Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Notes for Guidance: Export Health certificate for dispatch into the European Union or Northern Ireland of composite products intended for human consumption

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Contents

No: 8281

Export Health certificate for dispatch into the European Union or Northern Ireland of composite products intended for human consumption

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE (NFG) FOR THE CERTIFYING OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN or OFFICIAL INSPECTOR

1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Commission Regulation (EU) No 28/2012 (as amended) of 11 January 2012 laying down requirements for the certification for imports into and transit through the Union of certain composite products and amending Decision 2007/275/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1162/2009

Any EU legislation referenced in the certificate must be complied with and EU legislation can be accessed on the following link. This document contains links to the EU law valid at the time of writing but this is subject to change. 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Please note that Official Control Regulations 2017/625 have repealed Regulation (EC) No 854/2004, 882/2004 and Directive No 96/23/EC.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 (Official Veterinarians or Official Inspectors as per section 7 below) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with the relevant export certificate applicable for dispatch into the EU or NI of composite products intended for human consumption in accordance with

Regulation (EU) No 28/2012 EU. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with the veterinary 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 health certificate may be used for the dispatch of composite products (intended for human consumption) into to the EU or NI, to certify the products were produced in accordance with the relevant requirements described in regulation 28/2012/EU as amended by Regulation (EU) No 468/2012.

3. DEFINITION OF A COMPOSITE PRODUCT

Composite products are defined in Article 2(a) of Commission Decision 2007/275/EC as 'a foodstuff intended for human consumption that contains both processed products of animal origin and products of plant origin and includes those where the processing of primary product is an integral part of the production of the final product'

Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 Article 2 contains the following definitions:

'processing' means as any action that substantially alters the initial product, including heating, smoking, curing, maturing, drying, marinating, extraction, extrusion or a combination of those processes.

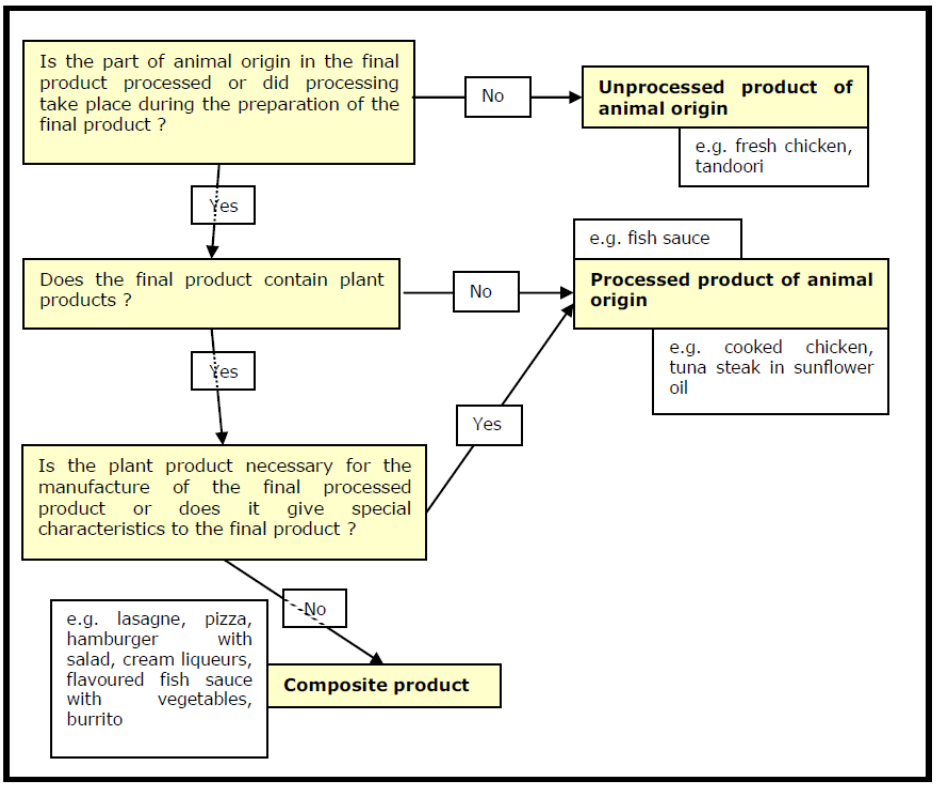
'unprocessed products' means foodstuffs that have not undergone processing, and includes products that have been divided, parted, severed, sliced, boned, minced, skinned, ground, cut, cleaned, trimmed, husked, milled, chilled, frozen, deep-frozen or thawed;

'processed products' means foodstuffs resulting from the processing of unprocessed products. These products may contain ingredients that are necessary for their manufacture or to give them specific characteristics.

