Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Veterinary Certificate for dispatch of the other products of animal origin intended for human consumption not Covered by Articles 7-25 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/628 to the EU or NI

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No: 8348 NFG.

Veterinary certificate applicable for dispatch of other product of animal origin intended for human consumption to the EU or NI

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

1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European parliament and of the council. See link:

and Commission implementing regulation (EU) 2019/628 See link:


Any EU legislation referenced in the EHC must be complied with and EU legislation can be accessed on the following link:

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html


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 applicable for dispatch of other products of animal origin not covered by Article 7 to Article 25 in EU 2019/628 intended for human consumption to the EU or NI. 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 model veterinary certificate may be used for dispatch to the EU or NI of “Other products of animal origin intended for human consumption NOT COVERED BY ARTICLES 7 TO 25 OF COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2019/628”.

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 handwritten 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 I. 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.


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.


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’ for further information.


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

I.25: Please insert HS Code and Combined Nomenclature (CN) title

It is the exporter’s responsibility to ensure that the HS code and CN title is entered correctly and accurately reflects the product(s) being consigned, as defined by the World Customs Organisation as referred to in Council Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87, please see link:

Further information on HS Codes for customs tariffs can be found online at:


I.25 Type of packaging: identify the type of packaging according to the definition given in Recommendation No 21 (10) of UN/CEFACT (United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business). Please see link:


PART II: CERTIFICATION

II.1 Public Health Attestation

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

They must ensure that they are aware of the provisions of Regulations (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council, laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, and procedures in the matters of food safety. Additionally OV’s must ensure they are aware of Regulation (EC) Nos 852/2004, 853/2004 and 2017/625, which lay out the requirements surrounding the establishment the Other Products of Animal Origin not covered by Articles 7 to 25 as laid down in Regulation (EU) 2017/625 for human consumption were produced in according to the HACCP principles, and the requirements surrounding the hygienic preparation processes respectively including:

Where appropriate, the requirements regarding preparation, packaging and storage of the products described in accordance with the requirements laid down in Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 in regards of the General Hygiene requirements for all food business operators.

4. 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:


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.

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 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. CONSIGNMENTS OR PARTS OF THE CONSIGNMENT ORIGINATING FROM NI, EU MEMBER STATES 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](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.

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.

7. 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.

8. 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)


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.

9. 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

10. 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:


11. 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).

12. 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 Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) in Carlisle, via the link below:  https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency

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