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

**EXPORT TO EU MEMBER STATES OF CANNED AND DRIED PET FOOD AND PET TREATS OF POULTRY AND PORCINE ORIGIN FOR ONWARD SHIPMENT TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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

**Associated Documents: 7503EHC**

**IMPORTANT**

**These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7503EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7503EHC. 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 7503EHC may be used for the movement of certain canned petfood, dried petfood and pet treats from the UK to another EU member state from where they will be exported to the Republic of South Africa.

The petfood and pet treats must not be made using any of the animal origin materials prohibited within the text of the certificate.

If known, the number of the South African import permit relating to the export from the intermediate EU member state to South Africa may be entered into the appropriate space on the certificate.

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 II(a) refers. The appropriate approval or registration number should be entered into this paragraph.

Establishments handling unprocessed animal by-products require approval in accordance with Regulation (EC) 1069/2009 (as amended). In England, this is enforced by the Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2011 (as amended). Similar legislation exists in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Certifying OVs are advised that, in accordance with Articles 54 and 55 of Regulation (EC) 1069/2009, references to Regulation (EC) 1774/2002 shall be construed as references to Regulation (EC) 1069/2009 and that establishments, plants and users approved or registered in accordance with Regulation (EC) 1774/2002 before 4 March 2011 shall be deemed to be approved or registered, as required, in accordance with Regulation (EC) 1069/2009.

Establishments handling processed ingredients of animal origin require approval or registration in accordance with Regulation (EC) 183/2005 laying down requirements for feed hygiene. In England, this is enforced by the Feed (Hygiene and Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2005 (as amended). Similar legislation exists in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

In either case, the relevant establishment number may be confirmed on sight of a valid approval or registration document or by reference to the Specialist Service Centre – Exports, in Carlisle.

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

(a) Paragraph IV(a) may be certified on the basis that the petfood or pet treats were manufactured in a UK establishment which is approved or registered in accordance with either Regulation (EC) 1069/2009 (as amended) or Regulation (EC) 183/2005 (as amended) as described in paragraph 3 above.

Confirmation of relevant approval or registration may be confirmed on sight of a valid approval or registration document or by reference to the Specialist Service Centre – Exports, in Carlisle.

(b) Paragraph IV(b) refers. The veterinary restrictions referred to in this paragraph relate to restrictions imposed as a result of diseases to which poultry or pigs are susceptible. This paragraph may be signed on behalf of the Department with respect to animals which were born and raised in the UK provided written authority to do so has been obtained from the Specialist Service Centre – Exports, Carlisle, on form 618NDC.

(c) Paragraph IV(e) refers. For the purposes of this paragraph, ‘protein-free tallow’ may be interpreted to mean bovine tallow which has been purified so that the maximum level of remaining total insoluble impurities does not exceed 0.15 % in weight.

(d) Paragraph IV(g) requires that the OV either seals the container/consignment or witnesses the seal being applied to the container/consignment.

(e) Paragraph IV(h) may be certified on sight of satisfactory test results. Although current EU legislation does not require canned petfood to be routinely subjected to the testing described under this paragraph, canned petfood being exported on this certificate must additionally satisfy these microbiological standards.

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

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