BOV - Veterinary certificate for export of fresh meat, including minced meat, of domestic bovine animals (including Bison and Bubalus species and their cross-breeds) from the UK to the EU

September 2019

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No: 8261NFG

BOV - Veterinary certificate for export into the EU of fresh meat, including minced meat, of domestic bovine animals (including Bison and Bubalus species and their cross-breeds).
NOTES FOR GUIDANCE (NFG) FOR THE CERTIFYING OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN, CERTIFICATION SUPPORT OFFICER AND EXPORTER

1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Commission Regulation (EU) 206/2010 as amended

Any EU legislation referenced in the certificate must be complied with and EU legislation can be accessed on the following link. You should ensure you use the latest version: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Certifying Officers and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with the relevant export certificate for exports into the EU of fresh meat, including minced meat, of domestic bovine animals (including Bison and Bubalus species and their cross-breeds) in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 206/2010. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with the health 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.

[Please note, policies are being reviewed. NFG will be further amended to provide specific guidance. Traders should look at NFGs regularly for any updates]

2. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

This BOV model of veterinary certificate maybe used for the export fresh meat, including minced meat, of domestic bovine animals (including Bison and Bubalus species and their cross-breeds) into to the EU, in accordance with the relevant requirements described in Regulation (EU) No 206/2010.

The certificate must be completed in accordance with the explanatory notes set out in Annex V of Regulation (EU) No 206/2010.

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

In England, Scotland and Wales, this certificate must 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 (NI), this certificate must be signed by a Veterinary Officer (VO) of the Department or 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). For the purposes of these notes VOs and AVIs shall be referred to as OVs unless a specific reference is required.

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

The OV/AVI/VO should also keep a copy of the signed certificate and any supporting documents for at least three years after signature or receipt/dispatch of the consignment, whichever is later.

* This paragraph only applies to NI

**EHCs in foreign language/s of the EU Member States (MSs).**

EHCs in the foreign language/s of the EU MS where the Border Inspection Post – BIP (or Border Control Post - BCP) of entry is situated and the EU MS of destination is/are required and this/these must accompany the consignment.

The EHCs in the foreign language (as received from the APHA CSC at Carlisle or DAERA and bearing the same unique reference number as the EHC in English) should be considered official and accurate translations of the accompanying EHC in English.

Every word in the foreign language EHCs is an accurate translation of the English version. The (sub-) paragraphs / options and how they are numbered and formatted is identical too. Therefore, when the same phrases/sentences in the foreign language versions/s as in the English version is/are struck through, the former can and must be signed (as opposed to being initialled) by the OV as a genuine and proper authorised translation of the EHC in English.

This also applies to any instructions in the guidance notes to strike out certain paragraphs or to certify statements that the country is free of certain notifiable diseases etc.

The foreign language version/s of the EHCs must be attached to the English version so as to create one indivisible single document, by stapling and fan-stamping all the different language versions.

The EHC accompanying the consignment will then comprise the original English EHC and any required additional EHCs in the foreign language/s. These should be arranged in order with the English version on the top, followed by the foreign language/s version/s, and finally the page(s) of the schedule (if any) at the bottom, all stapled together, then collectively ‘fan stamped’ so that each leaf carries a part of a single stamp/watermark so that removing a page or replacing it would be detectable.

**.PART I: DETAILS OF THE CONSIGNMENT**

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

The Harmonised System (HS) Code is a commodity classification system used as a basis for customs tariffs and for international trade statistics.

It is the exporter’s responsibility to ensure that the HS code is entered correctly and accurately reflects the product(s) being consigned.
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

PART II: CERTIFICATION

II.1 Public Health Attestation


II.1.1 and II.1.2 and II.1.4 and II.1.5 and II.1.6 and II.1.8 refers

These paragraphs may be certified on the basis of application of the oval mark in the format as required by the EU confirming that the slaughterhouse, cutting plant, meat processing plan and cold store as applicable are officially approved and operating in accordance with Regulations (EC) Nos.852/2004, 853/2004 and 854/2004 and, in the case of microbiological criteria, Commission Regulation (EC) No. 2073/2005. These Regulations are transposed into national legislation and enforced by the Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland.