Certifying officers may wish to refer to the following advice and guidance on composite products:

- Commission guidance: https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/10102/2015/EN/10102-2015-79-EN-F1-1.PDF
- GOV.UK guidance: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/export-composite-food-products-to-the-eu-from-1-january-2021

The following picture is taken from the Commission guidance document linked above:



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4. COMPOSITE PRODUCTS REQUIRING AN EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATE

Not all composite products require a health certificate.

The following composite products must be accompanied by the health certificate in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 28/2012.

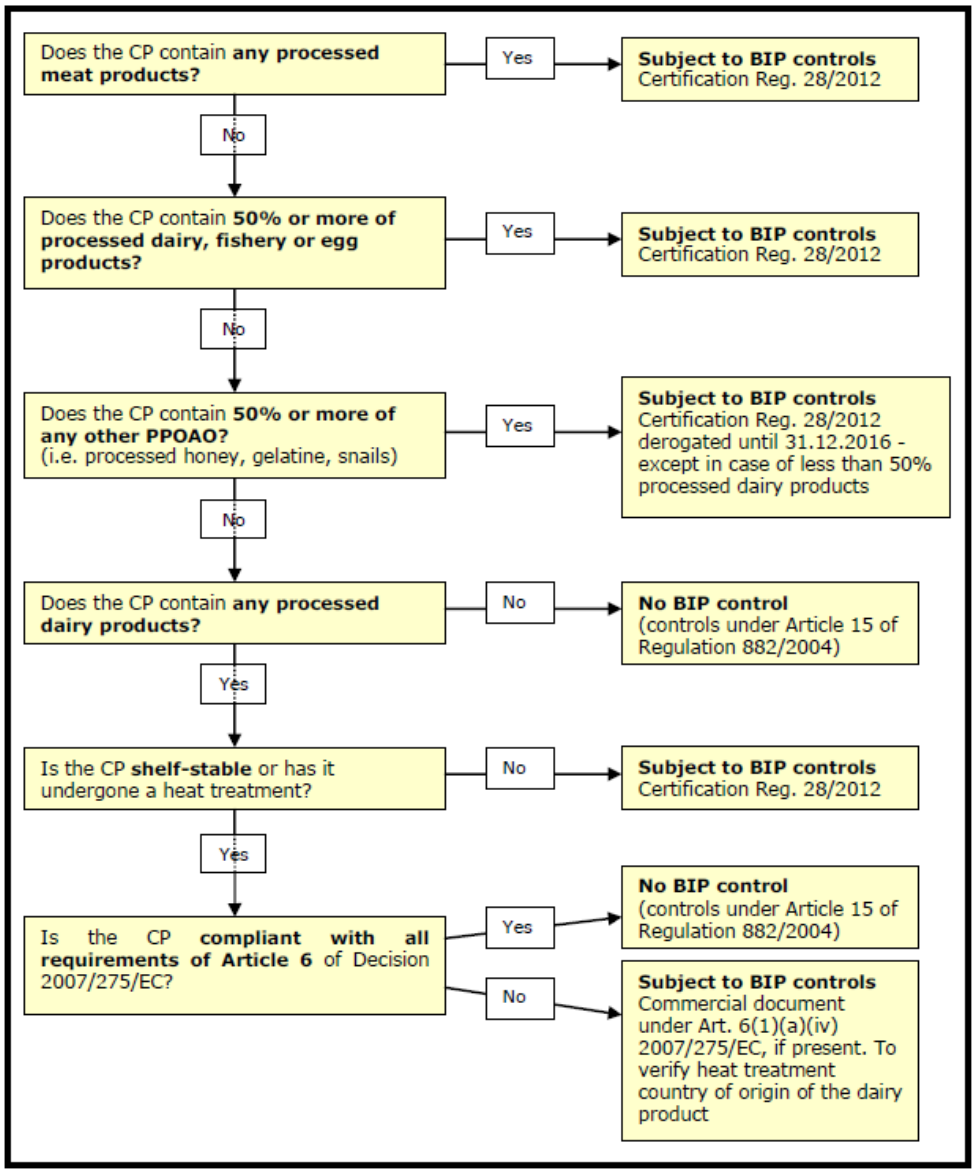
Composite products containing:

- any amount of processed meat product as referred to in article 4(a) of Decision 2007/275/EC;
- half or more of any processed dairy, fish or egg POAO as referred to in article 4(b) of Decision 2007/275/EC;
- less than half of their substance of processed milk product where the final composite products do not meet the requirements of Article 6 of Commission Decision 2007/275/EC as referred to in article 4(c) of Decision 2007/275/EC.

