

EXPORT OF HIDES/SKINS TO PAKISTAN - 5544EHC

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR THE CERTIFYING OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

1. **Scope**

Export health certificate 5544EHC may be used for the export of hides/skins to Pakistan.

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.

The stamp and signature must be made in ink of 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. **Health Information**

Compliance with the conditions referred to in Paragraph IV (1) (a) may be certified on the following basis:

- i) The hides/skins have been treated for the required period as stated. The establishment should have records of all matters relevant to the process, including the following:
 - receipt, or manufacture on site, of sea salt with the addition of sodium carbonate to 2%;
 - date of commencement of treatment (salting or drying) for identified batches;
 - standard operating procedure of the production process and identification and traceability system operating in the establishment;
 - quality control checks etc. for the batches certified;
 - copies of veterinary health certificates/commercial documents accompanying imported products.
- ii) There must also be an effective procedure in place to separate treated from untreated hides and skins and prevent cross contamination.

4. Paragraph IV (2) may be certified as stated as Council Decision 98/256/EC prohibits the despatch of bovine hides of UK origin for the uses stated.

5. **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