Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

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

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Contents

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

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE (NFG) FOR THE CERTIFYING OFFICERS AND EXPORTERS

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

Please note that Official Control Regulations 2017/625 have repealed Regulation (EC) No 854/2004, 882/2004 and Directive No 96/23/EC. Please see link:

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32017R0625&from=EN

Consolidated legislation

Consolidated texts, which integrate the basic instruments of Union legislation with their amendments and corrections in a single, non-official document, are available. Each consolidated text contains a list of all legal documents taken into account for its construction. You can search for consolidated texts by using the 'find results by document number' option on the European Commission website. Once you have selected the relevant legislation, click 'document information', and then scroll down to 'all consolidated versions' and select the most recent version.
Please note that the consolidated text may not contain the latest amendment to the legislation, as it takes several weeks for this to be updated.
Texts provided in this section are intended for information only. Please note that these texts have no legal value. For legal purposes please refer to the texts published in the 'Official Journal of the European Union'.

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 dispatch into the EU or NI 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 frozen minced meat, of domestic bovine animals (including Bison and Bubalus species and their cross-breeds) into to the EU or NI, in accordance with the relevant requirements described in Regulation (EU) No 206/2010.

Fresh meat means all animal parts (including offal) fit for human consumption whether chilled or frozen.

Minced meat is boned meat which has been minced into fragments and that must have been prepared exclusively from striated muscle (including the adjoining fatty tissues) except heart muscle.

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

This EHC can be used only to certify fresh meat produced in the UK or meat imported from an authorised Third Country. Fresh meat that was imported into the UK from the EU cannot currently be re-exported using this EHC. Further guidance on certification for triangular trade is provided below.

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

In **England, Scotland and Wales**, this certificate must be signed by a Government Veterinary Officer or by an Official Veterinarian (OV) appointed by the Animal and Plant Health Agency on behalf of Ministers in Defra, the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government and who hold the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ (V)) authorisation.

OVs must sign and stamp, with the OV stamp, the health certificate in ink of a different colour to that of the printing of the Export Health Certificate (EHC). There is no requirement to sign and stamp in a specific colour.

The OV should 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. These can be electronic copies.

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

EHC should be in English and the foreign language/s of the Border Control Post (BCP) of entry in the EU, as well as in the language of the EU MS of destination if this a different

country from the point of entry to the EU. The required EHC must accompany the consignment.

Listing of the EU MS BCPs can be found here: https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/vet-border-control/bip-contacts_en

The foreign language certificate as received from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or via the Export Heath Certificates on-line system (EHCO) and bearing the same unique reference number as the English certificate, should be considered an official and accurate translations of the English, as published in EU legislation.

The (sub-) paragraphs / options and how they are numbered and formatted is identical in the English and foreign language editions and to the legislation published by the EU Commission. Therefore, when the same phrases/sentences in the foreign language versions/s as in the English version are struck through, both versions can and must be signed (as opposed to being initialled) by the OV as a genuine and properly authorised translation of the 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.

Signing, stamping and pagination

The foreign language version/s and any schedules (if any) may be stapled to the English version but doing so and then fan stamping the multiple sheets is not enough to create one indivisible single document according to the EU Commission.

Therefore, each page (including schedules) should be individually signed and stamped and bear the reference number of the certificate. The pages comprising the complete document should be sequentially numbered so they are part of a finite sequence which covers the English, foreign language version/s and any schedule pages.

For example, if the certificate consists of four A4 pages printed back to back on two sheets of A4 paper with a schedule that is three A4 pages long, all 11 pages must be stamped and **signed** (as above) and numbered 1/11 to 11/11.

COs will have to make handwritten corrections to page numbering as may be required. E.g. 1/4 to 4/4 (if present) on the foreign language parts in the example given above will need to be crossed out and the 1/11 to 11/11 entered.

The EHC accompanying the consignment will then comprise the original English EHC and any required additional 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.

As per general guidance for certifiers on APHA's Vet Gateway, any hand written corrections or permitted deletions to a certificate should be stamped and **initialled**. This includes the deletion of optional statements in Part II of the certificate and alterations to content in Part 1. The same applies if a pre-populated text in a box in part I of the EHC needs to be amended. (E.g. if box I.7 which is pre-populated as 'United Kingdom' 'GB', needs to be amended for triangular trade where third country origin 'Products Of Animal Origin' are being

certified in the original third country packaging with the original third country Identification Marks, in which case the country of origin will be the third country in question and not the United Kingdom). Please follow the guidance on corrections in the link below.

