

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Notes for Guidance: Export Health certificate for dispatch into the European Union or Northern Ireland of not shelf-stable composite products and shelf stable composite products containing any quantity of meat products intended for human consumption

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No: 8350

Export health certificate for dispatch into the EU or NI of ‘not shelf-stable’ composite products and ‘shelf-stable’ composite products, containing any quantity of meat products (except gelatine, collagen and highly refined products, and intended for human consumption.

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE (NFG) FOR THE CERTIFYING OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN or OFFICIAL INSPECTOR

1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Official Control Regulations (EU) 2017/625

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/625 – requirements for the entry into the Union including requirements for consignments of composite products

Animal Health Regulations (EU) 2016/429

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 – rules for entry into the Union including animal health requirements for processed products of animal origin contained in composite products

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235 – model official certificates

Any EU legislation referenced in the certificate must be complied with and EU legislation can be accessed on the following link. This document contains links to the EU law valid at the time of writing, but this is subject to change. You should ensure you use the latest version:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html>

Consolidated legislation

Consolidated texts, which integrate the basic instruments of Union legislation with their amendments and corrections in a single, non-official document, are available. Each consolidated text contains a list of all legal documents taken into account for its construction.

You can search for consolidated texts by using the ‘find results by document number’ option on the European Commission website. Once you have selected the relevant legislation, click ‘document information’, and then scroll down to ‘all consolidated versions’ and select the most recent version.

Please note that the consolidated text may not contain the latest amendment to the legislation, as it takes several weeks for this to be updated.

Texts provided in this section are intended for information only. Please note that these texts have no legal value. For legal purposes please refer to the texts published in the ‘Official Journal of the European Union’.

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Certifying Officers (Official Veterinarians or Official Inspectors as per section 7 below) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with the relevant export certificate. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with the veterinary certificate.

We strongly suggest that exporters obtain full details of the importing country's requirements from the veterinary authorities in the country concerned, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

[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 Export Health Certificate maybe used for the dispatch of composite products intended for human consumption which are either:

- a) 'not shelf-stable' composite products (i.e. chilled or frozen); or
- b) 'shelf-stable' composite products (i.e. ambient) containing any quantity of meat products (except gelatine, collagen and highly refined products)

This certificate is for direct export of products for the EU market. A different certificate is available for transits of composites through the EU (where the products are destined for a 'third country' not in the EU).

Note: the scope of this certificate is different from the EU's previous composite product certificate (used before 21st April 2021). In particular, the "50% rule" no longer applies, meaning that chilled or frozen composite products containing processed dairy, egg or fishery products require an Export Health Certificate regardless of the percentage content. Ambient stable composite products that don't contain meat do not require an export health certificate.

Transitional arrangements

This "new" composite product certificate is valid for use for consignments arriving in the EU on or after 21 April 2021.

If a composite certificate **was** required prior to 21 April 2021 then the "old" certificate will continue to be accepted for entry into the EU provided that the certificate is officially certified before 15 January 2022 and the products enter the EU on or before 15 March 2022.

If a composite certificate **was not** required prior to 21 April 2021, then for some types of product this "new" certificate must be used (for consignments arriving in the EU on or after 21 April 2021). For others, a private attestation must be provided (signed by the EU importer).

These transitional arrangements are set out in more detail in the EU document here:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/safety/docs/ia_ic_composite-prods_certification-transition-effect.pdf

For more information see:

GOV.UK guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/export-or-move-composite-food-products>

Defra decision tree available [here](#).

EU guidance: https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/international_affairs/trade/special-eu-import-conditions-composite-products_en

3. DEFINITION OF A COMPOSITE PRODUCT

‘Composite product’ means food containing both products of plant origin and processed products of animal origin (as defined in Article 2 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/625)

Composite products must be for human consumption and must not contain unprocessed products of animal origin (e.g. raw meat).

You are allowed to start the manufacture of a composite product from an unprocessed product of animal origin as long as the processing of the product of animal origin is part of the manufacture of the final product.

