Veterinary Certificate for export 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

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No: 8348 NFG.

Veterinary certificate applicable for exports of other product of animal origin intended for human consumption

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

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

**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 exports of other products of animal origin not covered by Article 7 to Article 25 in EU 2019/628 intended for human consumption. 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 export to the EU 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 Veterinary Officer of the Department or by an Official Veterinarian (OV) appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government as such and holding the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ (V)) authorisation.

*In **Northern Ireland** (NI), this certificate must be signed by a Veterinary Officer/Inspector (VO/VI) of the Department or an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed as an OV to the appropriate export panel for export purposes by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). For the purposes of these notes VOs, VIs and AVIs shall be referred to as OVs unless a specific reference is required.

OVs must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in ink of a different colour to that of printing.

The OV/AVI/VO/VI should also 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.

*This paragraph only applies to NI

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

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

EHCs in the foreign language/s of the EU MS where the Border Control Post -BCP- (previously called Border Inspection Post -BIP-) of entry is situated and the EU MS of destination is/are required and this/these must accompany the consignment. The EHCs in the foreign language (as received from the APHA CSC at Carlisle or DAERA and bearing the same unique reference number as the EHC in English) should be considered official and accurate translations of the accompanying EHC in English. Every word in the foreign language EHCs is an accurate translation of the English version. The (sub-) paragraphs / options and how they are numbered and formatted is identical too. Therefore, when the same phrases/sentences in the foreign language versions/s as in the English version is/are struck through, the former can and must be signed (as opposed to being initialled) by the OV as a genuine and proper authorised translation of the EHC in 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.

The foreign language version/s of the EHCs must be attached to the English version so as to create one indivisible single document, by stapling and fan-stamping all the different language versions.

The EHC accompanying the consignment will then comprise the original English EHC and any required additional EHCs in the 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, all stapled together, then collectively ‘fan stamped’ so that each leaf carries a part of a single stamp/watermark so that removing a page or replacing it would be detectable.

**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.
Please complete all the boxes in Part I of the certificate in accordance with guidance notes in Annex II of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/628 of 8 April 2019 concerning model official certificates for certain animals and goods and amending Regulation (EC) No 2074/2005 and Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/759 as regards these model certificates. Annex II notes can be accessed via link:

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:

https://www.gov.uk/trade-tariff/sections and

http://madb.europa.eu/madb/euTariffs.htm

**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. **DISEASE NOTIFICATION**

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

In **Great Britain**, OVs must initially check the Gov.uk link for UK’s Notifiable Disease Status


prior to certification to ensure when disease freedom statements can be certified.

In addition, the following should be borne in mind:

- **In the event of a disease outbreak**: APHA Carlisle will also notify OVs to make it clear which of those disease freedom statements should not be certified.

- **In the absence of a specific disease notification from APHA Carlisle**: OVs 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 for the last occurrence of the disease and have ensured if complies with the time frames in the certificate.

**NOTE**: This does not apply to Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) or Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) freedom statements.
In Northern Ireland, AVIs may certify that the UK/NI has disease free status for those diseases mentioned in the health certificate if in possession of a valid DAERA Veterinary Support Certificate. DAERA OVs avail of the Notifiable Disease Clearance (NDC) system to obtain the required disease status necessary for certification. The NDC system is based on obtaining daily updates on disease status from NI, GB and the ROI.

5. 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.

6. COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE

Personnel may be authorised to collect evidence which may be used to support veterinary certification. In GB, the Certification Support Officer (CSO) role has been developed by APHA.

- In England, Scotland and Wales, CSOs can be utilised by OVs for gathering evidence relating to this certificate. The CSOs must be authorised by APHA and they must hold the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Animal Health Professional) (OCQ (AHP)-CSO) qualification.

The OV must direct the CSO as to how and where any necessary evidence relevant to the requirements of the Export Health Certificate (EHC) should be obtained. CSOs may not carry out any functions that require the exercise of veterinary judgement, and are restricted to the execution of administrative checks.

They may only carry out such inspections, factual verification and evidence collection as specified by the directing OV, who remains responsible for the certification of the product. CSOs are not authorised to sign an EHC in their own right or on behalf of an OV.
Any documentary evidence collected by the CSO must be stamped, signed and dated by the CSO, before being submitted by them as supporting evidence to the OV. It is required that the OV is familiar with the product process and evidence required to start with, before directing the CSO to provide future evidence on an ongoing basis.

Additional guidance and principles of implementation are provided in the OV Instructions Exports section of the APHA Vet Gateway.

- In Northern Ireland, DAERA train and authorise government staff to act in a certification support role to DAERA OVs as TCSOs (Trade Certification Support Officers). They work under the direction of DAERA OVs and are not available for AVI certification checks.

7. CONSIGNMENTS OR PARTS OF THE CONSIGNMENT ORIGINATING FROM EU MEMBER STATE

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 (ITAHHC). The Commercial Document may not contain enough information to allow the certifying officer to sign an EHC.

In such cases, the Certifying Officer will need further information from the EU member state regarding particular attestations on the EHC that cannot be signed by the Certifying Officer without further information. Thus, the UK exporter must request from the EU exporter a written declaration that the relevant attestations on the certificate can be signed by the UK Certifying Officer on the basis of retained legislation between EU and UK and that the attestations were adhered to in the EU member state. The exporter may wish to obtain a written declaration directly from the EU OV 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 OV to provide the necessary information requested by the UK exporter.

This written declaration must be kept by the UK Certifying Officer. The Certifying Officer is not required to attach it as a supporting document to the 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, 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.

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.

[NFG will be further amended to provide specific guidance once policies are agreed]

10. 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

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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