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/index.htm

We advise that individual stamping and initialling of diagonal lines drawn through blank boxes in Part 1 is not necessary. This is to reduce excessive stamping on the certificate. However we are aware that some BCPs advise otherwise and request stamping and initialling of manually crossed out blank boxes in Part 1 of the certificate. In such cases OV should conform to the BCPs request to facilitate the clearance of the goods.

You can find further information on Export Health Certificates (EHC) Online Guidance for Certifiers in the link below.

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/documents/exports/guidance-ehc-certifiers.pdf

UK approved establishments will be uploaded to Europa website in due course, until the establishments are in Europa website you can find the list of UK approved establishments in the link below.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/businesses-approved-to-export-to-the-eu

Please check the guidance on completion of part I of the EHC at the bottom of the EHC and in the links provided in the NFG. For completion of box I.8-Region of Origin Code, if applicable; the territory code should be as listed in the relevant legislation that is provided under the notes at the bottom of the EHC. This is only for species or products affected by regionalisation measures or by the setting up of approved zones in accordance with a European Community Decision. The approved regions or zones must be indicated as described in the Official Journal of the European Union.

PART I: DETAILS OF THE CONSIGNMENT

All boxes in Part I of the certificate must be completed. When a box is not applicable/optional, and not filled, please score it through.

Please use schedule to be attached to the certificate if there is not enough space to fill the information. See section Additional Schedules below.

Please complete all the boxes in Part I of the certificate in accordance with the guidance lay down on Commission Decision 2007/240/EC that can be accessed via this link:

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32007D0240

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

The Official veterinarian needs to be aware of the relevant requirements of Regulations (EC) No. 178/2002, (EC) 852/2004, (EC), 853/2004, (EC) No 854/2004 and (EC) No 999/2001.

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.1.5. refers

There are two options marked as “either” “or”. If you export carcass and packaged meat, you will need two different EHCs. In case you want to use a single EHC for both commodities you need to contact the BCP of entry to make sure they will accept both in a single EHC.

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. 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 supporting health attestations as additional support.

BSE status of Member States or third countries or regions thereof according to their BSE risk:
https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02007D0453-20200702&qid=1607603814945

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. If meat originates from non-UK animals, please refer to Section 7.
https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32010R0206&qid=1609931684879

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.

When the certificate refers to “obtain” it refers to the country where the animals were slaughtered.

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). As the UK has not an entry ‘A’ in column 5 “SG” of part I of annex II of Regulation (EU) No 206/2010, this option must be deleted.

Second option (c) (footnote 14 refers). As the UK has not an entry ‘J’ in column 5 “SG” of part I of annex II of Regulation (EU) No 206/2010, this option must be deleted.

Third option (b) and (c) (footnote 9 refers). As the UK has not an entry ‘F’ in column 5 “SG” of part I of annex II of Regulation (EU) No 206/2010, this option must be deleted.

Paragraph (d), (e) and (f) (footnote 6 refers). As the UK has not an entry ‘H’ in column 5 “SG” of part I of annex II of Regulation (EU) No 206/2010, this option must deleted.

II.2.4 refers
(a) C&D of means of transport may be certified on the basis of compliance with the legal requirements of The Transport of Animals (Cleansing and Disinfection) (England) (No. 3) Order 2003 (as amended) and equivalent legislation in Scotland, Wales and N. Ireland or additional supporting evidence from farm assurance schemes or declarations on Food Chain Information.

(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. Those dates might be present in the labelling of the product. OV might check these and other additional assurances and documentary evidence may be necessary.

(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.
Please refer to point 4 “Notifiable Disease Clearance” below. Paragraph II.2.5 should not be crossed out as there are no footnotes in the EHC that indicates that.

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 and Wales is complied with at the slaughterhouse. WATOK 2015 regulation applies the provisions for the administration and enforcement of No 1099/2009 (EC).*
*This paragraph applies for animals killed in the UK.

4. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

Some export certificates for animals and animal products will include statements that will require the OV to certify that specified areas or the entire country of origin are free from certain diseases.

Where it is possible for the Certifying Officer (CO) (Official Veterinarian (OV) or Environmental Health Officer (EHO)) in Great Britain to obtain disease clearance themselves, the Centre for international Trade – Carlisle (CITC) will not issue a 618NDC notifiable disease clearance.

COs must check the following sources of disease information for the United Kingdom immediately prior to certification, to ensure disease freedom statements can be certified:

- the Notifiable Disease Occurrence List for Great Britain (ET171) available on the Exports > Certification Procedures page of the APHA Vet Gateway
- the UK Status for Non-Notifiable Diseases Relevant to Export Certification (ET152) available on the Exports > Certification Procedures page of the APHA Vet Gateway.

