

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

## **P&R certificate for chilled minced meat, of domestic porcine (*Sus scrofa*) animals 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 OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN, CERTIFICATION SUPPORT OFFICER AND EXPORTER**

### **1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION**

Commission Regulation (EU) No 206/2010. 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**Please note that Official Control Regulations 2017/625 have repealed Regulation (EC) No 854/2004, 882/2004 and Directive No 96/23/EC.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 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 from Great Britain directly 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 porcine animals (*Sus scrofa*) 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 'Addition of 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 minced pork 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 minced pork 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).
- For II.1.3 Trichinella requirements all the either/or options can be kept. The freezing option has been pre-deleted as the certificate is for chilled minced meat. The oval mark confirms compliance with at least one of the options. You do not need to strike through options that don't apply.

### **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](#)). The first option (a) and paragraph (b) on the 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.

#### **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.

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

(d) may be struck through as this Supplementary Guarantee is not required for animals from the UK.

### **II.2.4**

(a) Separation from wild cloven-hooved animals. This may be certified based on:

- i) a veterinary declaration provided by a veterinarian with relevant knowledge and/or
- ii) evidence obtained through private standards such as assurance schemes and/or
- iii) animals being kept under farmed conditions (human supervisions, fencing/natural barriers and biosecurity) and the UK disease freedom from the following diseases regulated by the EU to which pigs are susceptible: foot-and-mouth disease (since 2007), rinderpest (since 1877), african swine fever (never), classical swine fever (since 2000) and swine vesicular disease (since 1982) (see section 4).
- iv) evidence that the pigs come from farms approved as providing Controlled Housing Conditions
- v) Food Chain Information

(b) 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.

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

(d) 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.

### **II.2.5**

may be certified 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. 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), 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.

## 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 OV's 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.

## 7. **SCHEMES**

- **TRICHINELLA STATEMENT**

**Paragraph II.1.3 (first indent)** may be certified if the carcasses of the pigs 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 Section 5 of Chapter 2.4 of the FSA Manual of Official Controls at

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

**Paragraph II.1.3 (second indent)** 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>

**Paragraph II.1.3 (third indent)** – as stated in point 3 on certification above.

## 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) 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.

## 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](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.

## 12. **DISCLAIMER**

This certificate is provided on the basis of information available at the time and may not necessarily comply fully with the requirements of the importing country. It is the exporter’s responsibility to check the certificate against any relevant import permit or any advice provided by the competent authority in the importing country. If these do not match, the exporter should contact the 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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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to:

[product.exports@apha.gov.uk](mailto:product.exports@apha.gov.uk)