Where the Export Health Certificate lists specific treatment requirements (e.g. pasteurisation of dairy, heat treatment of egg products) then these requirements can be met either by processing the relevant ingredient before it is included in the composite product and/or by applying the required treatment to product itself to ensure that the POAO is sufficiently treated (e.g. the core temperature of the product obtained during processing meets at least the required time and temperature combination).

Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 (Article 2) contains the following definitions:

‘processing’ means as any action that substantially alters the initial product, including heating, smoking, curing, maturing, drying, marinating, extraction, extrusion or a combination of those processes.

‘unprocessed products’ means foodstuffs that have not undergone processing, and includes products that have been divided, parted, severed, sliced, boned, minced, skinned, ground, cut, cleaned, trimmed, husked, milled, chilled, frozen, deep-frozen or thawed;

‘processed products’ means foodstuffs resulting from the processing of unprocessed products. These products may contain ingredients that are necessary for their manufacture or to give them specific characteristics.

Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 (Annex I) contains the following definitions:

‘Meat products’ means processed products resulting from the processing of meat or from the further processing of such processed products, so that the cut surface shows that the product no longer has the characteristics of fresh meat.

'Dairy products' means processed products resulting from the processing of raw milk or from the further processing of such processed products.

'Egg products' means processed products resulting from the processing of eggs, or of various components or mixtures of eggs, or from the further processing of such processed products.

'Processed fishery products' means processed products resulting from the processing of fishery products or from the further processing of such processed products.

4. COMPOSITE PRODUCTS REQUIRING AN EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATE

Composite products do not always require an export health certificate (see 'scope' and further links above)

The requirement for a certificate will vary depending on whether the product(s) is/are shelf stable and on the specific animal product content.

If in doubt, it is advisable to check with the BCP of entry whether a certificate is required for the product(s) in question.

5. APPROVED ESTABLISHMENTS ELIGIBLE TO EXPORT TO THE EU or NI

For the majority of Products of Animal Origin (POAO) exports to the EU or NI the exporting establishment must be listed as an EU approved establishment. However, for composite products this is not necessary in all cases.

All the establishments in the supply chain (after primary production) must be approved UK establishments that are also listed by the EU. The final establishment that manufactures/assembles the composite product does not need to be approved if it is just handling pre-processed products of animal origin brought in from other establishments (which must be approved/listed) This derogation will require the tracing of POAO used in the relevant product. For example, an establishment assembling sandwiches using pre-processed meat originating in another establishment would not need to be listed in the EU's approved premises list however the establishment(s) producing the pre-processed meat would need to be.

If the establishment manufacturing the composite product is processing a fresh/raw product of animal origin as part of the manufacture (e.g. cooking raw meat or heat treating a raw milk dairy product) then this premises needs to be EU approved.

Consolidated lists of approved plants are available on the European Commission's website:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/international_affairs/trade/non-eu-countries_en

6. ADDITION OF SCHEDULES

Where possible, information should be provided within the main body of the certificate but if there is insufficient space to enter the required information in Part I or Part II of the certificate 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 the printed text on each page and under the last entry. The schedule forms part of the certificate. All pages of the certificate, including the schedule, must be sequentially numbered. Any blank spaces in the schedule or the certificate should be struck through with diagonal lines.

The Republic of Ireland Competent Authorities have confirmed their expectations on the use of schedules as follows:

- *Part I Details of dispatched consignment* of the certificate should be completed in the certificate itself to the extent possible, unless there is insufficient space to complete full details in which case a schedule may be used. This may arise for example in providing details on the description of the commodity, including commodity (HS) code, and identification of commodities.
- *Part II Health Information* should also be completed to the extent possible in the certificate itself, unless there is insufficient space to complete full details in which case a schedule may also be used. This may arise in completing open fields in Part II of the certificate, for example, Species (A), Treatment (B), Origin (C) and Approved Establishments (D) for meat products, or country and establishment (approval number) for processed dairy products.
- All attestations in *Part II Health Information* which are not applicable to the consignment in question must be deleted. This means that where there are multiple treatments applicable the ones not used for this specific consignment must be deleted. Where there are multiple products and attestations certified, additional details should be provided in the schedule on the specific treatments applied in the case of each product.

7. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV) OR A FOOD COMPETENT CERTIFYING OFFICER (FCCO)

In **England, Scotland and Wales**, this certificate must be signed by a Government Veterinary Officer, by an Official Veterinarian (OV) or, in certain cases, by a Food Competent Certifying Officer (FCCO) appointed by the Animal and Plant Health Agency on behalf of Ministers in Defra, the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government and who hold the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ (V)) authorisation.

FCCOs can only certify this certificate when consignment of composite products contains only processed fish and/or egg products as the product of animal origin component.

OVs must sign and stamp, with the OV stamp, the health certificate in ink of a different colour to that of the printing of the Export Health Certificate (EHC). There is no requirement to sign and stamp in a specific colour.

The OV should 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. These can be electronic copies.

EHC in foreign language/s of the EU Member States (MSs).

EHC should be in English and the foreign language/s of the Border Control Post (BCP) of entry in the EU. The required EHC must accompany the consignment to the BCP of entry.

Listing of the EU MS BCPs can be found here:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/vet-border-control/bip-contacts_en

The foreign language certificate as received from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or via the Export Health Certificates Online system (EHCO) and bearing the same unique reference number as the English certificate, should be considered an official and accurate translations of the English, as published in EU legislation.

The (sub-) paragraphs / options and how they are numbered and formatted is identical in the English and foreign language editions and to the legislation published by the European Commission. Therefore, the same phrases/sentences in the foreign language versions as in the English version should be struck through and these deletions should be stamped and initialled in both versions. Both versions must also be signed (as opposed to being initialled) and stamped by the OV (or FCCO), the foreign language certificate is deemed to be a genuine and properly authorised translation of the English version.

This also applies to any instructions in the guidance notes to strike out certain paragraphs or to certify statements that the country is free of certain notifiable diseases etc.

Additional information can be found in APHA Vet Gateway:

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/index.htm

Signing, stamping and pagination

The foreign language version/s and any schedules (if any) may be stapled to the English version but doing so and then fan stamping the multiple sheets is not enough to create one indivisible single document according to the EU Commission.

Therefore, each page (including schedules) should be individually signed and stamped and bear the reference number of the certificate. The pages comprising the complete document should be sequentially numbered so they are part of a finite sequence which covers the English, foreign language version/s and any schedule pages.

For example, if the certificate consists of four A4 pages printed back to back on two sheets of A4 paper with a schedule that is three A4 pages long, all 11 pages must be stamped and **signed** (as above) and numbered 1/11 to 11/11.

COs will have to make handwritten corrections to page numbering as may be required. E.g. 1/4 to 4/4 (if present) on the foreign language parts in the example given above will need to be crossed out and the 1/11 to 11/11 entered.

The EHC accompanying the consignment will then comprise the original English EHC and any required additional foreign language/s. These should be arranged in order with the English version on the top, followed by the foreign language/s version/s, and finally the page(s) of the schedule (if any) at the bottom.

As per general guidance for certifiers on APHA's Vet Gateway, any hand-written corrections or permitted deletions to a certificate should be stamped and **initialled**. This includes the deletion of optional statements in Part II of the certificate and alterations to content in Part I.

The same applies if a pre-populated text in a box in part I of the EHC needs to be amended. (E.g. if Box I.7 which is pre-populated as 'United Kingdom' 'GB', needs to be amended for triangular trade where third country origin 'Products Of Animal Origin' are being certified in the original third country packaging with the original third country Identification Marks, in which case the country of origin will be the third country in question and not the United Kingdom). Please follow the guidance on corrections in the link below:

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/index.htm

We advise that individual stamping and initialling of diagonal lines drawn through blank boxes in Part I is not necessary. This is to reduce excessive stamping on the certificate. However, we are aware that some BCPs advise otherwise and request stamping and initialling of manually crossed out blank boxes in Part I of the certificate. In such cases OV should conform to the BCP's request to facilitate the clearance of the goods.