Some composite products do not require a health certificate.

IMPORTANT: AS THE COMPONENTS/INGREDIENTS PRESENT IN A COMPOSITE PRODUCT CAN VARY AND THE 'RECIPES' CAN CHANGE FREQUENTLY, IT IS ADVISABLE TO CHECK WITH THE BCP OF ENTRY WHETHER A CERTIFICATE IS REQUIRED FOR THE PRODUCT/S IN QUESTION.

Picture below is extracted from Commission guidance document linked above:



Note: Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) are now known as Border Control Posts (BCPs)

5. APPROVED ESTABLISHMENTS ELIGIBLE TO EXPORT TO THE EU or NI

For the majority of Products of Animal Origin (POAO) exports to the EU or NI the exporting establishment must be listed as an EU approved establishment. However, for composite products this is not necessary in all cases.

All the establishments in the supply chain (after primary production) must be approved UK establishments that are also listed by the EU. . The final establishment that manufactures/assembles the composite product does not need to be approved if it is just

handling pre-processed meat/milk brought in from other establishments (which must be approved/listed) . This derogation will require the tracing of POAO used in the relevant product. For example an establishment assembling sandwiches using pre-processed meat originating in another establishment would not need to be listed in the EU's approved premises list however the establishment producing the pre-processed meat would need to be.

Consolidated lists of approved plants are available on the European Commission's website: https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/international_affairs/trade/non-eu-countries_en

6. 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

The Republic of Ireland Competent Authorities have confirmed their expectations on the use of schedules as follows:

- *Part I Details of dispatched consignment* of the certificate should be completed in the certificate itself to the extent possible, unless there is insufficient space to complete full details in which case a schedule may be used. This may arise for example in providing details on the description of the commodity, including commodity (HS) code, and identification of commodities.
- *Part II Health Information* should also be completed to the extent possible in the certificate itself, unless there is insufficient space to complete full details in which case a schedule may also be used. This may arise in completing open fields in Part II of the certificate, for example, Species (A), Treatment (B), Origin (C) and Approved Establishments (D) for meat products, or country and establishment (approval number) for processed dairy products.
- All attestations in *Part II Health Information* which are not applicable to the consignment in question must be deleted. This means that where there are multiple treatments applicable the ones not used for this specific consignment must be deleted. Where there are multiple products and attestations certified, additional details should be provided in the schedule on the specific treatments applied in the case of each product.

7. 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 'Addition of Schedules' above.

I.10 Region of destination

This box may be struck through.

I.11 Place of origin

List name, address and registration/approval number if available of the establishments of production of the composite product(s).Use a schedule if needed.

1.13 Place of loading

Give name and address of the place of loading.

1.14 Date of departure

This must be either the same day or within the 10 days after the certification date of the certificate.

I.19 Commodity code (HS Code)

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

The OV should confirm with the exporter that the HS Code used correctly describes the products being consigned.

I.20 Quantity

Indicate total gross weight and total net weight

I.25 Commodity Certified for

Tick the box to confirm products are all intended for human consumption.

I.27 for import or admission into EU

Tick the box to confirm products are all intended for import into the EU. A different certificate is required for products transiting through the EU.

I.28 Identification of the Commodity

In the free text box include the following fields and the relevant data to identify the consignment:

- *Manufacturing plant:* Name of the establishments of production of the composite product(s)
- *Number of packages*
- *Nature of commodities*: For products containing meat products indicate 'meat product', 'treated stomachs', 'bladders' and/or 'intestines'. For products containing other process POAO indicate 'dairy product', 'fishery product' and/or 'egg product' as applicable. For products containing fisheries products specify whether aquaculture or wild origin. For products containing egg products specify the egg content percentage.
- *Net weight (kg)*
- *Batch number:* This can be any number that identifies the product being certified for export that is normally used to provide traceability information and can include "production", "use-by" or "best before" dates.

