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EXPORT OF PETFOOD TO HONG KONG – 5707EHC

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

Associated Documents: 5707EHC

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export health certificate 5707EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 5707EHC. 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 5707EHC may be used for the export to Hong Kong of petfood containing ingredients of animal origin.

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.

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. Paragraphs IV.1.(a), (b), (c) and (d) may be certified on the basis of familiarity with the sourcing, procurement, processing and handling procedures in place at the manufacturing establishment, supported as necessary by physical inspection and examination of relevant documentation and/or suitable records.

For the purposes of certifying paragraph IV.1.(b), a "BSE affected country" is interpreted to mean a country which is NOT recognised by the OIE as having a *negligible* BSE risk. Currently, the OIE only recognises Argentina, Australia, Chile, Finland, Iceland, India, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Singapore, Sweden and Uruguay as negligible BSE risk countries.

However, the certifying OV is advised to refer to the list published on the OIE website at:

http://www.oie.int/animal-health-in-the-world/official-disease-status/bse/list-of-bse-risk-status/

or to the APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle for the latest status of a country.

Certifying OVs are reminded that the UK is a country with a *controlled* BSE risk in accordance with the OIE.

4. Paragraph IV.1.(e) refers. Schedule 1 of CAP 139N Public Health (Animals And Birds) (Chemical Residues) Regulation, Laws of Hong Kong defines "prohibited chemical" as:

> "Avoparcin
> Clenbuterol
> Chloramphenicol
> Dienoestrol ((E,E)-4,4'-(diethylideneethylene) diphenol) including its salts and esters
> Diethylstilboestrol ((E)-αβ-diethylstilbene-4,4'-diol) including its salts and esters
> Hexoestrol (meso-4,4'-(1,2-diethylethylene) diphenol) including its salts and esters
> Salbutamol"

However, the exporter and the certifying OV are advised to confirm the current definition of "prohibited chemical" by reference to the latest version of Hong Kong's legislation. This could be obtained

via the exporter's commercial contact in Hong Kong or by reference to the following website: http://www.legislation.gov.hk/eng/home.htm

The ingredients of animal origin must be derived from animals/milk which are/is fit for human consumption, i.e. starting material belonging to Category 3 under Regulation (EC) 1774/2002 (as amended).

Thus, this section can be certified on the basis of the UK's compliance with Council Directive 96/23/EC of 29 April 1996 on 'measures to monitor certain substances and residues thereof in live animals and animal products' and repealing Directives 85/358/EEC and 86/469/EEC and Decisions 89/187/EEC and 91/664/EEC.

This compliance is achieved through the implementation of the Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations 1997 and a programme referred to as the National Surveillance Scheme (NSS) which is currently operated by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate.

On the basis of this Scheme, it can be considered that animal products for human consumption do not contain residues exceeding the limits permitted in the European Union of any antibiotic/veterinary medicinal product; any beta-agonist or any substances having a thyrostatic, oestrogenic, androgenic or oestrogenic action, which do not occur naturally; any pesticide; or any heavy metal, known to be harmful to human health. The NSS also covers polychlorinated bi-phenyl compounds. The legislation also requires the appropriate withdrawal periods to be observed when medicinal products are administered to animals which will be slaughtered for human consumption.

In addition, Regulation (EC) 1774/2002 (as amended) states that animal by-products derived from products of animal origin containing residues and contaminants listed in Groups B(1), B(2) and B(3) of Annex I to Directive 96/23/EC (as amended) in excess of the permitted levels laid down by Community legislation (or, in the absence thereof, by national legislation) are classed as either Category 1 or 2 material and cannot therefore be used in the manufacture of the products covered by this export health certificate. Compliance with Council Directive 96/23/EC and Regulation (EC) 1774/2002 (as amended) can be considered to be equivalent to CAP 139N Public Health (Animals And Birds) (Chemical Residues) Regulation, Laws of Hong Kong.

As a result, the manufacturing and supplying establishments' compliance with Regulation (EC) 1774/2002 (as amended) can also support the signing of this paragraph.

5. Paragraph IV 2 may be certified as written on the basis of the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (England) Regulations 2010 which enforce the controls laid down under Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 (as amended) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2001 laying down rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies.

Similar legislation applies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

6. **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