NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

In relation to 8555EHC titled:
EXPORT OF BOVINE, OVINE OR CAPRINE FRESH BLOOD PRODUCTS FOR LABORATORY USE TO ISRAEL

Associated Document: 8555EHC; 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 8555EHC. 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 certificate may be used for the export from the United Kingdom to Israel of blood products derived from slaughtered bovine, ovine and caprine animals and intended for laboratory use.

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

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

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

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

3. Paragraph IV – Health information

The health information may be certified on the basis of the following specific guidance in conjunction with the RCVS Principles of Certification. OVs should develop due familiarity with the sourcing, procurement, segregation, processing, handling and storage arrangements in place at the establishment. This should be supported as necessary by physical inspection and by examination of relevant documentation or other records including commercial documentation, veterinary statements, laboratory analysis and valid declarations.

(a) **Paragraph IV 1 – Notifiable disease freedom**
This relates to 12 month freedom from the former OIE List A diseases, all of which are listed in the footnote to the certificate.

In practice, only freedom from the following diseases is required in relation to blood products derived from bovine, ovine and caprine animals:

Species of origin:	**Disease freedom required:**
Bovine	• Bluetongue • Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia • Foot and mouth disease • Lumpy skin disease • Rift Valley fever • Rinderpest • Vesicular stomatitis
Ovine	• Bluetongue • Foot and mouth disease • Peste des petits ruminants • Rift Valley fever • Rinderpest • Sheep pox and goat pox • Vesicular stomatitis
Caprine	• Bluetongue • Foot and mouth disease • Peste des petits ruminants • Rift Valley fever • Rinderpest • Sheep pox and goat pox • Vesicular stomatitis

(i) **For blood from animals slaughtered in the UK**:
For the purposes of certifying this paragraph with respect to blood obtained from animals slaughtered in the UK, 'region' may be interpreted to mean the parishes where the farms of origin of the donor animals are located.

This paragraph may be certified on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained from the issuing office on form **618NDC**, confirming freedom from the above diseases.

(ii) **For blood from animal slaughtered outside the UK**:
This paragraph may be certified on the basis of suitably worded veterinary statements and/or veterinary import certificates issued by the competent veterinary authority of the country in which the animals were slaughtered.

(b) **Paragraph IV 2 – Approval and supervision of establishment of collection**
This paragraph may be certified on the basis that the blood was collected from slaughterhouses which are approved by the competent authority.

(i) **In the case of slaughterhouses located in the UK**:
This paragraph may be certified on the basis of approval under Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended) and parallel legislation in force in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

These statutory instruments currently enforce the principles and controls laid down under 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.

(ii) **In the case of slaughterhouses located outside the UK:**
This paragraph may be certified on the basis of suitably worded veterinary statements and/or veterinary import certificates issued by the competent veterinary authority of the country in which the animals were slaughtered.

(c) **Paragraph IV 3 – Veterinary examination prior to collection:**
This paragraph may be certified on the basis that the donor animals will have undergone ante- and post-mortem inspections as part of the slaughtering process in place at the approved slaughterhouse. This may be supported as necessary by suitably worded veterinary statements from the slaughterhouse and/or veterinary import certificates issued by the competent veterinary authority of the country or origin.

(d) **Paragraphs IV 4 – Compliance with the feed ban**
The described feeding prohibition reflects a fundamental measure for controlling the spread of BSE, scrapie and other TSEs.

(i) **For blood from animals slaughtered in the UK**:
This paragraph may be certified on the basis of the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (England) Regulations 2018 (as amended) and parallel legislation in force in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The described feeding prohibition has been enforced in the UK since 2002 by the precursors to the abovementioned statutory instruments.

These statutory instruments currently enforce the principles and controls laid down under Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 (as amended).

(e) **Paragraphs IV 5 – TSE-related assurances**
This paragraph must be completed as appropriate depending on whether the blood was obtained from animals slaughtered in a country or region with either a negligible or controlled BSE risk.

(i) **For blood collected in a country or region with a negligible BSE risk**:
The first option should be certified.

The World Organisation for Animal Health (still known by its historical acronym, OIE) publishes the BSE risk status of countries and regions online at: http://www.oie.int/animal-health-in-the-world/official-disease-status/bse/list-of-bse-risk-status/

This may also be supported by suitably worded veterinary statements and/or veterinary import certificates issued by the competent veterinary authority of the country in which the animals were slaughtered.

The second indent, incorporating sub-paragraphs (a),(b) and (c), must be deleted in its entirety.

(ii) **For blood collected in a country or region with a controlled BSE risk**:
The second option must be certified.

For blood collected from animals slaughtered in regions of the UK with a controlled BSE risk, this may be supported by the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (England) Regulations 2018 (as amended) and parallel legislation in force in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

These statutory instruments enforce the removal and safe disposal of specified risk material at slaughterhouses and prohibit the stunning methods described.

These statutory instruments currently enforce the principles and controls laid down under Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 (as amended).

For blood collected in other countries or regions with a controlled BSE risk, this paragraph may be certified on the basis of suitably worded veterinary statements and/or veterinary import certificates issued by the competent veterinary authority of the country in which the animals were slaughtered.

The first indent must be deleted.

(f) **Paragraphs IV 6 – Labelling requirements and treatments**
The appropriate option should be completed to reflect either the labelling applied to the outer packaging of the product or to the specific treatment applied to the blood product itself.

The options which are not to be certified must be deleted in their entirety.

4. 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. 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.

The RCVS Guide to Professional Conduct 2012 states that [Veterinary Surgeons] "must not recklessly confirm what other people have stated". Where possible, supporting evidence should be called for and put on file.

5. 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 Centre for International Trade (CIT) – Exports in Carlisle, via the link below:

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

In Northern Ireland, contact the DAERA trade administration team:
e-mail- tradeadminpost@daera-ni.gov.uk
Phone - 0289 0520989