II 1.3 refers

This paragraph must be certified if mince meat is being exported. If this is the case, it must be frozen to -18 degrees. Otherwise delete.

II.1.7 refers

This paragraph may be certified on the basis that the national surveillance scheme implements Council Directives 96/22/EC and 96/23/EC, which are transposed into national legislation by The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Limits) Regulations 1997.

II.1.9 refers

The United Kingdom comprises of two separate zones in respect of BSE status in accordance with the OIE Terrestrial Code. England, Scotland and Wales are controlled BSE risk. At the time of publication, the following refers to current BSE statuses. Northern Ireland is recognised as negligible BSE risk (NR), and Great Britain is recognised as controlled BSE risk (CR). However, OVs should check for updates to BSE status at the time of certification.

All specified risk material (SRM) as described in the certificate must be removed from the meat intended for export to the EU as required by EU legislation and UK TSE legislation.

The certifying OV must carry out additional checks to verify the origin of the animals from which the exported meat is derived or the origin of the meat. 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 cattle to the slaughterhouse. The OV may also wish to obtain Internal Movement Certs as additional support.

There is a choice of 3 sections under II.1.9 relating to BSE risk of the country/region of dispatch.

First II.1.9 section-for exports to EU from NR Region- (a) may be certified on the basis of NR status

The first option (b) should be deleted.

The second option (b) should be selected as this method of slaughter is carried out in the UK in accordance with Council Regulation 999/2001 Annex V, point 6 TSE Regulations (NI) 2010. Delete first option (b)(i) and (ii).

The first option (c) should be certified if the meat/minced meat derives from animals which originated from a CR/NR region. This may be certified as all specified risk material (SRM) must be removed from meat intended for human consumption as required by EU legislation and UK TSE legislation. The second option (c) and (i), (ii) and (iii) may be certified if the meat/minced meat is derived from animals which originate in a CR/undetermined risk area and comply with (ii) and (iii) also.

First option (d) should be deleted as NI has had indigenous cases of BSE. Select second option (d) should be chosen. Meat or minced meat must not be derived from MSM, obtained from bones of animals. The OV may wish to have written confirmation/evidence from the slaughterhouse/cutting plant.

(e) should be deleted. Only applicable for meat/minced derived from animals originating from a country/region of undetermined BSE risk.

Second II.1.9 section- for exports to EU from CR regions (a) may be certified on the basis of CR status.

Option (b) may be certified as the slaughter method carried out in the UK is in accordance with Council Regulation 999/2001 Annex V, point 6 TSE Regulations (NI) 2010.

Option (c) -select which option is applicable, depending on the commodity being exported. All specified risk material (SRM) must be removed from meat intended for human consumption as required by EU legislation and UK TSE legislations.

Third II.1.9 section-this may be deleted as at present there are no regions of undetermined risk in the UK.

II.1.10 refers

**SALMONELLA GUARANTEES FOR MEAT TO BE EXPORTED TO FINLAND AND SWEDEN**

There are special requirements of salmonella testing for meat from bovine animals, including minced meat, intended for export to Sweden and Finland, with reference to Chapter III, Article 8 of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 (EU). Annex I of Regulation (EC) No
1688/2005 sets out the sampling method and number of samples to be taken. Evidence must be collected and attached to EHC as supporting documentation.

II.2. Animal Health Attestation

II.2.1 refers
Enter the territory code as it appears in Part 1 of Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 206/2010, for the origin of the meat.

Paragraph (a) and first option (b) may be certified on the basis of UK notifiable disease clearances, as point 4 below. Vaccination of animals against foot and mouth and rinderpest is not permitted in the UK.
All other option (b) should be deleted.

II.2.2 refers
There are 3 options-
Option 1 to be certified for animals that have remained in the territory at II.2.1 since birth or at least 3 months.
Option 2 to be certified for animals introduced into the territory at II.2.1 from a territory listed in Part 1 of Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 206/2010.
Option 3 can be certified for animals moved in to the territory at II.2.1 from an EU Member state.

II.2.3 refers
Paragraph (a) may be certified on the basis that vaccination of animals against foot and mouth and rinderpest is not permitted in the UK.
First option (b) may be certified on the basis of notifiable disease clearances, as above, if the animals came from holdings in the UK.
If the fresh meat was obtained from animals imported into the UK, additional guarantees may be required. However OVs should note that EU regulations do not permit the importation into the EU of animals from countries or regions where these diseases are present.

