

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

In relation to 8525EHC titled:
EXPORT OF UNPROCESSED HIDES AND SKINS TO ETHIOPIA

Associated Documents: 8525EHC and 618NDC

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but always in conjunction with certificate 8525EHC.

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**

This certificate may be used for the export of hides and skins Ethiopia.

Because of the highly processed nature of the following products:

- (a) hides and skins having undergone the complete process of tanning;
- (b) 'wet blue';
- (c) 'pickled pelts';
- (d) limed hides (treated with lime and in brine at a pH of 12 to 13 for at least eight hours),

exporters wishing to export the above products are advised to confirm, via their commercial contacts or the British Embassy in the destination country, if the importing authorities require these products to be accompanied by this certificate.

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 holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation, or who is an Official Veterinarian (OV) on the appropriate panel for export purposes.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), Specialist Service Centre for International Trade, Carlisle, or to DAERA, within seven days of issue.

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

- 3. Paragraph I(a) refers. The description of the products should include reference to the species of origin of the product.
- 4. Paragraph IV refers. The health information may be certified on the basis of the following guidance in conjunction with the necessary evidence resulting from the OV's familiarity with the sourcing, procurement, segregation, processing, handling and storage arrangements in place at the processing establishment. This should be supported as necessary by physical inspection and examination of relevant documentation and/or records including veterinary import certification.

In addition, the certifying OV should be familiar with the requirements of Regulations (EC) 1069/2009 and 142/2011 (as amended).

(a) **Paragraph IV 1 - From animals fit for slaughter**

This may be certified on the basis that the hides/skins were collected from animals slaughtered for human consumption in a slaughterhouse approved in accordance with the EU Hygiene package, including Regulations (EC) 852/2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs, 853/2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin and 854/2004 laying down specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption.

In England, the EU Hygiene package is implemented and enforced by the Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended). Similar legislation exists in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

In the case of hides and skins imported from countries outside the European Union, this paragraph may be certified on the basis of the wording of the veterinary certificate accompanying the product into the UK.

(b) **Paragraph IV 2 - Origin or treatment**

One of the three options presented must be certified. The options which are not to be certified should be struck through and the deletion signed and stamped in the usual manner.

(i) **Paragraph IV 2(a) - Notifiable disease clearance**

UK freedom from foot and mouth disease may be certified on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA Specialist Service Centre for International Trade, Carlisle, or the issuing DAERA office in Northern Ireland.

If the UK does not currently satisfy this criterion or if this paragraph is not to be certified, then it should be struck through and the deletion signed and stamped in the usual manner.

Certifying OVs and exporters should be aware that, if the UK is unable to satisfy this criterion, the importing authorities may impose animal health restrictions which could lead to consignments being rejected regardless of whether the remaining conditions of this certificate have been met.

(ii) **Paragraph IV 2(b) - 2% Sodium carbonate treatment**

It is expected that this paragraph would only be certified for UK origin hides and skins when paragraph IV(a) cannot be certified.

If this paragraph is not to be certified, then it should be struck through and the deletion signed and stamped in the usual manner.

(ii) **Paragraph IV 2(c) - Legally imported**

This may be supported on sight of the veterinary certificate or commercial document which accompanied the product into the UK from either a country outside the EU or from member state of the EU respectively.

If this paragraph is not to be certified, then it should be struck through and the deletion signed and stamped in the usual manner.

5. **SUPPORTING DECLARATIONS**

Where 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 and/or declared intended use. 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.

Where possible, supporting evidence should be called for and put on file.

6. **DISCLAIMER**

This certificate and these notes 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 APHA Centre for International Trade (CIT) - Carlisle, via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening#specialist-service-centres-ssc>

In Northern Ireland, please contact the DAERA trade administration team:

- e-mail - **tradeadminpost@daera-ni.gov.uk**
- Phone - 02877442146