PART II: Health Information

The Official Veterinarian signing the export veterinary certificate must ensure that the health attestations set out in Part II of the veterinary certificate have been complied with.

The composite products described in the certificate must meet the health requirements referred to in section 2 of the certificate, including Regulations (EC) No 178/2002, (EC) 852/2004 and (EC) No 853/2004, in particular Article 6.1(b) on the origin of the products of animal origin used in the production of the composite products. The products must have been produced in accordance with those requirements and come from an establishment implementing a programme based on the HACCP principles in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 852/2004.

The products must have been produced in accordance with the relevant provisions of Council Directive 2002/99/EC.

II.2. A – meat products, treated stomach, bladders and intestines

The Official Veterinarian signing the export veterinary certificate must ensure that:

- any processed meat products meet the relevant animal health requirements set out in Commission Decision 2007/777/EC and the meat products must come from:
    - the same country as the composite product; or
    - A Member State of the European Union; or
    - Another third country or parts thereof authorised to export to the EU meat products treated with **'treatment A'** as set out in Annex II to Commission Decision 2007/777/EC where the third country where the composite product is produced is also authorised to export to the Union meat products treated with that treatment.
- If the composite product contains processed meat products derived from bovine, ovine or caprine animals, the meat must meet the relevant requirements laid down in Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 and Commission Decision 2007/453/EC concerning BSE and Specified Risk Material.

The UK is currently (Dec 2020) listed to use the non-specific treatment A for meat products from all species of animal with the exception of meat products from poultry, farmed feathered game, wild game and farmed ratites where the UK is regionalised. If these products are obtained from the "GB-1" region then treatment A can be applied but if "GB-2" region as defined in Annex I to Commission Regulation (EC) no 798/2008 then they must be heat treated to meet "Treatment D". An explanation of the various treatment requirements (as extracted from the legislation) is provided below:

▼B

PART 4

Interpretation of codes used in tables in parts 2 and 3

TREATMENTS REFERRED TO IN ANNEX I

Non-specific treatment:

A = No minimum specified temperature or other treatment is established for animal health purposes for meat products and treated stomachs, bladders and intestines. However, the meat of such meat products and treated stomachs, bladders and intestines must have undergone a treatment such that its cut surface shows that it no longer has the characteristics of fresh meat and the fresh meat used must also satisfy the animal health rules applicable to exports of fresh meat into the Community.

Specific treatments listed in descending order of severity:

B = Treatment in a hermetically sealed container to an F_o value of three or more.

C = A minimum temperature of 80 °C which must be reached throughout the meat and/or stomachs, bladders and intestines during the processing of the meat product and treated stomachs, bladders and intestines.

D = A minimum temperature of 70 °C which must be reached throughout the meat and/or stomachs, bladders and intestines during the processing of meat products and treated stomachs, bladders and intestines, or for raw ham, a treatment consisting of natural fermentation and maturation of not less than nine months and resulting in the following characteristics:

— A_w value of not more than 0,93,

— pH value of not more than 6,0.

▼M17

D1 = Thorough cooking of meat, previously deboned and defatted, subjected to heating so that an internal temperature of 70 °C or greater is maintained for a minimum of 30 minutes.

▼B

E = In the case of 'biltong'-type products, a treatment to achieve:

— A_w value of not more than 0,93,

— pH value of not more than 6,0.

F = A heat treatment ensuring that a centre temperature of at least 65 °C is reached for a period of time as necessary to achieve a pasteurisation value (pv) equal to or above 40.

Extract from Annex II to Decision 2007/777/EC correct at time of writing. Check link here: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:02007D0777-20200709

II.2 A (E) – BSE attestations

At the time of writing the UK was listed in the Annex to Decision 2007/453/EC as having "controlled BSE risk". Scotland is understood to have lost its negligible risk status and the attestations for a controlled risk country should be certified in the case of Scotland.

The attestations in E.2 should be completed for exports from England, Wales and Scotland.

In E.1 attestations (1-5) may be certified on the basis of the meat having been processed at an EU approved establishment and on the understanding that UK import policy continues to implement BSE/SRM controls that meet the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 and Commission Decision 2007/453/EC.