Second option (b) and (c) (footnote 8 refers). If the UK has entry ‘A’ in column 5 “SG” of part I of annex II of Regulation (EU) No 206/2010, this option must be certified. Otherwise delete.

Second option (c) (footnote 14 refers). If the UK has entry ‘J’ in column 5 “SG” of part I of annex II of Regulation (EU) No 206/2010, this option must be certified. Otherwise delete.

Third option (b) and (c) (footnote 9 refers). If the UK has entry ‘F’ in column 5 “SG” of part I of annex II of Regulation (EU) No 206/2010, this option must be certified. Otherwise delete.
Paragraph (d), (e) and (f) (footnote 6 refers). If the UK has entry ‘H’ in column 5 “SG” of part I of annex II of Regulation (EU) No 206/2010, this option must be certified. Otherwise delete.

II.2.4 refers
(a) may be certified based on the basis of the OV’s knowledge of the operational conditions at the slaughterhouse, additional assurances and documentary evidence may be necessary.
(b) may be certified on the basis of the Oval mark
(c) dates of slaughter or range of slaughter dates need to be entered here.

(d) should only be certified if the animals originate from a region with an "E" listing in Column 5 of Part 1 of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 206/2010. If not applicable this paragraph should be deleted
(e) should only be certified if the animals from which mature de-boned beef has been obtained, originate from a region with an “H” listing in column 5 “SG” of Part 1 of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 206/2010. If not applicable this paragraph should be deleted.

II.2.5 refers
This paragraph can be certified on the basis of notifiable disease clearances if foot and mouth and rinderpest have been absent for the period and radius described for the slaughterhouse or the described measures have been taken in the event of an outbreak.

II.2.6 refers
Option 1 requires segregation of the product being certified, from product that does not comply with the requirements of the certificate. This can be done on the basis of OV knowledge of the establishment. The OV may require additional guarantees.
Option 2 should be certified if the meat is from matured deboned beef from territory with the entry “A” listing in column 5 “SG” of Part 1 of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 206/2010.
Option 3 should be certified if the meat is from matured deboned beef from territory with the entry “F” listing in column 5 “SG” of Part 1 of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 206/2010. Delete the options that are not applicable.

II.3 Animal Welfare Attestation
This paragraph can be certified on the basis that Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (England) Regulation (WATOK 2015) and parallel legislation in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is complied with at the slaughterhouse. WATOK 2015 regulation applies the provisions for the administration and enforcement of No 1099/2009 (EC).

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 must initially check the Gov.uk link for UK’s Notifiable Disease Status
prior to certification to ensure when disease freedom statements can be certified.

In addition, the following should be borne in mind:

For Great Britain:

- **In the event of a disease outbreak:** APHA Carlisle will also 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:** OVs may certify that the UK has disease free status or region free status for those diseases mentioned in the health certificate once they have checked the disease list for the last occurrence of the disease and have ensured if complies with the time frames in the certificate.

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

In Northern Ireland, AVIs may certify that the UK/NI has disease free status for those diseases mentioned in the health certificate if in possession of a valid DAERA Veterinary Support Certificate. DAERA OVs avail of the Notifiable Disease Clearance (NDC) system to obtain the required disease status necessary for certification. The NDC system is based on obtaining daily updates on disease status from NI, GB and the ROI.

5. COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE

Personnel may be authorised to collect evidence which may be used to support veterinary certification. In GB, the Certification Support Officer (CSO) role has been developed by APHA.

- In England Scotland and Wales 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.

  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.

- In **Northern Ireland**, DAERA train and authorise government staff to act in a certification support role to DAERA OVs as TCSOs (Trade Certification Support Officers). They work under the direction of DAERA OVs and are not available for AVI certification checks.

6. **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:


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.

7. **CONSIGNMENTS OR PARTS OF THE CONSIGNMENT ORIGINATING FROM EU MEMBER STATES**

Some consignments may contain animal products that are of EU origin and were exported to the UK on a Commercial Document or Intra-Trade Animal Health Certificate (ITAHC). The Commercial Document may not contain enough information to allow the certifying officer to sign an EHC.

