NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 482EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 482EHC.

Exporters are strongly advised to verify the requirements of the importing country by contacting the veterinary authorities, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 482EHC may be used for the export of frozen/chilled or processed mutton or frozen/chilled or processed pork and their products from the United Kingdom to Singapore.

There are **additional assurances required for certification of chilled pork** to Singapore. The UK has secured agreement with AVA Singapore of the possibility of using **entire males under 100 kg (dead weight)**, as an alternative to the use of castrated males or gilts, in the production of chilled pig meat for export to Singapore.

The most up to date import health requirements and the list of the countries that are approved to export meat to Singapore, may be found on the links below:

http://www.ava.gov.sg/explore-by-sections/food/bri

and


Note also paragraph 14 of these notes for guidance regarding pig meat produced from pigs born and reared in the Republic of Ireland.

2. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

In Great Britain, this certificate may be signed by a Veterinary Officer of the Department or by an Official Veterinarian (OV) appointed to the appropriate panel for export purposes by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government and holding the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation, or an Official Veterinarian of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland (DAERA).

OVs must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in ink of any colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

In GB, a certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the 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.
3. **OBTAINING IMPORT PERMIT**

It is the responsibility of the exporter/agent to obtain a valid import permit from the Singapore Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) in Singapore. The import permit should be compared with the certificate 482EHC and, if there are any discrepancies, exporters in GB are advised to contact the APHA Customer Service Centre at Carlisle or, in the case of export from Northern Ireland, from the DAERA Trade Administration Team for meat and dairy exports by e-mail at: vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk.

The permit may be cancelled at any time depending on the current disease status of the United Kingdom.

4. **APPROVAL OF PREMISES BY AVA**

Paragraph IV. h) refers. The Director General of the Singapore Agri-Food and Veterinary Services (AVA) recognizes the approval of the premises by the competent authority in the United Kingdom, operating through the Food Standard Agency (FSA) or Food Standards Scotland (FSS). Any premises that is authorized to place the oval health mark on its products or store oval health marked products is, therefore, recognised as approved.

Defra is required to provide AVA with a list of such premises approved for export to Singapore. In the case of frozen pork, this is done by reference to the Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland websites:

**Food Standards Scotland (FSS) page for approved food establishments in Scotland.** The link to the spreadsheet for “Meat from domestic Ungulates” should be used: [https://www.foodstandards.gov.scot/publications-and-research/publications/approved-premises-register](https://www.foodstandards.gov.scot/publications-and-research/publications/approved-premises-register)

**Food Standards Agency (England, Wales and Northern Ireland):** [https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/approved-food-establishments](https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/approved-food-establishments)

**Listing of establishments eligible to export Chilled Pork to Singapore**

Section II. (a), (b) and (c) refer. All establishments wishing to export chilled pork to Singapore must apply for listing prior to exports taking place, as requested by Singapore. Such approval does not involve an inspection, however the establishment/s must be listed by AVA Singapore as eligible to export chilled pork to Singapore following a written endorsement by APHA/DAERA on behalf of Defra. Exports can start upon confirmation by APHA/DAERA that the relevant establishment/s has/have been put forward for listing by the Singapore authorities.

Sections II. (a), (b) and (c) of the certificate should be completed with the details of the establishment(s) in which the final production of chilled pork has taken place (as per Oval Identification or Health mark applied to the product or its packaging) and such establishment(s) must be either on the list of UK premises eligible to export chilled pork to Singapore, or the exporter or OV must have confirmation from APHA/DAERA that a request for its/their inclusion has been sent to Singapore, and its entry is pending publication by AVA Singapore.
The current list of UK premises eligible to export chilled pork to Singapore may be found via:


(select UK in the Country drop down menu and tick Pork under species, then click search button)

Owners/Managers of establishments not appearing on the AVA list of UK establishment that wish to export chilled pork to Singapore should contact the APHA Customer Service Centre at Carlisle for further advice, by email at product.exports@apha.gov.uk

or, in the case of export from Northern Ireland, from the DAERA Trade Administration Team for meat and dairy exports by e-mail at: vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk

The information required to be sent to APHA/DAERA is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>ESTABLISHMENT NUMBER</th>
<th>ESTABLISHMENT NAME</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>COUNTY/COUNTRY</th>
<th>PRODUCTS</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>FSA/FSS APPROVAL OR LOCAL AUTHORITY REGISTRATION NUMBER, WITH NO UK/EC AFFIX/SUFFIX, e.g. 2010 OR AA123</td>
<td>(e.g. BERKSHIRE/ENGLAND)</td>
<td>CHILLED PORK (and brief description of type of products)</td>
<td>ACTIVE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition, exporters are invited to send their contact details to valsa.panicker2@fco.gov.uk at UK UKTI/DIT in Singapore to facilitate local link ups with importers there.

