Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Animal health and public health certificate for certain meat products and treated stomachs, bladders and intestines intended for consignment to the EU or NI from third countries

January 2022

Contents

No: 8254 NFG

Veterinary certificate applicable for certain meat products and treated stomachs, bladders and intestines intended for consignment to the EU from third countries

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE (NFG) FOR THE CERTIFYING OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN, CERTIFICATION SUPPORT OFFICER AND EXPORTER

1. **APPLICABLE LEGISLATION**

Commission Decision 2007/777/EC as amended

Any EU legislation referenced in the certificate must be complied with and EU legislation can be accessed on the following link. You should ensure you use the latest version:

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

Please note that Official Control Regulations 2017/625 have repealed Regulation (EC) No 854/2004, 882/2004 and Directive No 96/23/EC.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

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

Consolidated legislation

Consolidated texts, which integrate the basic instruments of Union legislation with their amendments and corrections in a single, non-official document, are available. Each consolidated text contains a list of all legal documents taken into account for its construction. You can search for consolidated texts by using the 'find results by document number' option on the European Commission website. Once you have selected the relevant legislation, click 'document information', and then scroll down to 'all consolidated versions' and select the most recent version.

Please note that the consolidated text may not contain the latest amendment to the legislation, as it takes several weeks for this to be updated.

Texts provided in this section are intended for information only. Please note that these texts have no legal value. For legal purposes please refer to the texts published in the 'Official Journal of the European Union'.

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Certifying Officers and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with the relevant export certificate applicable for dispatch of certain meat products and treated stomachs, bladders and intestines 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 (the latest version of which is contained in Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/622, amending the model certificate in Annex III to Decision 2007/777/EC) may be used for dispatch to the EU or NI of certain meat products as defined in point 7.1 Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 and treated stomachs, bladders and intestines, as defined in point 7.9 of Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, which have undergone one of the treatments laid down in Annex II part 4 to Commission Decision 2007/777/EC.

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 stamped and 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' below.

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

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

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

It is the exporter's responsibility to ensure that the HS code is entered correctly and accurately reflects the product(s) being consigned.

Further information on HS Codes can be found online at:

https://www.gov.uk/trade-tariff/sections and http://madb.europa.eu/madb/euTariffs.htm

PART II: CERTIFICATION

II.1 Animal Health Attestation

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

They must ensure they are aware of the provisions of Annex II to Commission Decision 2007/777/EC, which lays down the third countries or parts thereof from which the introduction of meat products and treated stomachs, bladders and intestines into the Union is authorised and the treatments they must undergo.

II.1.1 refers

Enter species code(s), treatment option as defined in Annex II to Decision 2007/777/EC and ISO code(s) of the country (ies) of origin of the meat.
https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02007D0777-20210101&qid=1615987357690

It is possible to insert multiple codes for different species of origins.

If there is not space to fill out all the details for Species and Origin, a schedule may be used in place of the full information being entered in this space, please write “See attached schedule” in this space. Each page of the schedule must bear a page number and the health certificate reference number and be signed, dated and stamped by the OV. The schedule must be stapled inside the health certificate and the OV should “fan stamp” over the pages of the schedule and certificate. The top stapled corner should be folded over and stamped also. Any blank spaces in the schedule should be deleted with diagonal lines.

The UK is currently listed to use the non-specific treatment A for meat products from all species of animal except for 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”

II.1.2 refers to species as listed in this section. Otherwise delete the entire section.

This section must be certified for the relevant meat product, treated stomachs, bladders and intestines that have been prepared from the fresh meat originating from the relevant species entered in Section II.1.1 of the certificate. The non-applicable species should be crossed out in this section.

II.1.2.1 refers

There are 2 options.
The first option may be certified where the commodities have undergone a non-specific treatment as specified in Annex II, Part 4 A of Council Decision 2007/777/EC and

Either

The fresh meat originates from approved establishments in the UK which are listed and eligible for dispatch to the EU or NI and meet the animal and public health

requirements of the relevant species laid down in e.g. 8261EHC for bovine fresh meat.

Or

The fresh meat originates from an EU member state or NI.

Only one of the above “either”/”or “should be certified. If the export contains meat from EU and/or NI another EHC should be issued. **In case you want to use a single EHC for both commodities you need to contact the BCP of entry to make sure they will accept both in a single EHC.**

Both the above may be certified on the basis of OV knowledge of operational conditions at the processing plant and/or the oval mark. The OV may also wish to obtain additional support documentation.