For Great Britain:

In the absence of a specific Notifiable Disease Clearance (618NDC) from CITC: COs 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(s) for the last occurrence of the disease, and have ensured it complies with the time frames in the certificate.

In the event of a disease outbreak that affects a CO being able to obtain their own disease clearance, CITC will notify COs to make it clear which disease freedom statements should

not be certified and where necessary, will issue a 618NDC notifiable disease clearance if the EHC can continue to be issued for certain regions that retain free status.

In the event of a disease outbreak after the EHC has been issued that affects the disease clearance, COs must not certify the EHC and must contact CITC immediately for advice on whether certification can still take place. If a disease outbreak affects the CO disease clearance procedures for this EHC, a 618NDC will be reinstated by CITC which will be issued with the EHC until a time when CO disease clearance can be reinstated.

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

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.

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.

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:

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 to the national surveillance program, which complies with the relevant EU legislation.

7. CONSIGNMENTS OR PARTS OF THE CONSIGNMENT ORIGINATING FROM NI, EU MEMBER STATE OR FROM THIRD COUNTRIES (TRIANGULAR TRADE) [WHEN APPLICABLE]

NI origin:

Consignment could potentially contain animals or animal products which have originated in Northern Ireland. For raw materials which have then been processed into a final product in GB, or are presented in their original state and bearing a UK(NI) identification mark, the CO can certify certain matters relating to EU compliance at a national level.

Where the EHC refers to matters of compliance indicated by EU approval status of the premises of origin or manufacture in NI, compliance can be certified on the basis that from 1st January 2021, under the terms of the Withdrawal Agreement between the EU and UK and the Ireland / Northern Ireland Protocol, approved and registered premises in Northern Ireland will implement the full requirements of Regulation (EC) Nos. 852/2004, 853/2004, 2017/625 and all relevant supporting EU legislation as set out in Annex 2 to the Protocol. This compliance is indicated by the presence of the EU oval health and identification marks applied to the products in the required EU format, for products placed on the market in NI.

Some examples, but not a complete list, of how assurance can be established at national level are listed below.

Compliance with the microbiological criteria set out in Regulation (EC) No. 2073/2055 can be certified if the products originate in an EU approved premises in NI, and bearing the EU oval ID mark.

Public health statements referring to compliance with EU requirements for testing for residues as set out in Directive 96/23/EC, (repealed by OCR Regulation 2017/625) 96/22 (EC) and 470/2009 (EC) can be certified by the CO on the basis of a national residue surveillance programme implemented in NI under The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for residues and maximum Residues Limits) Regulation (NI) 2016. This forms part of the UK national surveillance programme.

With regards to controls for Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies, guidance provided in this document relating to statements about the method of slaughter of animals in GB also applies to animals slaughtered in NI and can be certified by the CO on that basis.

Disease clearance for animals or products originating in NI can be completed using auto-clearance NDC found here:

https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/notifiable-diseases-northern-ireland

Where regional or local level disease clearance is required, this can be certified upon request on the basis of information from NI in the form of a declaration or a supporting health attestation.

Animal health statements which refer to the prohibition of certain vaccination programmes e.g. against FMD or CSF or ASF can be certified at a national level by the CO on the basis that NI also enforces a ban on such vaccinations in accord with EU regulations.
Statements relating to implementation of a national system for identification and registration of bovine animals can be certified on the basis of the requirement to register all bovine animal births, moves and deaths on the DAERA database.
Animal welfare statements can be certified by the CO on the basis that relevant inspections, monitoring and controls are implemented in NI through The Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing Regulations (NI) 2014 as amended, in compliance with Regulation (EC) No. 1099/2009.
Animal By Products are handled in accordance with EU Control Regulation 1069/2009, which is implemented by the EU Implementing Regulation 142/2011, and ABP statements for materials originating in NI, can be certified on that basis.
When the certificate requires specific information to be included, such as the date of slaughter or the date of introduction into NI, the exporter must also request this information from the exporter in NI. The NI exporter may forward the request to the relevant NI CO to provide the necessary information requested by the UK exporter/ CO. This supporting information must be in writing and kept by the UK CO. The CO is not required to attach it as a supporting document to the EHC, unless requested by the EU Border Control Post or told otherwise.

EU origin:
It is possible that 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 (CO) to sign an EHC.