5. **OVAL HEALTH MARK**

The Singapore authorities require that consignments of meat/meat preparations/meat products intended for export to Singapore must be produced in officially approved plants and bear the oval ID or health mark.

6. **DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCT**

Paragraph I. refers: As required by the Singapore authorities, a full description of the packaging must be given and must fully describe the consignments such that substitution with product which has not been inspected is not possible. Provided that the consignment is identified by batch codes, serial numbers or shipping marks, for example, it is not necessary for the OV to be present at the time of loading.

7. **DATE(S) OF SLAUGHTER OF ANIMAL**

Paragraphs 2(d) and IV (a) refer: These paragraphs can be certified on the basis of evidence contained in commercial documents, internal movement certificates, or statements from OVs at slaughterhouses and/or cutting plants.

8. **PARAGRAPHS IV. b), c) and d)**

Paragraph IV. b), c) and d) can be certified on the basis of oval marks which demonstrate compliance with EU Regulations (EC) 853/2004 and 854/2004 (UK law as “retained EU law” under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 when it becomes applicable/in force).
9. **DISEASE CLEARANCE - 618NDC**

Paragraphs IV. e) and IV. f) refer: OV's may certify paragraphs IV. e) and IV. f) on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA CSC at Carlisle or via disease clearance procedures in DAERA.

Please note that in paragraph IV. f), freedom from trichinellosis in domestic pigs on UK holdings is based on negative results from all tests performed nationally since 1979, as recognised by AVA Singapore.

If the consignment of products for export includes products that contain or may contain meat from pigs from the Republic of Ireland, the OV should take the following steps to confirm that similar certification can be provided for those pigs.

In the case of conjoined premises, the certifying OV should make the necessary checks on the OIE World Animal Health Information Database (WAHID) website:

http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Wahidhome/Home

to check that the ROI is free from Rinderpest and foot and mouth disease and, for the previous 6 (six) months, from classical and African swine fever, swine vesicular disease and trichinellosis in swine. The OIE website provides both historical information and reports of recent outbreaks. If in doubt the OV should contact APHA Carlisle or DAERA. If APHA or DAERA are aware of confirmed outbreaks of these diseases in ROI, OV's will be informed.

Where the production facility is remote from the slaughterhouse where the pigs from which the meat product was derived were slaughtered, this paragraph may be certified on the basis of a declaration from the OV at the slaughterhouse(s) that the pig meat meets the requirements for export to Singapore.

10. **EXPORT OF SAUSAGE CASINGS MANUFACTURED USING COLLAGEN OF BOVINE HIDES**

Paragraph IV. g) ii) refers: This paragraph can be signed if the casings are made from beef collagen because, under UK law, beef collagen can only be derived from bovine hides and skins or tendons and is permitted for export.

11. **NO PARAGRAPH IV. i)**

Note that paragraph notation in the certificate reads IV. h) to IV. j), with paragraph IV. i) omitted.

This is intentional as roman numeral 'i' is often used to number indented paragraphs.

Use of both the letter and the roman numeral 'i' could potentially lead to confusion where advice is related to specific paragraphs given in these Notes for Guidance.

12. **PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF CHEMICAL PRESERVATIVES OR FOREIGN SUBSTANCES INJURIOUS TO HEALTH**

Paragraph IV(j) refers: In the case of conjoined premises, OV's may certify the lack of use of chemical preservatives based on familiarity with procurement arrangements, production procedures and the examination of producer / slaughterhouse records. Freedom from foreign substances injurious to health can be certified on the basis that under Regulation (EC) 178/2002, which set out the general principles and
requirements of food law in the EU/UK (UK law as “retained EU law” under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018, when it becomes applicable/in force), it is illegal to export foodstuffs which are injurious to human health without the express permission of the importing country. In this instance, such permission has not been provided.

In the case where the production facility is remote from the slaughterhouse where the pigs from which the meat product was derived were slaughtered, this paragraph may be certified on the basis of a declaration from the OV at the slaughterhouse(s) that the pig meat meets the requirements for export to Singapore.

