EXPORT OF DAIRY PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM MILK OF COWS, EWES, GOATS AND BUFFALOES TO MONTENEGRO – 8537EHC

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

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENT: 8537EHC

APPLICABLE LEGISLATION: **Regulation (EC) No 853/2004**
Council Directive 2002/99/EC
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 Official Veterinarians (OV), Certification Support Officers (CSO) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to the OV together with the relevant export certificate applicable for exports to Montenegro of dairy products derived from milk of cows, ewes, goats and buffaloes for human consumption. 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.

1. **SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE**
This export health certificate may be used for export to Montenegro of dairy products derived from milk of cows, ewes, goats and buffaloes for intended for human consumption.

2. **CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)**
This certificate may be signed by an OV appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government, who is on the appropriate panel for export purposes or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary)(OCQ(V)) authorisation, or a veterinarian employed by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs - Northern Ireland (DAERA).

OVs/VOs should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV/VO stamp in any colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the issuing office (in GB – the Centre for International Trade, Carlisle) within seven days of signing.

This is not required in Northern Ireland as a copy is saved to the official record HPRM.

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

3. PART I: DETAILS OF THE CONSIGNMENT
Please ensure that the exporter has completed all the boxes in Part I of the certificate.
I.25 Commodity Certified for
In the free text box I.25 specify that the commodity is certified for human consumption (this certificate is not appropriate for dairy not intended for human consumption.
I.28 Identification of the Commodity
In the free text box I.28, include the following fields and the relevant data to identify the consignment:
Commodity Code
Manufacturing plant

Number of packages
Species (scientific name)
Net weight (kg)
Batch number
Type of packaging
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

4. PART II: CERTIFICATION

II.1 Animal Health Attestation
The Official Veterinarian signing the export health certificate must ensure that the animal health attestations set out in Part II of the health certificate have been complied with.

They must ensure that they are aware of the relevant provisions of Council Directive 2002/99/EC of 16 December 2002 laying down the animal health rules governing the production, processing, distribution and introduction of products of animal origin for human consumption and Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin.

II.1(a) (i) – This can be certified based on livestock in the UK being under the official control of the Rural Payments Agency (and equivalent agencies in Devolved Administrations) for registration of holdings and identification of animals, and APHA/DAERA for milk hygiene enforcement.

II.1.a (ii) and a (iii) – this can be certified based on the lack of specific disease updates from APHA (as per Section 5 **Disease Notification**), as the UK has currently been free from the diseases listed for at least 12 months. Vaccination against FMD is also prohibited in the UK.
If holdings are under restrictions for FMD and/or rinderpest because of suspicion of disease, UK legislation will prevent its milk from being collected for placing on the market or exports.

II.1.a (iv) – Annex III, Section IX, Chapter 1 of Regulation 853/2004 requires, among other things, that the holding of origin of the raw milk is OBF and OTF. However, it also provides for raw milk from holdings which are not OTF (or OBF) to be pasteurised or undergo a heat treatment such as to show a negative reaction to the alkaline phosphatase test, subject to authorisation by the competent authority.

In the UK, such an authorisation (by Defra/APHA/DAERA/FSA/FSS) is in place for raw milk from holdings which are not OTF, as long as milk from tuberculin reactors is disposed of and not allowed into the bulk tank.

The rest of the requirements in Chapter 1 concern dairy hygiene.
If the animals are resident in the UK this can be certified based on the Dairy Hygiene inspections regularly carried out by APHA/AfiB on behalf of FSA/FSS to monitor compliance with hygiene legislation.

II.1. (b) – The heat treatments described here are laid down in Council Regulation (EC) 853/2004. These must be complied with by the manufacturing premises. Verification of this must be sought through:

- Familiarisation with the premises;
- Liaison with the Environmental Health Officer responsible for the Premises;
- Checks on records and thermographic readings;
- Exporters declaration that these requirements have been fulfilled.

II.2 Public Health Attestation

The Official Veterinarian signing the export health certificate must ensure that the public health attestations set out in Part II of the health certificate have been complied with.
They must 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, laying down the public health conditions applicable to the production of dairy products.
The OV is advised to make contact with the local authority with enforcement responsibilities at the establishments producing dairy products to verify that the consignment is compliant with the relevant aspects of EU legislation, especially that for microbiological monitoring.

II.2.a (i) & (ii) & (iii) & (v) & (vi) – These requirements can be certified based on the regular dairy hygiene inspections carried out in the UK (see above) on the basis of which the manufacturing establishment is authorised to apply the oval identification mark to the processed milk/dairy product.

II.2.(a) (iv) & (e)
See Section 6 below - Residue Check Guarantees.

II.2.b-d – These requirements can be certified based on the OV's familiarity with the producing establishment, liaison with the EHO responsible for regulatory control of the premises, the presence of an oval identification mark and evidence that the processed milk/dairy product was manufactured in an approved establishment which indicates that it complies with the requirements in the listed legislation, including that for microbiological monitoring.

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 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. DISEASE NOTIFICATION – 618NDC

Paragraph II.1.(ii) refers.

This clause may be signed **on** behalf of the Department by an Official Veterinarian, provided written authority to do so, on form 618NDC, has been obtained from the issuing office, within 10 days of shipment.

7. 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 2016, that commits to the legislative requirements of Directive Nos 96/23 (EC), 96/22 (EC), and Regulation No 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 medicinal 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-statutorysurveillance-results

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

8. 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:

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