

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR THE CERTIFYING OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

EXPORT OF MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS TO VIETNAM

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 5797EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 5797EHC. 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 5797EHC may be used for the export of milk and milk products to Vietnam.

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 should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any 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

Authorised Private Veterinary Practitioners (aPVPs) certifying DAERA Export Certification On-Line (DECOL) produced EHCs 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. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE**

Official Veterinarians may certify paragraph IV 2) (i) on behalf of the department, provided written authority to do so has been obtained from the issuing office on form 618NDC.

4. **Paragraph IV (3)** may be signed on the basis of the EU oval mark, which demonstrates compliance with EU Regulations (EC) 853/2004 and 854/2004. In the UK, the EU regulation is implemented by the Food Safety and Hygiene Regulations 2016. The legislation requires that raw milk must come from animals:

(a) that do not show any symptoms of infectious disease communicable to humans through milk;

(b) that are in good general state of health, present no sign of disease that might result in the contamination of milk and, in particular, are not suffering from any infection of the genital tract with discharge, enteritis with diarrhoea and fever, or a recognisable inflammation of the udder;

Also, under the food Hygiene Regulations 2016, milk from tuberculin/brucellosis reactors cannot be used for human consumption, and must be disposed of.

5. **Paragraph IV (4)** may be signed on the basis of the following: The Food Standards Agency, in association with the UK environmental agencies, monitors food and the environment in the UK. They publish an annual report - Radioactivity in food and the Environment - which summarises the results of monitoring. The results of these monitoring supports the conclusion set out in the paragraph.

6. **Paragraph IV (6)** may be certified on the basis of an exporter declaration.

7. **RADIATION MONITORING**

Paragraph IV (4) relating to harmful radiation may be certified on the basis of the following:

Current EU limits for radionuclides in food only apply to agricultural imports from third countries contaminated by the Chernobyl accident (EC Regulation 737/90 and amendments). This establishes a limit for Cs-134 + Cs-137 of 600 Bq/kg. However, the EU has recommended that milk and mixed diets are monitored in the Member State of origin. In support of this recommendation, the FSA monitors milk at several dairies across the UK and complete meals from large consumption areas such as canteens or restaurants. The FSA, in association with the environment agencies, publishes an annual report - Radioactivity in Food and the Environment - which summarises the results of such monitoring and any additional monitoring carried out on the basis of risk e.g. around the nuclear sites. The results of

these monitoring in 2003 demonstrate that even the most exposed members of the public received radiation doses from consumption of food and exposure to environmental radioactivity due to discharges and direct radiation that were below the statutory United Kingdom annual dose limit to members of the public of 1 mSv (millisievert) i.e. below European Union limits and within Government targets. Current Codex guideline levels for radionuclides (in internationally traded food) only apply following accidental nuclear contamination.

8. **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