**EXPORT OF PRODUCTS OF AQUATIC ANIMAL ORIGIN TO THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA**

**(KSA)**

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN – **8538EHC**

Associated Document: 8538EHC

**IMPORTANT**

**These notes provide guidance to Official Inspectors and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 8538EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8538EHC. 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 8538EHC may be used for the export of Fish and Fishery Products to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, from **premises that have been individually approved to export from the United Kingdom to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**.

A list of approved exporters can be viewed here: <https://www.sfda.gov.sa/sites/default/files/2020-06/United-Kingdom-Fish.pdf> (Last updated June 2020).

If your premises is not approved please do NOT attempt to export, and contact CIT at APHA Carlisle for details of how to obtain approval.

**2.** **CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL INSPECTOR**

This certificate may be signed by an Official Inspector [namely, an Environmental Health Officer, a Food Safety Officer, or an Official Veterinarian (OV)], appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government, who is on the appropriate panel for export purposes or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ (V)) authorisation, or an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Northern Ireland (DAERA-NI).

OVs should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), Specialist Service Centre for International Trade, Carlisle, or to DAERA, within seven days of issue.

The OV/AVI should keep a copy for his/her own records.

**3. FORMAT OF THE CERTIFICATE**

The format and paragraph numbering of this certificate is based on the model ‘Veterinary Certificate to EU’ for products of animal origin as published in **Commission Decision 2007/240/EC** (as amended).

Annex I of this Decision includes **Explanatory Notes** which offer general guidance on how veterinary certificates based on these models may be completed, particularly with respect to Part I of the certificate.

These and other pieces of EU legislation are published in the Official Journal of the European Union and can be accessed via the online search feature available at:

[**http://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html**](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html)

**4. REFERENCES TO FOREIGN LEGISLATION**

The EHC makes reference to several pieces of Saudi Arabian legislation (GSOs). However, since the certifying officer is not expected to have knowledge of this legislation, the relevant clauses should be certified on the basis of the alternative UK/EU legislation provided.

**5.** **COMPLETION OF PART 1 – DETAILS OF DESPATCHED CONSIGNMENT:**

**I.1 Exporter:** Enter the name and address of the exporter here. *This should match the premises details registered with the competent authorities of KSA – see paragraph 1 above.*

**I.2 Certificate reference number:** the certificate reference number, place and date of issue should be entered here.

**I.3 Competent Authority:** Enter ‘APHA’ followed by the regional APHA office name and address (for OVs) or the LA name and address (for FCCOs) responsible for the exporting establishment. COs in NI can insert ‘DAERA’ followed by address details, or the details of the Local Authority in which they are employed.

**I.4 Pre-completed**

**I.5 Importer:** The name and address of the importer should be entered here.

**I.6 Pre-completed**

**I.7 Producer:** Enter the name and address of the processing plant. *This should match the premises details registered with the competent authorities of KSA – see paragraph 1 above*

**I.8 Packing Establishment:** If applicable, i.e., the fish/fishery products have been packed at a packing plant, the name and address of the packing plant should be entered.

**I.9 Country and Border:** Enter the name of the border of entry in the destination country and the destination country.

**I.10 Border of loading/ Country of Despatch:** The port of embarkation should be entered, as well as ‘United Kingdom’ for Country of Despatch.

**I.11 Means of transport:** The means of transport, either airplane **or** ship, must be indicated.

If the means of transport changes after the certificate has been signed, the consignor must inform the officials at the intended point of entry.

**I.12 Vehicle Identification:** The identification number of the aircraft or shipping vessel should be entered.

**I.13 Temperature:** Indicate whether the transport/storage temperature is chilled or frozen

**I.14 Commodities certified for:** You are required to tick the option that applies as the intended use of the fish/fishery products.

**I.15 Identification of the Food Products**

Populate all the boxes, using a new row for each product line.

Should more space be required, a separate schedule may be completed.

**5.** **COMPLETION OF PART II – HEALTH ATTESTATION:**

**SECTION A: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

**Clauses 1-5, 10, 15 and 17** May be certified on the basis that the Certifying Officer has received supporting evidence that the fish were caught and handled on board vessels that are registered or officially approved by the local authority (excludes wellboats), or reared in registered aquaculture facilities, that the fish were processed in establishments that are food approved by the Local Authority and are therefore subject to official controls according to UK hygiene standards, in particular Regulations 852 and 853 of 2004.

Certifying Officers should have personal knowledge of the Official Controls program for the establishment, make their own checks and if not involved with the official controls program, regularly check and confirm with the LA that the establishment is still operating to the satisfaction of the LA.

**Clauses 6-8 & 13** may be certified on the basis of the certifying officer’s personal knowledge, or based on written evidence received from the exporter, which must be kept on record together with a copy of the certificate. Certifying Officers should verify the circumstances, as appropriate, to certify these requirements.

**Clauses 9, 11 and 12 – see paragraph 4 above.** These clauses may be certified on the basis of the certifying officer’s personal knowledge, their knowledge of relevant UK/EU legislation, and any supporting evidence that they deem necessary to certify these clauses.

**Clauses 14, 16 and 18: Disease freedom/pathogen inactivation treatments.**

Clauses not corresponding to the products for export may be struck through. The clause corresponding to the product being exported (either fish, crustaceans or molluscs) must be certified. For fishery products originating from the UK, please contact CIT Carlisle requesting a 618NDC form. Note that the UK is not free from all listed diseases.

For fishery products originating from outside the UK, the inspector should satisfy themselves that the disease freedom requirements can be met, upon sight of sufficient statements provided by the veterinary authority of the country of origin.

Where disease freedoms cannot be certified, the product must have undergone one of the specified treatments/processes. These can be certified based on the certifying officer’s personal knowledge, or based on written evidence received from the exporter, which must be kept on record together with a copy of the certificate. Certifying Officers should verify the circumstances, as appropriate, to certify these requirements.

**6. 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 APHA, Carlisle – the Centre for International Trade (CIT), via the link below:

[**https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening#centre-for-international-trade-carlisle**](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening#centre-for-international-trade-carlisle)