13. **PROHIBITION ON SWILL FEEDING**

Paragraph IV(k) may be signed on the basis that the feeding of swill to domestic pigs is prohibited by Regulation 9 of The Animal By-Products Regulations 2003 (as amended) and by equivalent legislation in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Paragraph IV(k) may also be signed for meat products made from pigs produced in ROI on the basis that the covering EU By-Products Regulation (Regulation (EC) 1069/2009) which prohibits the feeding of swill to domestic pigs is directly applicable in all EU member states (or in the UK, under UK law as “retained EU law” under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018, when it becomes applicable/in force).

14. **ORIGIN OF ANIMALS FROM WHICH THE EXPORTED PORK IS DERIVED**

Paragraph IV (l) refers. Pigs slaughtered in establishments in the United Kingdom of Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland) and Northern Ireland must have been born and raised in the United Kingdom or in the Republic of Ireland.

Official Veterinarians should note that the derogation for animals from the ROI only applies to pigs and pig meat and **NOT** to sheep.

The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) have agreed the derogation that pigs killed in the United Kingdom may be born and raised either in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland (ROI) due to the pattern of trade in pigs between ROI and Northern Ireland and takes into account that the ROI is approved for the export of pork cuts directly to Singapore in accordance with the same import requirements as the UK.

Exported pork must be derived from pigs that meet the origin requirements as described in paragraph 1 above.

**Support documentation is required to enable this paragraph to be signed**, i.e. that the meat was from pigs that were born/raised in the United Kingdom and/or the Republic of Ireland (RoI).

The certifying OV must carry out the necessary checks to verify this statement. This may be on the basis of their knowledge of the operational conditions at the slaughterhouse as regards the farms of origin of the animals from which the exported meat is derived and the checking and verification of documentation accompanying the pigs to the slaughterhouse.

For pigs originating from farms located in the ROI, OV's must be completely satisfied that the pigs were born and raised in the ROI and have been legally traded into the UK.
OVs are advised to obtain written confirmation from the farms of origin verifying that the requirement of this paragraph has been met. OVs should also check that the pigs traded from the ROI are accompanied by the appropriate animal health certificate.

Further advice may be obtained from the APHA CSC for International Trade, Carlisle via the following link:

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

or, in the case of export from Northern Ireland, from the DAERA Trade Administration Team for meat and dairy exports by e-mail at: vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk or by telephone 028 77442 060.

15. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILLED PORK

Paragraph IV (l) refers. The Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore requires additional certification attestations for chilled pork. These are in connection with trichinosis assurances (dependant on the country of origin), type of animals used for the production of pork to Singapore (for the purpose of minimising boar taint), residues associated with chemical castration, general hygienic standards and shelf life of chilled product (minimum of 6 weeks).

Certification of the option that pork has derived from entire males under 100 kg (dead weight) at the time of slaughter can be provided on the basis of UK producers exporting chilled pork being compliant with the British Meat Processors Association Scheme (BMPA) requirement that boars in excess of 100 kg should be excluded from its scheme.

Alternatively, the OV must obtain evidence from the OV(s) at the relevant slaughterhouse(s) that this particular statement can be certified.

The UK has been accredited for export of chilled pork on the basis of the AVA Singapore’s recognition that the official controls and the country status for trichinella are appropriate and acceptable. In the case of chilled pork from pigs of UK origin paragraph IV (l) (ii) should be certified and no additional testing for trichinella is required.

The Republic of Ireland’s freedom from trichinella for at least the 6 months prior to the slaughter of pigs for export of chilled pork to Singapore can be certified on the basis of the instructions for notifiable diseases assurances described in Section 9 above of these guidance notes.

16. LABELLING OF PACKAGING AND CARTONS

The Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore requires that every basic packaging unit and every carton of meat and meat product imported into Singapore must be labelled with the following particulars to conform to their regulations:

i. Description of meat product;

ii. Country of origin of meat product;

iii. Brand name of meat product (if any);
iv. In the case of processed meat, name or designation number of 
the processing establishment in which and the date the meat was 
processed (if applicable);

v. In the case of frozen/chilled meat products, the name or 
designation number of the slaughter-house in which the animals 
used in production of such meat were slaughtered and the date 
of slaughter;

vi. The name or designation number of the establishment in which, 
and the date on which the meat was packed;

vii. The batch number, where the meat was canned (location) and the 
canning code; and

viii. The net weight of the meat product as contained in each basic 
packaging unit and the outer carton thereof.

17. 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 CSC for 
International Trade at Carlisle, via the link below: 
https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-
agency/about/access-and-opening#centre-for-international-trade-
carlisle

or, in the case of export from Northern Ireland, from the DAERA Trade 
Administration Team for meat and dairy exports by e-mail at: 
vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk or by telephone 028 77442 060.