

VETERINARY CERTIFICATE OF AUDIT FOR THE EXPORT OF HIDES AND SKINS OF UNGULATES TO THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR ONWARD SHIPMENT TO THIRD COUNTRIES - 7408EHC

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

Associated Documents: 7408EHC

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7408EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7408EHC. 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

Consignments of hides and skins obtained from ungulates which are dispatched to another EU Member State must be accompanied by commercial documentation following the model laid down in Regulation (EC) 142/2011 (as amended) for the intra-Community trade in hides and skins of ungulates.

However, certificate 7408EHC may optionally be used in conjunction with the standard commercial document in cases where a consignment is being dispatched to another EU Member State, from where some or all of the consignment is likely to then be exported to a country outside the EU (third country).

The purpose of this certificate is to assist Official Veterinarians in the receiving EU Member State in the completion of official veterinary health certification between that EU Member State and a third country by providing additional assurances which are not included in the standard model commercial document.

If there is no known interest in exporting some or all of the consignment out of the EU or if there is no known requirement for the 7408EHC then the consignment only needs to be accompanied by the commercial document referred to above and this certificate is not required.

2. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

This certificate may be signed by a Local Veterinary Inspector 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. **CONFIRMATION OF AUDIT**

Paragraph II(a) may be certified on the basis of a satisfactory audit of the hides and skins establishment by the certifying OV which confirms that the only hides and skins of ungulate origin kept and handled on the premises are those sourced from slaughterhouses located in the EU.

The audit should be based on all appropriate evidence gathered by the OV during his/her enquiries, including physical inspection, official and commercial documentation, manufacturing records and delivery documents.

The OV is advised to prepare a report of the audit, including the evidence upon which their decision was based. Copies of the relevant documentation must be retained for at least two years and made available for inspection by AHVLA if required.

4. **PERIOD OF VALIDITY**

Paragraph II.(b) refers. This certificate may be valid for up to three months from the date of the successful audit. The expiry date should be entered in the space provided.

5. **NON-COMPLIANCE**

If at any time during the validity of the certificate the OV has any reason to suspect that the conditions of the original audit are not being continually complied with, he/she must inform the Specialist Service Centre - Exports, in Carlisle who will determine if any further action is required.

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

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