The second option relates to additional guarantees during outbreaks of notifiable disease, which are currently not applicable to the UK and should be deleted. This guidance notes will be updated if necessary.

II.1.3 refers to species as listed in this section. Otherwise delete the entire section.

This section must be certified for the relevant meat product, treated stomachs, bladders and intestines that have been prepared from the fresh meat originating from the relevant species entered in Section II.1.1of the certificate. The non-applicable species should be crossed out in this section.

II.1.3.1 refers

There are 3 options.

-The first option may be certified where the commodities have undergone a non-specific treatment (UK must be approved as country A) as specified in Annex II, Part 4 A of Council Decision 2007/777/EC and

- The “Either” statement- Can then be certified if the fresh meat originates from approved establishments in the UK which are listed and eligible for dispatch to the EU or NI and satisfy the animal health requirements laid down in Regulation (EC) No 798/2008.
- The “Or” statement- Can then be certified if the fresh meat originates from an EU member state or NI.

Both the above may be certified on the basis of OV knowledge of operational conditions at the processing plant and/or the oval mark. The OV may also wish to obtain additional support documentation.

-The second option can only be certified if the meat (derived from domestic poultry, farmed feathered game (except ratites), farmed ratites or wild game bird) has undergone a specific treatment D.

-The third option, can only be certified if the meat (derived from domestic poultry, farmed feathered game (except ratites), farmed ratites or wild game bird) has undergone a specific treatment B, C or D.

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.

II.1.4 refers to species as listed in this section. Otherwise delete the entire section.

This section must be certified if the meat product, treated stomachs, bladders and intestines have been prepared from the fresh meat originating from the listed species
and the fresh meat has been obtained from the disease free areas as specified. Otherwise delete.

Official notifiable disease clearance will be required in the case of outbreaks of notifiable diseases occurring in the UK if the relevant species are susceptible

The fresh meat must originate from approved establishments in the UK which are listed and eligible for dispatch to the EU or NI and satisfy the animal health requirements laid down in Regulation (EC) No 119/2009.

The above may be certified on the basis of OV knowledge of operational conditions at the game handling establishment, the processing plant, and/or the oval mark if/as applicable. The OV may also wish to obtain any additional support documentation e.g. EHCs accompanying the product into the UK, declarations etc. that he/she considers necessary.

II.1.5 refers

Where the meat products, treated stomachs, bladders and intestines are mixed, the correct treatment, in accordance with the requirements set out in Annex II to Council Decision 2007/777/EC, can be applied before or after the mixing. The two options are:

- Before the mixing, the product must have undergone the appropriate treatment must be applied accordingly, depending on the species.
- After the mixing, the most severe treatment required for the meat components (species of the meat) must be applied and certified for.

This may be certified on the basis of OV knowledge of operational conditions at the processing plant. The OV may also wish to obtain additional support documentation.

II.1.6

The certifying officer must verify to the best of his/her capability that after treatment all precautions to avoid contamination of the product being certified have been taken.

II.1.7 refers

Additional guarantees are applicable if the commodity is destined for Finland, Sweden or Estonia. Otherwise delete.

II.2 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 the provisions of Regulation (EC) Nos 852/2004, 853/2004, which lay out the requirements relating to the establishment in which the meat products, treated stomachs, bladders and intestines were produced in according to the HACCP principles, and the requirements relating to the hygienic preparation processes respectively. They must ensure that they are aware of the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, which lays out specified risk materials which the meat products, treated stomachs, bladders and intestines must not contain and must not be derived from.

II.2.1, II.2.2, II.2.4, II.2.5, II.2.6, II.2.7 and II.2.8 refers-

These may be certified on the basis of the presence of the oval mark. (Including an EU oval mark)

II.2.3. refers

These options are mutually exclusive and only one of them must be selected in the certificate.

Consignments comprising product that meets different attestations may need to be issued with separate certificates so that product is segregated and certified accordingly. Each certificate should cover product meeting the same attestation.

If a particular product/meat complies with more than one of the attestations, the OV may select and certify which option is more appropriate depending on other products forming the consignment and the condition(s) that they can meet.

The options which are not relevant shall be crossed out, initialled and stamped by the certifying OV.

Certifying OVs may certify the relevant option based on her/his familiarity with the procurement processes at meat establishments as supported by the necessary documentary evidence (e.g. FCI, records of processing/freezing, testing etc, declarations etc), FBO declarations, support health attestations (and in the case of imported meat, the certificate accompanying the meat/product at the time of import) as they consider necessary.

