

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

# **P&R certificate for poultry meat and minced meat of EU SPS area origin 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”*

## **Contents**

1. Applicable Legislation
2. Scope of the Certificate
3. Certification by an Official Veterinarian (OV)
  - Part I:** Details of the Consignment
  - Part II:** Certification
    - II.1** Public health attestation
    - II.2** Animal health attestation
4. Collection of Evidence
5. UK approved establishments eligible to export to the EU
6. Health Mark Statement
7. Addition of Schedules
8. Legal Statement
9. Disclaimer

## **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Please note that Official Control Regulations 2017/625 have repealed Regulation (EC) No 854/2004, 882/2004 and Directive No 96/23/EC.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, with the exception meat of Northern Irish origin.

Fresh meat of Northern Irish origin which is not retail packed may be certified using this certificate but, in this case, the consignment being moved to the Northern Ireland using this certificate must only include meat originating in Northern Ireland and not include meat originating in EU27 Member States, EEA/EFTA countries (or Great Britain). If the meat of NI origin in this consignment does not carry a Northern Irish health mark, the consignment must be sealed under the supervision of the OV to ensure that substitution with other meat is not possible before the consignment is moved to Northern Ireland. This consignment may be transported/shipped alongside other, separately certified, consignments which can contain meat of different origins.

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 dispatch of poultry meat and minced meat of EU SPS area origin to NI.

The origin of the meat can be from:

- EU SPS area origin including EU27 Member States, EEA/EFTA countries and/or,
- Northern Ireland.

**Fresh meat** means meat that has not undergone any preserving process other than chilling, freezing or quick-freezing, including meat that is vacuum-wrapped or wrapped in a controlled atmosphere.

**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**

### **II.1 Public Health Attestation**

- Attestations (a) to (f) can be certified based on the application of the official oval mark (identification mark).
- Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 has been repealed and replaced by Regulation (EC) 2017/625. References to 854/2004 may be read as referring to 2017/625.

### **II.2 Animal Health Attestation**

can be certified on the basis of an EU oval mark and/or other supporting evidence indicating the origin of the meat used.

## **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.

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.

## **5. 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](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.

## **6. 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.

## **7. 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)

## **8. 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).

## **9. 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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