**No** .............

**EXPORT TO HONG KONG OF WET SALTED OR DRIED CATTLE HIDES AND HIDE BELLIES NOT INTENDED FOR ANIMAL OR HUMAN CONSUMPTION OR PHARMACEUTICAL OR COSMETIC OR MEDICAL PURPOSES/USE - 1854EHC**

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

**Associated Documents:** 1854EHC, 618NDC and 372DMR

**IMPORTANT**

**These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 1854EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 1854EHC. 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 1854EHC may be used for the export of wet salted or dried cattle hides and hide bellies which are not intended for animal or human consumption or pharmaceutical or cosmetic or medical purposes/use to Hong Kong.

2. **Certification by an Official Veterinarian (OV)**

This certificate may be signed by a Local Veterinary Inspector appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department (SEERAD), Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) 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 should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the local Divisional Veterinary Manager (DVM) or Divisional Veterinary Officer in NI (DVO-NI) within seven days of issue. OVs 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. Paragraphs IV 1(b), IV 1(c), IV 2 and IV 3 refer. These paragraphs may be certified on the basis of familiarity with the factory processes in place supported by relevant documentation and/or suitable records (such as slaughter/treatment/testing records, commercial documentation, veterinary certification).

The certifying OV should be familiar with the conditions of Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002. Electronic copies of this Regulation and subsequent amendments, as well as other pieces of EU legislation, can be obtained by searching the EU Commission’s website via the following link:

<http://www.europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/RECH_legislation.do>

5. **Notifiable disease clearance**

 Paragraph IV 1(a) may be signed on behalf of the Department provided you are in receipt of written authority (form 618NDC) which will be sent to you by the local Divisional Veterinary Manager 10 days before shipment.

6. **Disclaimer**

 The DEFRA disclaimer (Form 372DMR) will be issued to the exporter with this certificate for his/her information. The 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 International Animal Health Division via the appropriate address in the link given below.

 <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/int-trde/general/contacts.htm>