Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Model veterinary certificate for exports of meat of wild leporidae (rabbits and hares) into or through the European Union

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Contents

No: 8246 NFG

Model veterinary certificate applicable for exports of meat of wild leporidae (rabbits and hares) into the European Union

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE (NFG) FOR THE CERTIFYING OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN, CERTIFICATION SUPPORT OFFICER AND EXPORTER

1. **APPLICALBLE LEGISLATION:**

Commission Regulation (EC) No 119/2009 as amended

Any EU legislation referenced in the EHC must be complied with and EU legislation can be accessed on the following link. You must ensure you use the latest version:

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV), Certification Support Officers (CSO) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with the relevant export certificate applicable for exports of wild leporidae (rabbits and hares). The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with the veterinary certificate.

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.

2. **SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE**

   This model veterinary certificate may be used for export to the EU of meat of wild leporidae intended for human consumption.

3. **CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)**

   In Great Britain, this certificate shall be signed by a Veterinary Officer of the Department or by an Official Veterinarian (OV) appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government as such and holding the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation.

   In Northern Ireland, this certificate shall be signed by an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed as an OV to the appropriate export panel for export purposes by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

When completing the certificate, OVs should refer to the note in Annex I, part 4 of Regulation (EC) No 119/2009.

OVs must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in ink in a different colour to that of the printing.

In Great Britain, a certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the Animal and Plant Health Agency Customer Service Centre (APHA CSC) at Carlisle within seven days of signing. The OV should also keep a copy of the signed certificate for his/her own records.

The original of the certificate must be completed and signed by an Official Veterinarian not more than 24 hours prior to loading of the consignment for export to the EU.

PART I: DETAILS OF THE CONSIGNMENT

Please complete all the boxes in Part I of the certificate.

I.25 Commodity Certified for

In the free text box specify if the commodity is certified for human consumption.

I.28 Identification of the Commodity

In the free text box include the following fields and the relevant data to identify the consignment:

Description of Commodity
HS Code
Slaughterhouse
Number of packages
Manufacturing plant
Species (scientific name)
Treatment type
Type of Packages
Nature of commodities
Net weight (kg)
Quantity

The Harmonised System (HS) Code is a commodity classification system used as a basis for customs tariffs and for international trade statistics. Further information on HS Codes can be found online at:

https://www.gov.uk/trade-tariff/sections and

http://madb.europa.eu/madb/euTariffs.htm

The OV should confirm with the exporter that the HS Code used correctly describes the products being consigned.

PART II: CERTIFICATION

II.1 Public Health Attestation

The Official Veterinarian (OV) signing the export veterinary certificate must ensure that the public health attestation set out in Part II.1 of the veterinary certificate have been complied with.

They must also ensure that they are aware of the relevant provisions of Regulations (EC) No 178/2002, (EC) No 852/2004, (EC) No 853/2004 and (EC) No 854/2004 and certify that the meat of wild leopridae have been obtained in accordance with those requirements and satisfy the relevant the specific requirements listed in section II.1, which include: fitness for human consumption following post-mortem inspections, identification marking, storage and transport requirements prior to exporting and official veterinary health inspections on a representative sample.

Where relevant, the OV must also ensure that the meat satisfies the guarantees covering live animals and products provided by the residue plans submitted with Directive 96/23/EC, in particular Article 29. The meat must also have been stored and transported in accordance with the relevant requirements of Section IV of Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004.

II.2 Animal Health Attestation

The Official Veterinarian (OV) signing the export veterinary certificate must ensure that the animal health attestation set out in Part II.2 of the veterinary certificate have been complied with.

The OV must ensure that the meat was obtained from animals killed in a territory described in Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 119/2009 and hunted in an area where during the last 40 days no animal health restrictions for viral haemorrhagic disease, tularaemia and myxomatosis have been applied.

The OV must also ensure that the meat meets the relevant requirements in section II.2.2 regarding collection and approved game handling establisments and meets the animal health restrictions for diseases listed by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) for which the animals are susceptible.

The meat must also satisfy the handling, storage and transportation requirements in accordance with Directive 2002/99/EC.

II.3 Additional guarantees

The Official Veterinarian signing the export veterinary certificate must ensure that the additional health guarantees set out in Part II of the veterinary certificate have been complied with.

4. **DISEASE NOTIFICATION**

Some export certificates for animals and animal products will include statements that will require that the OV certify that specified areas or the entire country of origin are free from certain diseases.

OVs should initially check the Gov.uk Website link below for our Notifiable Disease Status and the relevant third country list in Regulation (EC) No 119/2009.

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/animal-diseases-international-monitoring

- **In the event of a disease outbreak**: APHA Carlisle or the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland will formally notify OVs to make it clear which of those disease freedom statements should **not be certified**.

