

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

P&R certificate for chilled minced meat, of domestic bovine animals (including Bison and Bubalus species and their cross-breeds) to Northern Ireland

"Temporary Certificate established in accordance with the unilateral declaration by the United Kingdom in the Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee on official certifications endorsed by the Joint Committee of 17 December 2020"

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NOTES FOR GUIDANCE (NFG) FOR THE CERTIFYING OFFICERS AND EXPORTERS

1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

[Commission Regulation \(EU\) 206/2010 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Please note that Official Control Regulations 2017/625 have repealed Regulation (EC) No 854/2004, 882/2004 and Directive No 96/23/EC.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 Certifying Officers and exporters. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with the health 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 domestic bovine animals (including Bison and Bubalus species and their cross-breeds) 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 1706EHC (P&R certificate for domestic ungulate 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 the 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 minced bovine 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 minced bovine meat produced in Great Britain see guidance below:

II.1 Public Health Attestation

- II.1.1 to II.1.9 can be certified based on the application of the official oval mark (health or identification mark).
- The BSE attestation, II.1.9, may be certified on based on the oval health mark. These are requirements of TSE Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 as transposed into national legislation. The UK competent authorities (Defra, the Devolved Administrations, FSA and FSS) ensure compliance with these legal requirements.

II.2 Animal Health Attestation

II.2.1

Insert "GB-0" as the territory code (as defined in Part 1 of Annex II to [Regulation \(EU\) No 206/2010 as amended](#)).

(a) and the first option for (b) may be certified based on UK notifiable disease clearance procedures (see section 4) and UK legislation which does not permit vaccination of animals against the listed diseases, nor importation of animals vaccinated against these diseases.

The other (b) options should be struck through for GB origin meat.

II.2.2

There are 3 options. For the purposes of this certificate only, the 'either/or' options may be left undeleted and 'within 3 months prior to slaughter' can be entered in place of the date of introduction.

This may be certified based on a veterinary declaration provided by a veterinarian at the abattoir.

Option 1 to be certified for meat obtained from animals that have remained in GB-0 since birth or for at least 3 months before slaughter.

If animals have been imported less than 3 months before slaughter, then:

Option 2 can be certified for meat obtained from animals introduced into GB-0 from a territory listed in Part 1 of Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 206/2010

Option 3 can be certified for meat obtained from animals imported into GB-0 from an EU Member state.

II.2.3

For animals from UK holdings:

(a) may be certified on the basis that vaccination of animals against the listed diseases is not permitted in the UK

The first (b) options may be certified based on UK notifiable disease clearance procedures (see section 4) if the animals came from holdings in the UK.

The remaining options (b) to (f) may be struck through as these Supplementary Guarantees are not required for meat originating in the UK.

II.2.4

(a) Cleansing and disinfection of means of transport may be certified on the basis of compliance with the legal requirements of The Transport of Animals (Cleansing and Disinfection) (England) (No. 3) Order 2003 (as amended) and equivalent legislation in Scotland, Wales and N. Ireland or additional supporting evidence from farm assurance schemes or declarations on Food Chain Information (e.g. as part of the Food Chain Information provided to the slaughterhouses) from the farms of origin which is then included in Supporting Health Attestations.

(b) may be certified on the basis of the oval mark

(c) dates of slaughter or range of slaughter dates need to be entered here. The date of the slaughter may be required in the labelling of the package. OVs may need to do the relevant checks to obtain other additional evidence as necessary.

(d) and (e) may be struck through as these Supplementary Guarantees are not required for meat originating in the UK

II.2.5

May be certified for meat obtained in an approved abattoir and based on UK notifiable disease clearance procedures (see section 4)

II.2.6

may be certified based on a support certificate from another veterinarian with relevant knowledge or, in the absence of the notifiable diseases relevant to the animal health conditions of this certificate in the UK (see section 4), on the basis of the oval mark.

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

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 OV's for gathering evidence relating to this certificate. The CSOs must be authorised by the 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. 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-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.

7. 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.

8. '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.

<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.

9. ANIMAL HEALTH SCHEMES

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. in accordance with the OIE Terrestrial Code: England, Scotland and Wales are controlled BSE risk 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.htm

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

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.

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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