The Certifying Officer will need further information from the EU member state regarding particular attestations on the EHC that cannot be signed by the Certifying Officer without further information. Thus, the exporter must request from the EU exporter a written declaration that the relevant attestations on the certificate can be signed by the UK Certifying Officer on the basis of retained legislation between EU and UK and that the attestations were adhered to in the EU member state. The exporter may wish to obtain a written declaration directly from the EU OV who has inspected the animal products before export from the EU.

When the certificate requires specific information to be included, such as the date of slaughter or the date of introduction into the EU member state, the exporter must also request this information from the EU member state exporter. The EU exporter may forward the request to the relevant EU OV to provide the necessary information requested by the UK exporter.
This written declaration must be kept by the UK Certifying Officer. The Certifying Officer is not required to attach it as a supporting document to the EHC, unless requested by the EU Border Inspection Post or told otherwise.

It is the exporter’s responsibility to ensure timely request of information from EU member state exporter, to allow the EHC to be signed and stamped in good time before export to the EU.

8. ‘OVAL MARK ON ‘PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN – POAOs’

EU hygiene regulations require that food of animal origin carries an oval health or identification mark and EU official controls are carried out by enforcement authorities to ensure the appropriate marking has been applied. Domestic legislation is being introduced to ensure these requirements continue to apply in the UK when we leave the EU.

The health marks indicate that meat is fit for human consumption and the identification marks show when foods of animal origin have been produced in officially approved establishments which are compliant with retained EU food hygiene Regulations (EC) No 852/2004, (EC) No 853/2004 and (EC) No 854/2004. 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.

Relevant text on the EHC can be certified on the basis that carcases, half carcases or quarters, or half carcases cuts into three pieces, of domestic ungulates, farmed game mammals (other than lagomorphs) and large wild game bear the official health mark or that the primary, secondary and/or shipping packaging on food products of animal origin show the identification mark.

[NFG will be further amended to provide specific guidance once policies are agreed]

9. UK ANIMAL HEALTH SCHEMES

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Statement

Compliance to No 999/2001 (EC) and No 98/256 (EC), can be certified based on the enforcement of the TSE Regulation 2018 (England and Wales) and TSE Regulation 2010 (Scotland) and Bovines and Bovine Products (Trade) Regulation 1999.

All specified risk material (SRM) described in the certificate must be removed from the meat intended for export to the EU as required by EU legislation and UK TSE legislations.

There are separate requirements for BSE depending on the UK BSE disease status profile: controlled BSE risk, un-determined or negligible risk. The UK comprises of two separate zones in respect of BSE status in accordance with the OIE Terrestrial Code: England, Scotland and Wales are controlled BSE risk zones whereas Northern Ireland is currently recognised as having negligible BSE risk. Northern Ireland is listed in point A of Annex in 2007/453/EC and the rest of the UK is listed in point B of Annex in 2007/453/EC. Animal feed ban can be certified on the basis of compliance with UK TSE Regulations which implements and enforces the ‘total feed ban’ through the National Feed Audit. The UK
imposed a ban of feeding ruminants with meat-and-bone meal and greaves from the 1st August 1996.

The BSE OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code and a list of the OIE countries BSE disease statuses can be found on the links below:

http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_selfdeclaration_BSE.htm

http://www.oie.int/animal-health-in-the-world/official-disease-status/bse/list-of-bserisk-status/

**SALMONELLA GARUNTEES FOR MEAT TO BE EXPORTED TO FINLAND AND SWEDEN**

There are special requirements of salmonella testing for beef meat, including minced meat, intended for export to Sweden and Finland, with reference to Chapter III, Article 8 of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 (EU). However, testing is not required for meat preparations and mechanically separated meat or if meat is intended for pasteurization, sterilization or treatment having a similar effect. Testing is also not required if the establishment conforms to a control program recognized as equivalent to that approved for Sweden and Finland. Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 1688/2005 sets out the sampling method and number of samples to be taken. Evidence must be collected and attached to EHC as supporting documentation.

10. **LEGAL STATEMENT**

[The paragraph below will be reviewed at later stage when the position on alignment with OCR becomes clearer after new ministers take their posts.]

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).

11. **DISCLAIMER**

This certificate and NFG 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:


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PB 8261NFG