II.2.3.1 refers

First "**either**" II.2.3.1. statement can be certified if the pig meat has been subjected to an examination by a digestion method for *Trichinella* with negative results or subjected to a cold treatment (freezing) as required in Annex I (testing) or Annex II (cold treatment) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1375.

Second II.2.3.1 may only be certified if the meat product was produced from domestic pigs:

Either, originating in a holding officially recognised as applying Controlled Housing Conditions (CHC)

Or if the meat was produced from domestic pigs unweaned and under the age of 5 weeks (the whole paragraph must be certified independently of which option(s) applies/apply.

Great Britain is listed as a Third Country that may apply the following derogations from Trichinella testing in domestic pigs:

- Recognition of application of Controlled Housing Conditions (CHC): compliance with the conditions laid down in Article 3 (3)(a) or (b) of Regulation (EU) 2015/1375.
- Exempt unweaned porcine animals under the age of 5 weeks from the requirement for trichinella examination compliance with the conditions laid down in Article 3(2) of Regulation (EU) 2015/1375.

Northern Ireland is also listed separately by the EU as a Region benefiting from the same derogations:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/biosafety/food_borne_diseases/trichinella_en

II.2.3.2 refers

This statement can be certified if the meat product is derived from horse or wild boar which has been tested for trichinella with negative results.

II.2.3.3 refers

This statement can be certified only for exports of treated stomachs, bladders and intestines based in the oval mark. They are salted, heated or dried; and effective measures are taken to prevent re-contamination.
Treated stomachs, bladders and intestines that cannot be kept at ambient temperature must be stored chilled using facilities intended for that purpose until their dispatch. In particular, products that are not salted or dried must be kept at a temperature of not more than 3 °C.

Please see further information on trichinella testing in point 10 (page 16) further down in this document.

II.2.9 refers

For this section, if meat products, treated stomachs, bladders and intestines contain material from bovine, ovine or caprine origin, the correct section must be selected depending on the BSE risk status as below.

There is a choice of 3 sections under II.2.9. relating to BSE risk of the country/region of dispatch.

First II.2.9 section-for dispatch to EU or NI from NR (Negligible Risk) Country or Region - the OV should select this option.
(1) may be certified on the basis of NR status of the country or region of dispatch.
(2) may be certified on the basis of the oval mark.

The second option (3) should be selected and certified as this method of slaughter is carried out in the UK in accordance with Council Regulation 999/2001 Annex V (as enforced in the relevant UK TSE Regulations). Delete first option (3).

Option (4) and first option (5) should be selected. These may be certified as all specified risk material (SRM) must be removed from meat intended for human consumption as required by EU legislation and UK TSE legislations. Meat products must not be derived from MSM, obtained from bones of animals.

Second option (5) and option (6) should be deleted.

Second II.2.9 section- for dispatch to EU or NI from CR (Controlled Risk) Country or Regions-the OV should select this option.
(1) this option may be certified on the basis of CR status of the country or region of dispatch.
(2) may be certified on the basis of the oval mark.
(3) may be certified as this method of slaughter is carried out in the UK in accordance with Council Regulation 999/2001 Annex V (as enforced in the relevant UK TSE Regulations).
(4) may be certified as meat products must not be derived from MSM, obtained from bones of animals.
(5) only applicable if the intestines are originally sourced from a NR country or region and the animals were born, continuously reared and slaughtered in a NR country or region and all the conditions are complied with. Otherwise delete.

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02007D0453-20200702&qid=1607009174721

Third II.2.9 section - this may be deleted as at present there are no regions of undetermined risk in the UK.

4. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

Commodities of meat products containing poultry meat can be exported into the EU from the territory code listed in column 2 of the table in Part 1 of annex XIV to Regulation (EC) No 404/2021. Ensure you are looking at the most up to date version of the Regulation. If the latest consolidated version does not include the latest amendment, this amendment needs to be looked at separately.
If the commodity to be exported is listed against GB-0, it can be exported to the EU from the whole territory of the UK. You will have to insert “GB-0” into the “territory code” box on the EHC.
If the commodity to be exported is listed against GB-1, it means that the UK is being regionalised because of a disease outbreak. All premises of origin (e.g. Flocks of origin, slaughterhouse, processing or storage premises as applicable) have to be located in GB-1. The OV has the ensure that this information is correct. For up to date GB-1 and GB-2 areas please refer to the online map where you have to check whether the premises of origin are all within the GB-1 area using the premises post codes.
http://apha.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/Guidance/exports/ehc-online.htm

Areas listed under GB-2 (and detailed as GB-2.1, GB-2.2 etc.) are restricted from exports between the “closing“ and “opening” dates listed against those areas.

