

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

P&R certificate for chilled or frozen minced meat of poultry to Northern Ireland

“Temporary certificate established in accordance with the unilateral declaration by the United Kingdom in the Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee of 17 December 2020”

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

1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

[Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 798/2008](#) as amended.

Any EU legislation referenced in the certificate 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Please note that Official Control Regulations 2017/625 have repealed Regulation (EC) No 854/2004, 882/2004 and Directive No 96/23/EC.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>

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to the Certifying Officers and exporters. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with the veterinary certificate.

[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 certificate can only be used to export products which are retail packed for the end consumer. Traders will need to make sure that the goods are sold exclusively to end consumers in supermarkets located in NI, and they are not to be sold to other operators of the food chain.

The products must be moved directly from Great Britain to Northern Ireland and must enter Northern Ireland via a designated Point of Entry.

Traders are responsible to ensure that at the point of entry into Northern Ireland the products bear a label reading "These products from the United Kingdom may not be sold outside Northern Ireland".

The certificate may be signed either for a specific consignment of products at the point of dispatch to Northern Ireland or for a batch of products at the point of production (e.g. at cutting plant/minced meat establishment/meat preparations establishment as applicable)

When signing for a batch of products (where some but not necessarily all of the products in the batch may be destined for future retail sale in Northern Ireland) see guidance below on completion of Part I of the certificate.

This P&R certificate can only be used for the dispatch of chilled minced meat, of poultry into NI.

The minced meat can be of GB origin (i.e. from animals slaughtered in GB – England/Wales/Scotland) or imported from a third country (i.e. from a country/territory outside the EU SPS area – EU27 Member States, EEA/EFTA states and Northern Ireland).

If the minced meat (whether chilled or frozen) is derived from the EU SPS area, then 1705EHC (P&R certificate for poultry meat and minced meat of EU SPS area origin) should be used.

Minced meat is boned meat which has been minced into fragments and that must have been prepared exclusively from striated muscle (including the adjoining fatty tissues) except heart muscle.

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.

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

The OV should also keep a copy of the signed certificate and any supporting documents for at least two years after signature or receipt/dispatch of the consignment, whichever is later.

PART I: DETAILS OF THE CONSIGNMENT

Where this P&R certificate is being used to certify a batch of products at the point of production rather than certifying a specific consignment of products at the point of dispatch to Northern Ireland, Part I should be completed to the extent possible to identify the specific batch of products certified (particularly Box I.28) but details which relate to future consignment being moved to Northern Ireland which are not known at the point of certification should be struck through.

Please use schedule to be attached to the certificate if there is not enough space to fill the information. See section Additional Schedules below. The schedule must contain the same information as required in Part I.

Further general guidance on the completion of boxes in Part I of EU certificates is available via this link but the advice given above supersedes some of this guidance:

<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

Important note: The guidance below is only for the completion of this P&R certificate to Northern Ireland. It does not apply for other certificates (e.g. Export Health Certificates to the EU).

For chilled or frozen minced poultry meat produced in third countries (non-GB/non-EU)

This section may be completed and certified based on the evidence provided in the third country import certificate used for import into the UK.

For chilled or frozen minced poultry meat produced in Great Britain see guidance below:

A [slaughterhouse Support Health Attestation](#) issued by a veterinarian may be used to support certification - particularly of paragraphs II.2.1-II.2.6.

II.1 Public Health Attestation

- Attestations (a) to (f) can be certified based on the application of the official oval mark (health or identification mark).

II.2 Animal Health Attestation

II.2.1

The meat must originate from establishments which are located in a territory listed as "GB-1" and defined in Part I of Annex I to [Regulation \(EC\) No 798/2008 as amended](#). The establishments include slaughterhouses and holdings from which the poultry originate (see II.2.3). GB-1 is the territory of GB-0 which excludes the restricted (surveillance) zones in GB-2 (see section 4).

The avian influenza statement may be certified by referring to [this interactive map](#) which provides the latest information.

The Newcastle disease statement may be certified based on UK notifiable disease clearance procedures (see section 4).

II.2.2

Keep the first ('either') statement based on UK policy not to vaccinate poultry against avian influenza. The 'or' statement should be struck through.

II.2.3

The farm of origin must be in "GB-1" territory. The location(s) of flock(s) of origin can be checked against the interactive map above. Keep either or both of the following "either/or" statements to confirm that birds have been kept in this territory since hatching.

If poultry have been previously imported, keep the first statement if imported from a suitably listed third country or second statement if imported from an EU member state.

II.2.4

(a) may be certified based on the FCI (Food Chain Information). If the flock of origin is under any animal health restrictions, an APHA licence for movement to slaughter will be received by the OV at the abattoir.

(b) may be certified by confirming that farm of origin is not in a 10km surveillance zone using [this interactive map](#) for Avian Influenza and, for Newcastle disease, based on UK notifiable disease clearance procedures (see section 4). The checks carried out for II.2.3 will ensure this can be certified too.

II.2.5

(a) The date or date range of slaughter must be declared. This may be obtained from commercial documentation or other supporting evidence.

(b) may be certified on the basis of oval health mark which cannot be applied to meat from birds slaughtered for the control or eradication of disease.

(c) may be certified based on a commercial declaration from transporter stating that birds have been transported directly from the farm of origin to abattoir without contact with other poultry.

II.2.6

(a) may be certified by confirming that slaughterhouse is not in a 10km surveillance zone using [this interactive map](#) for Avian Influenza and, for Newcastle disease, based on UK notifiable disease clearance procedures (see section 4)

(b) may be certified based on the OV's personal knowledge of the procedures in place at the meat establishment(s) where the product has been obtained and/or other supporting evidence (e.g. Food Chain Information/lack of movement licence issued by APHA or a support certificate from another veterinarian with relevant knowledge).

II.2.7 and II.2.8 may be struck through as UK poultry do not need to meet these Supplementary Guarantees.

II.3 Animal Welfare Attestation

This paragraph can be certified on the basis that Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (England) Regulation (WATOK 2015) and parallel legislation in Scotland and Wales is complied with at the slaughterhouse. WATOK 2015 regulation applies the provisions for the administration and enforcement of No 1099/2009 (EC).

4. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

Commodities of poultry or poultry meat can be exported into the EU from the territory code listed in Part I of Annex I to [Regulation \(EC\) No 798/2008](#). 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 to 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.

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. 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.

7. HEALTH/ IDENTIFICATION MARK STATEMENT

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.

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

Relevant text on the EHC can be certified on the basis that carcasses, half carcasses or quarters, or half carcasses 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.

8. 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 Reg. 2017/625 (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-statutory-surveillance-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.

9. ANIMAL HEALTH SCHEMES

Salmonella Control in Poultry

Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 on the control of Salmonella in poultry is currently implemented through the UK Salmonella National Control Programme that is enforced by the Control of Salmonella in Poultry Order Regulation 2007 (England), the Control of Salmonella in Poultry (Wales) Order 2008, the Control of Salmonella in Poultry (Breeding, Laying and Broiler Flocks) (Scotland) Order 2009, the Control of Salmonella in Broiler Flocks Order 2009, and the Control of Salmonella in Turkey Flocks Order.

Poultry Health Scheme

Directive 2009/158 (EC) is currently being committed to through the equivalent Poultry Health Scheme (PHS) in Great Britain. A list of approved Poultry Health Scheme members can be found on the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/poultry-health-scheme-list-of-members>

Relevant text can be certified based on the establishment committing to the Poultry health scheme for the control and surveillance of specified non-zoonotic mycoplasma and salmonella bacterial species.

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 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>

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