

EXPORT TO AUSTRALIA OF CANNED OR RETORTED PETFOOD

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND THE EXPORTER

Associated Document: 7954EHC

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export health certificate 7954EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7954EHC. 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 of the certificate

This certificate may be used for the export to Australia of canned or retorted pet food whose only ingredients of ruminant origin are those derived from milk.

The number of the import permit issued by, for example, the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, should be entered into the appropriate space on the front page of this certificate. The import permit may also include requirements which are outside the scope of this certificate, such as the need for specific manufacturer's declarations. The exporter should therefore ensure that the necessary steps have been taken to satisfy any additional applicable requirements of the import permit.

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, Welsh Government, or an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland (DAERA), who is and 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 certificate must be sent to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Specialist Service Centre for International Trade, in Carlisle, or to DAERA, within seven days of issue.

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

3. Paragraph II(a) - Official control number

Establishments handling unprocessed animal by-products or manufacturing products derived from unprocessed animal by-products must be either approved or registered 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 Official Veterinarians are advised that, in accordance with Articles 54 and 55 of Regulation (EC) 1069/2009 (as amended), references to Regulation (EC) 1774/2002 (as amended) shall be construed as references to Regulation (EC) 1069/2009 (as amended) and that establishments, plants and users approved or registered in accordance with regulation (EC) 1774/2002 (as amended) before 4 March 2011 shall be deemed to be approved or registered, as required, in accordance with regulation (EC) 1069/2009.

Alternatively, establishments producing pet food or animal feedingstuffs from 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 Animal Feed (Hygiene, Sampling etc. and Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2015 (as amended). Similar legislation exists in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The approval or registration number may be confirmed on sight of a valid approval or registration document or by reference to the local authority responsible for the manufacturing establishment.

4. Paragraph IV - Health information

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 facility. This should be supported as necessary by physical inspection and examination of relevant documentation and/or records including commercial documentation, veterinary statements and valid declarations.

(a) Paragraph IV (a) - Heat treatment

This may be supported by the OV's knowledge of the capabilities of the processing methods used in the manufacturing establishment.

(b) Paragraph IV (b) - Absence of ruminant material

The only ruminant-derived materials permitted in the product are milk and milk products. Gelatine, collagen, flavouring innards, processed animal proteins and other materials derived from must not be used in the manufacture of the product if they were derived from ruminant animals.

(c) Paragraphs IV (c) and (d) - Permitted animal materials

When read with paragraph IV(b), these paragraphs allow for the use of ingredients obtained from:

- (i) fish products;
- (ii) dairy products;
- (iii) egg products;
- (iv) non-ruminant mammals slaughtered in Australia or New Zealand;
- (v) non-ruminant mammals slaughtered outside Australia and New Zealand which were subjected to ante- and post-mortem inspection and found to be free from clinical signs of contagious and infectious diseases;

- (vi) slaughtered birds which were subjected to post-mortem inspection and found to be free from clinical signs of contagious and infectious diseases;

The certifying OV is only required to certify that, where ingredients obtained from either non-ruminant mammals slaughtered outside Australia and New Zealand or from slaughtered poultry are used, these satisfy the requirements described in subparagraphs (v) and (vi) above.

Certifying OVs are reminded that Regulation (EC) 142/2011 (as amended) allows pet food to be made using raw animal materials defined as Category 3 material under Articles 10(a) through to 10(m) of Regulation (EC) 1069/2009.

As a result, it is possible that the animal ingredients may have been obtained from slaughtered animals or birds which were not subjected to post-mortem inspection. Therefore, if the supporting evidence refers only to the use of 'Category 3 material' or other non-specific statements, the certifying OV should make due enquiry to confirm compliance.

- 5. 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.

The RCVS Guide to Professional Conduct 2012 states that [Veterinary Surgeons] "must not recklessly confirm what other people have stated". Where possible, supporting evidence should be called for and put on file.

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 (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
Phone - 0289 0520989