**No:** .............

**EXPORT OF UNPROCESSED HIDES AND SKINS TO GHANA**

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

**Associated Documents:** 7442EHC and 618NDC

**IMPORTANT**

**These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7442EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7442EHC. 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**

Export health certificate 7442EHC may be used for the export of salted and other unprocessed hides and skins to Ghana.

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

This certificate may be signed by an Official Veterinarian appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Scottish Government – Rural Directorate, Welsh Government - Department for Rural Affairs, or an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland (DARDNI), who is an Official Veterinarian (OV) on the appropriate panel for export purposes.

OVs/AVIs should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV/AVI stamp in any colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to

AHVLA Specialist Service Centre – Exports in Carlisle, within seven days of issue.

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

3. Paragraph I(a) refers. The consignment description should include reference to the species of origin of the product.

4. Paragraph IV refers. The health information may be certified on the basis of the following guidance in conjunction with the necessary evidence resulting from the OV’s familiarity with the sourcing, procurement, segregation, processing, handling and storage arrangements in place at the processing establishment. This should be supported as necessary by physical inspection and examination of relevant documentation and/or records including veterinary import certification.

In addition, the certifying OV should be familiar with the requirements of Regulations (EC) 1069/2009 and 142/2011 (as amended).

5. Paragraph IV 2 refers. At least one of the three options presented must be certified. Any options which are not to be certified should be struck through in the usual manner.

6. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE**

If Paragraph IV 2(a) refers. The UK’s foot and mouth disease free status may be certified on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained from the Specialist Service Centre – Exports in Carlisle on form 618NDC.

If the UK does not currently satisfy this criterion or if this paragraph is not to be certified, then it should be struck through in the usual manner.

Certifying OVs and exporters should be aware that if the UK is unable to satisfy this criterion, the importing authorities may impose animal health restrictions which could lead to consignments being rejected regardless of whether the remaining conditions of this certificate have been met.

7. **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 AHVLA Specialist Service Centre – Exports, in Carlisle, via the link below:

<http://animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/about/contact-us/tradeexports.html>