You can find further information on Export Health Certificates (EHC) Online

Guidance for Certifiers in the link below:

<http://apha.defra.gov.uk/documents/exports/guidance-ehc-certifiers.pdf>

UK approved establishments will be uploaded to [Europa](#) website in due course, until the establishments are in Europa website you can find the list of UK approved establishments in the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/businesses-approved-to-export-to-the-eu>

Please check the guidance on completion of Part I of the EHC at the bottom of the EHC and in the links provided in the NFG.

For completion of Box I.8 - Region of Origin Code, if applicable; the territory code should be as listed in the relevant legislation that is provided under the notes at the bottom of the EHC. This is only for species or products affected by regionalisation measures or by the setting up of approved zones in accordance with a European Community Decision. The approved regions or zones must be indicated as described in the Official Journal of the European Union.

PART I: DETAILS OF THE CONSIGNMENT

For guidance on completion see “Notes” section at the end of the certificate and the general EU guidance available in Chapter 4 of [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2020/2235](#)

I.11 The EU have confirmed that the footnote for Box Reference I.11 is incorrect and should refer to the establishment of dispatch of the product, not the establishment of manufacture. This should be the establishment shipping the product (i.e. the last food establishment of the export chain) and can be any unit of a company in the food sector. The establishment does not have to be an EU approved/listed establishment (unless this is otherwise required by EU legislation). Providing “registration/approval No.” is optional. An updated certificate will be made available in due course. In the meantime, the establishment of dispatch of the product should be certified, regardless of the wording of the certificate. I.27 Description of consignment

The manufacturing plant of the final composite product must be included and, if applicable, the cold store.

Defra understands it is not necessary to include “Slaughterhouse”, “treatment type” or “Date of collection/production” in this box. These fields can be certified as “not applicable” as the relevant information is provided in Part II of this certificate.

Batch number: This can be any number that identifies the product being certified for export that is normally used to provide traceability information. Defra understands that “production”, “use-by” or “best before” dates can be used for this purpose.

PART II: HEALTH INFORMATION

Refer to the footnotes marked (1), (2), (3) etc. in the ‘notes’ section at the end of the certificate for guidance on completing this section.

II.1 This can be certified on the basis of the OV’s own knowledge of the listed legislation.

II. 2

a) For composite products manufactured in the UK, this may be certified on the basis of the composite product(s) being manufactured in (an) establishment(s) that is/are either registered or approved by the relevant local authority since both registered and approved food establishments must also satisfy the requirements of Regulation (EC) 852/2004.

b) This can be certified on the basis that processed products of animal origin contained in the composite product were obtained in approved food establishments that were listed for export to the EU.

c) This can be certified on the basis that the establishment where the composite product was prepared is registered or approved.

d) For composite products with products of animal origin sourced from the UK this paragraph can be certified on the basis that the national surveillance scheme implements Council Directive 96/23/EC, which are transposed into national legislation by The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits)(England and Scotland) Regulations 2015 and parallel legislation in the devolved administrations.

Where the products of animal origin were not of UK origin this paragraph can be certified if they:

- Were legally imported from the EU and/or
- Originate in an EU approved establishment in a third country, have been legally imported into the UK and evidence is provided (e.g. a copy of the health certificate used for import) that demonstrates compliance with the relevant attestations.

This paragraph can be certified on the basis of documentary evidence to demonstrate that the processed products of animal origin used in the manufacture of the composite product have originated from UK establishment(s) listed for export of these products to the EU.