- **In the absence of a specific disease notification from APHA Carlisle or the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland**: OVs may certify that the UK has disease free status or region free status for those diseases mentioned in the health certificate.

- **NOTE: This does not apply to Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) or Bovine Tuberculosis** (**TB**) **freedom statements.**

5. **RESIDUE CHECK GUARANTEES**

There is a UK national residue surveillance program, from the Animal and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations 1997, that commits to the legislative requirements of Directive Nos 96/23 (EC), 96/22 (EC), and 470/2009 (EC) legislation concerning residue testing of products of animal origin. The residues tested in the program are listed in Annex I and II of Directive No 96/23 (EC), which includes veterinary medical products, unauthorised substances and environmental contaminants. The results of the statutory surveillance program can be accessed on the link below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/residues-statutory-and-non-statutory-surveillance-results

The EHC residue testing requirements can be certified based on evidence of compliance to the national surveillance program, which complies with the relevant EU legislation.

6. **CERTIFICATION SUPPORT OFFICER (CSO)**

CSOs can be utilised by OVs for gathering evidence relating to this certificate. The CSOs must be authorised by the APHA and they must hold the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Animal Health Professional) (OCQ(AHP)-CSO) qualification.

This is provided for in existing (Directive 96/93/EC) and future (Regulation 2017/625) legislation.

The OV must direct the CSO as to how and where any necessary evidence relevant to the requirements of the Export Health Certificate (EHC) should be obtained. CSOs may not carry out any functions that require the exercise of veterinary judgement and are restricted to the execution of administrative checks. They may only carry out such inspections, factual verification and evidence collection as specified by the directing OV, who remains responsible for the certification of the product. CSOs are not authorised to sign an EHC in their own right or on behalf of an OV.

Any documentary evidence collected by the CSO must be stamped, signed and dated by the CSO, before being submitted by them as supporting evidence to the OV. It is required that the OV is familiar with the product process and evidence required to start with, before directing the CSO to provide future evidence on an ongoing basis.

Additional guidance and principles of implementation are provided in the OV Instructions Exports section of the APHA Vet Gateway.

7. UK APPROVED ESTABLISHMENTS TO EXPORT TO THE EU

The exporting establishment must be authorised and listed by the EU as an 'EU approved establishment' for animal products intended for human consumption. A list of approved establishments can be found on the European Commission's list of approved establishments' link below:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/international_affairs/trade/non-eu-countries_en

Please note that the list is updated regularly and ONLY establishments on the list are approved to export to the EU and does not include establishments with pending applications for approval.

If the final product contains animal products from other establishments, or products were previously processed in different establishments in the production chain, then these establishments should also be listed on the EU website as EU approved establishments

8. HEALTH/IDENTIFICATION MARK STATEMENT

From the 29th March 2019 onwards, products of animal origin (POAO) intended for human consumption must be oval marked (health mark/ identification mark) with a 'UK' stamp representing England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Only the UK oval marked products are suitable for export to the EU from UK approved establishments that appear on the European Commission's list of establishments approved to import POAO.

The UK complies with EC regulations on laying down hygiene rules for food of animal origin and official controls and the UK ensures food is oval marked as fit for human consumption. Relevant text on the EHC can be certified on the basis that the carcases bear the official UK oval mark or that the primary, secondary and/or shipping packaging shows the UK oval marks. The UK oval marks certify that the slaughterhouse, cutting plant and cold store are officially approved and operating in accordance with the UK Food Hygiene Regulations 2006, which is compliant with Regulations No 178/2002 (EC), No 183/2005 (EC), No 852/2004 (EC), No 853/2004 (EC) and No 854/2004 (EC) . The primary food legislation in England, Wales and Scotland is The Food Safety Act 1990 (as amended) and The Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order, as amended, applies in Northern Ireland.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) are trialling a new E-certification process for the internal movement of POAO in the UK. This will improve traceability and provide an electronic system to confirm if POAO for export to the EU come from UK approved establishments. Information on this upcoming e-certification traceability system will be provided in due course.

9. LEGAL STATEMENT

The existing EU legislation that the UK already complies with will be incorporated into our domestic law as “retained EU law” under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018. References in our guidance and certification to such EU instruments should be taken to be references to this “retained EU law”. Under the Withdrawal Act we will ensure that current EU standards remain in force, without amendment, in the immediate months after our EU exit as part of UK domestic law (apart from corrections to make the EU legislation fully operable).

10. DISCLAIMER

This certificate and NFGs are 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 Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) in Carlisle, via the link below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency

This publication is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at

product.exports@apha.gov.uk

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