Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

P&R certificate for chilled meat preparations 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*"

Contents

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

1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Commission Decision No 2000/572 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Please note that Official Control Regulations 2017/625 have repealed Regulation (EC) No 854/2004, 882/2004 and Directive No 96/23/EC.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 meat preparations into NI.

The meat preparations can be produced from meat that originated in:

- GB (i.e. from animals slaughtered in GB – England/Wales/Scotland).
- Imported from an approved third country.
- EU SPS area origin including EEA/EFTA.
- Northern Ireland.

'**Meat preparations'** means fresh meat, including meat that has been reduced to fragments, which has had foodstuffs, seasonings or additives added to it or which has undergone processes insufficient to modify the internal muscle fibre structure of the meat and thus to eliminate the characteristics of fresh meat.

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 (e.g. abattoir or cutting plant) 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 the 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).

List the species code and the ISO code for the country/region of origin for the products certified. Use a schedule if needed.

For chilled meat preparations 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 meat preparations produced in Great Britain or in the EU SPS area (including EU member states, EEA/EFTA and Northern Ireland) 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 (identification mark)
  - **II.1.2.1**
    for meat preparation containing domestic pig meat, the oval mark confirms compliance with at least one of the trichinella options. You do not need to strike through options that don't apply.
  - **II.1.2.2**
    for meat preparation containing wild boar meat, the oval mark confirms compliance with this attestation.
  - **II.1.9**
    if meat preparations contain meat from bovine, ovine or caprine origin these BSE attestations 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.1.10**
  is only applicable for meat preparations containing meat from domestic solipeds (e.g. horses) and may be struck through if not applicable.

II.2 Animal Health Attestation

For GB origin meat the statement on compliance with "relevant animal health import requirements laid down in Regulation(s)" may be certified based on **both** the oval mark **and** UK freedom from the notifiable diseases which are relevant to the meat contained in the meat preparation
i.e.
Domestic bovine meat (BOV) – Foot and Mouth Disease and rinderpest
Domestic ovine or caprine meat (OVI) – Foot and Mouth Disease, rinderpest and ovine/caprine brucellosis
Meat of domestic swine (POR) – Foot and Mouth Disease, rinderpest, African Swine Fever, Classical Swine Fever and Swine Vesicular Disease

UK disease freedom can be confirmed by referring to ET171 [Notifiable Disease Occurrence List for Great Britain and Northern Ireland] available on the right hand side of this page.

For meat preparations containing **poultry meat**, due to the outbreak of avian influenza, the specific animal health attestations from the poultry fresh meat export certificate (8296EHC) or the P&R certificate for poultry mince (1700P&R1(POU)) must be complied with. This includes the requirement not to export meat preparations containing meat obtained from poultry reared or slaughtered in "GB-2" areas.

The statement on meat originating in the EU's SPS area (includes EEA/EFTA states and Northern Ireland) can be certified on the basis of an EU oval mark and/or other supporting evidence indicating the origin of the meat used.

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. 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.

- In **England, Scotland and Wales,** 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

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. UK APPROVED ESTABLISHMENTS ELIGIBLE TO EXPORT TO THE EU

The exporting establishment must be listed as a 'UK approved establishment' and a list of UK approved establishments for import of products of animal origin (POAO) to the EU, can be found on the European Commission's list of approved establishments' 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. OVAL MARKS ON "PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN" POAOS

EU regulations hygiene rules require that food of animal origin carries an oval health or identification mark and EU rules on 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 (EC) 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.

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

8. ANIMAL HEALTH SCHEMES

Trichinella Statement

The UK is listed in Part 1 Annex I 206/2010/EC and approved to export porcine meat to EU. However, there are no supplementary guarantees applied to the UK. Sentences related to particular supplementary guarantees can be crossed out. In this case, the UK has not been provided with the supplementary guarantee 'K' in Part 1 Annex I 206/2010/EC listing for official recognition of controlled housing conditions. Thus, porcine meat must be tested for *Trichinella* or be subject to cold treatment in accordance with 2075/2005/EC:

Paragraph II.1.2.1 should be certified if the carcases 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

Or it may also 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

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 export to the EU 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. The UK comprises of two separate zones in respect of BSE status in accordance with the OIE Terrestrial Code: England, Scotland and Wales are controlled BSE risk zones . the UK is listed in point B of Annex in 2007/453/EC. 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/

9. 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

10. 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).

11. 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:

product.exports@apha.gov.uk