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.

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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:

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/residues-statutory-and-non-statutorysurveillance-results

The EHC residue testing requirements can be certified based on evidence of compliance to the national surveillance program, which complies with the relevant EU legislation.

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.

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

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

NI origin:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Animal health statements which refer to the prohibition of certain vaccination programmes e.g. against FMD or CSF or ASF can be certified at a national level by the CO on the basis that NI also enforces a ban on such vaccinations in accord with EU regulations.

Statements relating to implementation of a national system for identification and registration of bovine animals can be certified on the basis of the requirement to register all bovine animal births, moves and deaths on the DAERA database.

Animal welfare statements can be certified by the CO on the basis that relevant inspections, monitoring and controls are implemented in NI through The Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing Regulations (NI) 2014 as amended, in compliance with Regulation (EC) No. 1099/2009.

Animal By Products are handled in accordance with EU Control Regulation 1069/2009, which is implemented by the EU Implementing Regulation 142/2011, and ABP statements for materials originating in NI, can be certified on that basis.

When the certificate requires specific information to be included, such as the date of slaughter or the date of introduction into NI, the exporter must also request this information from the exporter in NI. The NI exporter may forward the request to the relevant NI CO to provide the necessary information requested by the UK exporter/ CO. This supporting

information must be in writing and kept by the UK CO. The CO is not required to attach it as a supporting document to the EHC, unless requested by the EU Border Control Post or told otherwise.

EU origin:

It is possible that some consignments may contain animal products that are of EU origin and were exported to the UK on a Commercial Document or Intra-Trade Animal Health Certificate (ITAHC). The Commercial Document may not contain enough information to allow the Certifying Officer (CO) to sign an EHC.

In such cases, the CO will need further information from the EU member state regarding particular attestations on the EHC that cannot be signed by the CO without further information. Thus, the UK exporter must request from the EU exporter a written declaration or a replica 'Third Country to EU' certificate completed to the extent possible that will provide the required information to the CO to certify the relevant attestations on the EHC. The exporter may wish to obtain these directly from the EU CO who has inspected the animal products before export from the EU.

When the certificate requires specific information to be included, such as the date of slaughter or the date of introduction into the EU member state, the exporter must also request this information from the EU member state exporter. The EU exporter may forward the request to the relevant EU CO to provide the necessary information requested by the UK exporter. This supporting information must be in writing and kept by the UK CO. The CO is not required to attach it as a supporting document to the EHC, unless requested by the EU Border Control Post or told otherwise. Exporters/COs must be aware that in some cases, the certificate does not provide an option to re-export EU origin products eg EU origin meat being re-exported as meat.

Third country origin:

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

The CO in the UK is not required to attach a copy of the Third Country EHC as a supporting document to the UK-EU EHC, unless requested by the EU Border Control Post or told otherwise.

It is the UK exporter's responsibility to ensure timely request of information from the EU member state exporter/Third Country exporter, to allow the EHC to be signed and stamped in good time before export to the EU.

8. UK APPROVED ESTABLISHMENTS ELIGIBLE TO EXPORT TO THE EU or NI

The exporting establishment must be listed as an 'UK approved establishment' eligible to dispatch to the EU or NI. A list of UK approved establishments eligible to dispatch products of animal origin (POAO) to the EU or NI, 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 dispatch to the EU or NI, 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).

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.

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

10.**ANIMAL HEALTH SCHEMES**

Trichinella Statement

Trichinella testing- may be certified if the carcases have been subjected to an examination by a digestion method for *Trichinella* with negative results. Samples for tests are sent to Biobest Laboratories but they can also be tested by on-site laboratories provided these have been approved by the UK National Reference Laboratory (APHA Bury St Edmunds).

Further detail can be found in the FSA Manual of Official Controls at:

https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/document/MOC%20volume%201%20chapter-2.4.pdf

or FSS Scottish Manual of Official Controls at:

FSS Chapter 2.4 Post Mortem, Health and Identification Marking v0.1 (foodstandards.gov.scot)

https://www.foodstandards.gov.scot/downloads/Chapter_2.4.pdf

Cold treatment: may be certified if the pig meat intended for export is held frozen at a time/temperature combination that is known to inactivate the larvae of *Trichinella*.