In E.2 attestations (1) and (2) may be certified on the basis of the meat having been processed at an EU approved establishment and on the understanding that UK import policy continues to implement BSE/SRM controls that meet the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 and Commission Decision 2007/453/EC.
Attestation (3) is only applicable in the case of products containing treated intestines originally sourced from a negligible BSE risk country. If intestines are used in the composite product and they are not derived from animals slaughtered in England, Scotland or Wales, then evidence of the origin (negligible BSE risk county/region) and continuous residence there since birth is required. The last 4 meters of bovine intestine cannot be used, unless there is evidence that they were derived from animals which were born and continuously reared in a negligible BSE risk country which has never had a an indigenous case of BSE (e.g. Australia and New Zealand).

II.2 B – Processed dairy products

- Attestation (a): Any processed dairy products must meet the relevant animal health requirements set out in Regulation (EU) No 605/2010 and the dairy products must come from:
    - the same country as the composite product; or
    - A Member State of the European Union; or
    - Another third country authorised to export to the EU milk and dairy product in Column A or B of Annex I of Regulation (EU) No 605/2010, where the third country where the composite product is produced is also authorised, under the same conditions, to export milk and dairy products to the EU.

The UK is listed under Columns A, B, and C. Therefore, no specific treatment is required to mitigate an animal disease risk from UK origin milk. However, the raw milk must have been treated or processed by one of the methods provided for under (c), and the relevant treatment must be certified.

Attestations (b) (i) and (iii) may 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 for milk hygiene enforcement. 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/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.

Attestation (b) (ii) may be certified following the guidance below for certifying disease freedom.

Attestation (c): Declare the heat treatment(s) used. Delete any statements that do not apply.

Attestation (d): Insert the date or date range of production. A date range can be used so the precise date of production does not have to be known for this statement to be certified. The start of the date range must be on, or prior to, the earliest date or production of the processed dairy products in the consignment. The end of the date cannot be a future date however the date of issuing the certificate may be stated if the most recent date of production is not known. Where supporting information is provided via a GEFS support attestation (see collection of evidence section below) the support attestation may be used to verify the earliest date of production of processed dairy products contained within the composite products being supplied and the commercial declaration provided by the supplier can be used to verify that this information remains correct.

II.2.C – Processed fishery products

Insert the EU approval number of the establishment where fishery products were processed and country of origin. The country of origin must also be authorised for export of fishery products to the EU as listed in Annex I and Annex II to Decision 2006/766/EC.

II.2. D – Processed egg products

Country of origin must by authorised for export of egg products to the EU as listed in Annex I to Regulation (EC) 798/2008.

Relevant disease freedom attestations may be certified following the guidance below.

If the eggs are derived from poultry on holdings or in establishments in an area of 10 km radius not subject to HPNAI or Newcastle disease restrictions, then II.2.D.1 should be certified; section II.2.D.2 (providing risk mitigation treatment options) must be deleted. However, the egg products must be processed. The processing method is not specified, but the following requirement in Annex III, Section X (Regulation 853/2004) must be met:

“each particle of the liquid egg must undergo processing as quickly as possible to eliminate microbiological hazards or to reduce them to an acceptable level”

8 . 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.

9 . RESIDUE CHECK GUARANTEES

The meat/milk/fish/egg need to originate from an approved country, which also ensures that the residue plan in place in the country is approved by the EU. In the UK, there is a national residue surveillance program, from the Animal and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations 1997, that implements 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-statutory-surveillance-results

The processed products of animal origin must come from a country with an approved residue plan in accordance with Commission Decision 2011/163/EC as amended.

10 . 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.

Groupage Export Facilitation Scheme (GEFS)

For groupage exports from Great Britain, where certain types of products are produced from a stable supply chain and are fully packaged for the final consumer, exporters who are GEFS members may use 30 day support attestations to provide information to OVs to facilitate completion of this certificate.

For further information including the definition of groupage exports, the template 30 day support attestation which must be used and requirements for exporters, suppliers and vets to use the scheme see:

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/Products_Exports.html

You can check that exporters are GEFS members by emailing the exporter's name, GEFS membership number and the address of the exporting premises to GEFS@defra.gov.uk

11. CONSIGNMENTS OR PARTS OF THE CONSIGNMENT ORIGINATING FROM NI, EU MEMBER STATES OR FROM THE THIRD COUNTRY (TRIANGUALR TRADE)

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.

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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