In such cases, the CO will need further information from the EU member state regarding particular attestations on the EHC that cannot be signed by the CO without further information. Thus, the UK exporter must request from the EU exporter a written declaration or a replica 'Third Country to EU' certificate completed to the extent possible that will provide the required information to the CO to certify the relevant attestations on the EHC. The exporter may wish to obtain these directly from the EU CO 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 CO to provide the necessary information requested by the UK exporter. This supporting information must be in writing and kept by the UK CO. The CO is not required to attach it as a supporting document to the EHC, unless requested by the EU Border Control Post or told otherwise. Exporters/COs must be aware that in some cases, the certificate does not provide an option to re-export EU origin products eg EU origin meat being re-exported as meat.

Third country origin:

It is also possible that some consignments may contain animal products that are of non-EU (Third Country) origin, which UK exporters intent to export to EU (known as Triangular Trade). In these cases Certifying Officers may obtain the necessary supporting information from a copy of the original EHC used for import of these products into the UK.

The CO in the UK is not required to attach a copy of the Third Country EHC as a supporting document to the UK-EU EHC, unless requested by the EU Border Control Post or told otherwise.
It is the UK exporter's responsibility to ensure timely request of information from the EU member state exporter/Third Country exporter, to allow the EHC to be signed and stamped in good time before export to the EU.

8. UK APPROVED ESTABLISHMENTS ELIGIBLE TO EXPORT TO THE EU

The exporting establishment must be listed as an 'UK approved establishment' eligible to export to the EU. A list of UK approved establishments eligible to export products of animal origin (POAO) to the EU, can be found on the European Commission's list of approved establishments' - see link below:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/international_affairs/trade/non-eu-countries_en

Please note that the list is updated regularly and ONLY establishments on the list are approved to export to the EU, and this does not include establishments with pending applications for approval.

If the final product contains POAO from other establishments, or products were previously processed in different establishments in the production chain, then these establishments should also be listed as UK approved establishments.

If the POAO ingredients originated or were processed in a country other than the UK, it may be necessary to obtain an official certificate from the countries of origin for the ingredients in question to enable the certificate to be signed.

9. '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 (EU) No 2017/625.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.

https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/guidance-on-health-and-identification-marks-that-applies-from-1-january-2021

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.

10. **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 dispatch to the EU or NI 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. in accordance with the OIE Terrestrial Code: England, Scotland and Wales are controlled BSE risk in UK. . 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.

11. ADDITION OF SCHEDULES

When the space in Part I or Part II of the certificate is insufficient to accommodate full details of the consignment a schedule may be used. In the relevant section of the certificate the certifying officer should annotate the certificate 'see attached schedule'. A new schedule should be created (typed or clearly written) containing the same information as that required in the certificate. The schedule must include the certificate reference number on each page and must be signed, dated and stamped by the certifying officer in a colour other than black on each page and under the last entry. Any blank spaces in the schedule or the certificate should be struck through with diagonal lines. The schedule must be firmly stapled to the EHC, the pages of the certificate including the schedule should be numbered and the complete document (EHC and schedule) should be “fan stamped” as a precaution against tampering. Further guidance is available here: http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/index.htm

12. Certified Copies of Export Health Certificates

When completing export certification Certifying Officers (CO) (Official Veterinarians (OV) and Environmental Health Officers (EHO)) must make photocopies of, or scan and save all documents they certify. This includes all documents that:

- are certified with the COs signature and stamp
- form part of any export documentation
- will accompany the consignment, or
- any support documentation (documentation provided by the CO at the premises of origin to enable the CO at the premises of loading to certify the final export certificate).

Examples of export documents required to be saved are:

- Export Health Certificates (EHC)
- Supplementary certificates
- Schedules to EHCs.

Where it is impossible to copy documents at the premises immediately after certification then a photocopy of the certificate could be made before travelling to the place of certification, and the certification details transposed onto the copy at the same time as completing the certificate. When a paper copy is made, mark the photocopy as 'Certified Copy' and initial.

COs must retain copies of all export documentation for a period of two years.

Return of export documents to the Centre for International Trade - Carlisle (CITC) are only required for the following live animal export commodities:

- cattle
- pigs

- sheep
- goats
- camelids.

This should be done by scanning and emailing the documents on the same day as certification.

These certified copies are required to enable APHA to provide information to other Competent Authorities on Brucellosis, Tuberculosis or Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy cases found in herds subsequent to export, to enable the country of destination to take the appropriate notifiable disease action.

For the purposes of completing routine Quality Assurance checks on export certification, CITC may request certified copies of certification from COs.

Please visit APHA Vet Gateway for further information in certification procedures: http://apha.defra.gov.uk//External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/index.htm

13. LEGAL STATEMENT

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).

14. 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

This publication is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at:

product.exports@apha.gov.uk

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