Details of the acceptable time/temperature combinations can be found in the FSA Manual of Official Controls at

https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/document/MOC%20volume%201%20chapter-2.4.pdf

or FSS Scottish Manual of Official Controls at:

FSS Chapter 2.4 Post Mortem, Health and Identification Marking v0.1 (foodstandards.gov.scot)

https://www.foodstandards.gov.scot/downloads/Chapter_2.4.pdf

Control Housing Conditions - may only be certified if the meat was produced from domestic pigs originating in a holding officially recognised as applying Controlled Housing Conditions (CHC) or if the meat was produced from domestic pigs unweaned and under the age of 5 weeks (the whole paragraph must be certified independently of which option(s) applies/apply.

FSA/FSS retain an internal list of GB holdings which are officially recognised as applying CHC for the perusal of resident officials in abattoirs.

SALMONELLA GUARANTEES FOR MEAT TO BE EXPORTED TO FINLAND AND SWEDEN

There are special requirements of salmonella testing for beef meat, including minced meat, intended for export to Sweden and Finland, with reference to Chapter III, Article 8 of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 (EU). However, testing is not required for meat preparations and mechanically separated meat or if meat is intended for pasteurization, sterilization or treatment having a similar effect. Testing is also not required if the establishment conforms to a control program recognized as equivalent to that approved for Sweden and Finland. Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 1688/2005 sets out the sampling method and number of samples to be taken. Evidence must be collected and attached to EHC as supporting documentation.

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Statement

Compliance to No 999/2001 (EC) and No 98/256 (EC), can be certified based on the enforcement of the TSE Regulation 2018 (England and Wales) and TSE Regulation 2010 (Scotland) and Bovines and Bovine Products (Trade) Regulation 1999.

All specified risk material (SRM) described in the certificate must be removed from the meat intended for dispatch to the EU or NI as required by EU legislation and UK TSE legislations.

There are separate requirements for BSE depending on the UK BSE disease status profile: controlled BSE risk, un-determined or negligible risk. According to the OIE Terrestrial Code, England, Wales and Scotland are controlled BSE risk zones in UK. Animal feed ban can be certified on the basis of compliance with UK TSE Regulations which implements and enforces the 'total feed ban' through the National Feed Audit. The UK imposed a ban of feeding ruminants with meat-and-bone meal and greaves from the 1st August 1996.

The BSE OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code and a list of the OIE countries BSE disease statuses can be found on the links below:

http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_selfdeclaration_BSE.ht m

http://www.oie.int/animal-health-in-the-world/official-disease-status/bse/list-of-bserisk-status/

11. ADDITION OF SCHEDULES

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

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

12. **CERTIFIED COPIES OF EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATES**

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

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

Examples of export documents required to be saved are:

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

Where it is impossible to copy documents at the premises immediately after certification then a photocopy of the certificate could be made before travelling to the place of certification, and the certification details transposed onto the copy at the same time as completing the certificate. When a paper copy is made, mark the photocopy as 'Certified Copy' and initial.
COs must retain copies of all export documentation for a period of two years.
Return of export documents to the Centre for International Trade - Carlisle (CITC) are only required for the following live animal export commodities:

- cattle
- pigs
- sheep
- goats
- camelids.

This should be done by scanning and emailing the documents on the same day as certification.
These certified copies are required to enable APHA to provide information to other Competent Authorities on Brucellosis, Tuberculosis or Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy cases found in herds subsequent to export, to enable the country of destination to take the appropriate notifiable disease action.

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

Please visit APHA Vet Gateway for further information in certification procedures:

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

13. LEGAL STATEMENT

The existing EU legislation that the UK already complies with will be incorporated into our domestic law as “retained EU law” under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018. References in our guidance and certification to such EU instruments should be taken to be references to this “retained EU law”. Under the Withdrawal Act we will ensure that current EU standards remain in force, without amendment, in the immediate months after our EU exit as part of UK domestic law (apart from corrections to make the EU legislation fully operable).

14. DISCLAIMER

This certificate and NFG are provided on the basis of information available at the time and may not necessarily comply fully with the requirements of the importing country. It is the exporter’s responsibility to check the certificate against any relevant import permit or any advice provided by the competent authority in the importing country. If these do not match, the exporter should contact the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) in Carlisle, via the link below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency

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

enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at

product.exports@apha.gov.uk

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