

**OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN DECLARATION REGARDING A UK HIDES AND SKINS ESTABLISHMENTS INTENDING TO EXPORT TO ARGENTINA - 2803DEC**

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

**Associated Documents:** 2803DEC.

**IMPORTANT**

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with OV Declaration 2803DEC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with OV Declaration 2803DEC. 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, before exporting.

1. **Scope of the OV Declaration**

This Official Veterinarian Declaration (OV Declaration) may be used to facilitate the registration of a UK hides and skins processing establishment by the Argentina's National Service of Health and Agri-Food Quality (SENASA).

The hides and skins establishment is responsible for presenting the completed OV Declaration to SENASA, via their contacts in Argentina, as part of SENASA's registration procedure.

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

This OV Declaration may be signed by an Official Veterinarian appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Scottish Government, Welsh Government, or an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland (DAERA), who is an Official Veterinarian (OV) on the appropriate panel for export purposes, or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation.

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 OV declaration must be sent to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Customer Service Centre (CSC), in Carlisle, in Carlisle, or to DAERA, within seven days of issue.

The OV/AVI should keep a copy for his/her own records.

3. **Certification**

Taking into consideration the additional guidance below, this OV Declaration may be certified on the basis of the OV's knowledge of the processing establishment and familiarity with the sourcing, processing, handling and storage arrangements in place, supported where necessary by examination of relevant records including veterinary certification and commercial documentation.

**Details of establishments**

All the required information relating to the hides and skins processing establishment must be accurately entered in full into the space provided and any unused space should be struck through and the deletion initialled and stamped in the usual manner.

Any discrepancy between this information and that accompanying consignments arriving in Argentina could lead to consignments being detained or rejected.

**Paragraph 1 - Establishment approval**

This paragraph may be signed on the basis that the establishment is approved in accordance with Regulation (EC) 1069/2009 (as amended). In England, this is enforced by the Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2013 (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.

Confirmation of approval can be ascertained on sight of a valid approval document or by reference to the APHA's Customer Service Centre (CSC), in Carlisle.

**Paragraph 2 - Species of origin and processing parameters**

This paragraph must be completed to confirm how the hides and skins are processed and the species of animals they are obtained from.

This paragraph may be certified on the basis of the OV's familiarity with the sourcing, processing, handling and storage procedures in place at the processing facility, which may be supported by relevant physical and documentary checks.

Any unused space should be struck through and the deletion initialled and stamped in the usual manner.

**Paragraph 3 - Packaging**

It is not clear what information SENASA expects in relation to packaging, however, Defra is aware that SENASA has historically detained consignments because of concerns relating to the wooden packaging material used rather than actual commodity they contained. These concerns related to non-compliance with the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, particularly ISPM15 on Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade.

Because hides and skins are commonly transported on wooden pallets, it may be appropriate to use this space to explain that the hides and/or skins are, for example, secured onto wooden pallets which have been treated and marked in accordance with ISPM15.

ISPM15 requires wood packaging used in international trade to bear a specific mark to confirm that it has been subjected to an approved phytosanitary treatment.

This may be supported by a packaging certificate issued by the pallet supplier, which may be attached to the OV declaration. In such cases, this paragraph should also include a specific cross-reference to the serial or reference number of the packaging certificate.

Alternatively, this may be supported on sight of the abovementioned specific mark on the wood packaging. More information on what the mark should look like and the information it should contain can be found online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/wood-packaging-import-export>

This web page includes further links to the ISPM15 standard itself which contains more information relating to the mark at Annex 2 of the ISPM15 standard.

4. **SUPPORTING DECLARATIONS**

If declarations are relied upon to support the completion of this certificate, these must be signed by someone who has knowledge of and responsibility for the relevant parts of the production process. The managing director (or equivalent) of the company should provide a letter giving the name(s) and job title(s) of those authorised to give the declaration and the basis on which the declaration is made.

The declaration should include a clause indicating that the signatory is aware that making a false declaration is an offence and that he/she accepts full responsibility if any problems arise with the export should there be any dispute relating to the matters being declared.

Where possible, supporting evidence should be called for and put on file.

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 (CIT) - Exports in Carlisle, via the link below:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening#centre-for-international-trade-carlisle>

In Northern Ireland, contact the DAERA trade administration team:  
e-mail- [tradeadminpost@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:tradeadminpost@dardni.gov.uk)  
Phone - 0289 0520989