

EXPORT OF DAIRY PRODUCTS TO EQUATORIAL GUINEA - 8578EHC

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE CERTIFYING OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

Associated Documents: 8578EHC and 618NDC

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 8578EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8578EHC. We strongly suggest that exporters obtain full details of the importing country's requirements from the veterinary authorities in the country concerned, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

1. **SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE**

Export health certificate 8578EHC may be used for the export of dairy products from the United Kingdom to Equatorial Guinea.

2. **CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)**

In Great Britain, this certificate shall 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, this certificate shall be signed by a Veterinary Officer (OV) 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).

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

In Great Britain, a certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the Animal and Plant Health Agency Customer Service Centre (APHA CSC) at Carlisle within seven days of signing. The OV should also keep a copy of the signed certificate for his/her own records.

In Northern Ireland the (OV) must retain a copy of the signed certificate for at least two years and for Department VOs on HPRM.

3. **Health Information**

- **Paragraphs IV. 1.** may be signed on behalf of the Department by an Official Veterinarian provided written authority to do so on form 618NDC has been obtained from the issuing office, within 10 days of shipment;
- **Paragraph IV 2.** may be certified on the basis that under the United Kingdom residue surveillance programme, the products, or the milk from which the products were manufactured, are considered to be free from harmful levels of residues of antibiotics (below the Maximum Residue Limit - MRL), hormones (below MRL), pesticides (below MRL), or any other substances known to be harmful to human health.

Fitness for human consumption may be certified on the basis that establishments must be approved in accordance with the EU

Hygiene package, which includes Regulations (EC) 852/2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs, 853/2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin, and 854/2004 laying down specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption.

In England, the EU Hygiene package is implemented and enforced by the Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended). Similar legislation exists in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The approval number may be confirmed on sight of a valid approval document, or by reference to the enforcement authority (APHA, DAERA or Local Authority) responsible for the manufacturing establishment.

4. **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 AHVLA Specialist Service Centre - Exports, in Carlisle, via the link below:

<http://animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/about/contact-us/tradeexports.html>

