat products plant (if applicable) and cold store - are/were operating in accordance with UK/EU food hygiene legislation.

The meat/product intended for export must bear the oval mark confirming compliance with the General Food Law Regulation (EC) 178/2002, together with Regulations (EC) Nos. 852/2004, 853/2004, 2017/625 and 2073/2005 (The EU Hygiene Regulations).

The primary food legislation providing the framework for all food legislation in England, Wales and Scotland is The Food Safety Act 1990 (as amended) and, in Northern Ireland, The Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991.

Enforcement of the General Food Law Regulation (EC) 178/2002 and implementation and enforcement of the EU Hygiene Regulations is provided through secondary legislation in England by The Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended) and parallel legislation in Wales and Scotland. In Northern Ireland it is provided by The Food Hygiene Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006. Food hygiene legislation is implemented and enforced by the Food Standards Agency (FSA)/Food Standards Scotland (FSS). Their Manuals for Official Controls detail the requirements.

8. **MICROBIOLOGICAL CRITERIA AND RESIDUES**

Paragraph IV(a) may be certified on basis of the results of the national surveillance scheme (NSS) for residues, which covers all EU-approved meat establishments.

The NSS implements Council Directives 96/22/EC and Regulation (EU) 2017/625, which are transposed into national legislation by The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits)(England and Scotland) Regulations 2015 and parallel legislation in the other devolved administrations.

9. **TRANSMISSIBLE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (TSE) STATEMENTS**

Paragraphs IV(d), IV(f) and IV(g) may be certified on the basis that these are requirements of TSE Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 as transposed into national legislation. The UK competent authorities (Defra, the Devolved Administrations, FSA and FSS ensure compliance with the legislation.

10. **DISCLAIMER**

This certificate has been drawn up on the basis of information available at the time. Exporters and certifying OVs are advised that it may not comply fully with the requirements of the importing country and that it has not been officially agreed with the authorities of Mauritius.

Accordingly, use of 7189EHC for export of meat/meat products of ovine/caprine origin to Mauritius is at the exporter's risk. OVs must ensure that the exporter is aware of this.

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 CIT at Carlisle, via the link below:

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

or, in the case of export from Northern Ireland, from the DAERA Trade Administration Team for meat and dairy exports by e-mail at: vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk or by telephone 028 77442 060.