Where the processed products of animal origin were not sourced from the UK this paragraph can be certified if they:

- Were produced in and legally imported from the EU and/or
- Originate in a third country authorised by the EU for the export of the processed products, has been legally imported into the UK, and evidence is provided (e.g. a copy of the health certificate used for import) that demonstrates compliance with the relevant attestations.

e) Where the processed products of animal origin were sourced from the UK this can be certified on the basis that Regulation (EC) 396/2005 is implemented by The Pesticides (Maximum Residue Levels) Regulations (England and Wales) 2008 (as amended) and devolved administration equivalents, and the maximum level of contaminants in Regulation (EC) 1881/2006 is enforced via The Contaminants in Food Regulations 2013 (as amended).

Where the processed products of animal origin were not sourced from the UK this paragraph can be certified if they:

- Were produced in and legally imported from the EU and/or
- Originate in a third country authorised by the EU for the export of the processed products, has been legally imported into the UK, and evidence is provided (e.g. a copy of the health certificate used for import) that demonstrates compliance with the relevant attestations.

II.3.A Meat products

The 'origin' of the meat product being referred to in the EHC is the country of manufacture of the meat product, as opposed to the country of origin of the animal, the country of slaughter or the country of manufacture of the composite product.

1) Treatment and origin: the list of territories eligible to export meat products to the EU and the required treatment types are listed in [Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/404](#). Great Britain and the Crown Dependencies have been added to the lists in this regulation by [Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/634](#).

2) Most meat products that originate from third countries (non-EU countries other than the UK) can only be used in composite products where they originate from countries/territories which are eligible import these meat products into the EU subject to "treatment A". Some meat products, listed in footnote (7), cannot be used if they originate from a third country.

The UK is [listed to use the non-specific treatment A](#) for meat products from all species of animal with the exception of meat products from poultry, farmed feathered game, wild game birds and farmed raptorial birds where the UK is regionalised. If these products are obtained from the “GB-1” region then treatment A can be applied but if “GB-2” region as defined in [Annex XV of Implementing Regulation 2021/404 \(as amended\)](#) then they must be heat treated to meet “Treatment D”.

An explanation of the various treatment requirements (as extracted from the legislation) is provided below:

RISK MITIGATING TREATMENTS FOR MEAT PRODUCTS	
I. RISK MITIGATING TREATMENTS FOR MEAT PRODUCTS LISTED IN DESCENDING ORDER OF SEVERITY	
B	= Treatment in a hermetically sealed container to a F_0 value of three or more.
C	= A minimum temperature of 80 °C, which must be reached throughout the meat product during its processing.
D	= A minimum temperature of 70 °C, which must be reached throughout the meat or stomachs, bladders and intestines during the processing of meat products and treated stomachs, bladders and intestines, or for raw ham, a treatment consisting of natural fermentation and maturation of not less than nine months and resulting in the following characteristics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Aw value of not more than 0,93, — pH value of not more than 6,0.
D1	= Thorough the cooking of meat, previously de-boned and defatted, subjected to heating so that an internal temperature of 70 °C or greater is maintained for a minimum period of 30 minutes.
E	= In the case of ‘biltong’-type products, a treatment to achieve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Aw value of not more than 0,93, — pH value of not more than 6,0.
F	= A heat treatment ensuring that a core temperature of at least 65 °C is reached for a period of time as necessary to achieve a pasteurisation value (Pv) equal to or above 40.

Extract from Annex XXVI to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692, correct in March 2021 ("Treatment A" refers to non-specific treatments where none of the risk mitigating treatments (e.g. B, C, D) are required)

3) **BSE attestations**

This section is only applicable where the meat products include material from bovine, ovine or caprine animals (e.g. beef, lamb or goat meat). It is divided into three main sections corresponding to the BSE status of the country/region of origin as “negligible risk”, “controlled risk” or “undetermined risk”. The relevant section should be kept and the others struck through.

Generally, only **one** section can be kept. If you are certifying a single composite product, containing meat products that originate in different countries of origin and have different BSE risks, you may need to retain multiple statements. You should consult with the BCP of entry to determine whether this approach is acceptable, however. If you are certifying multiple composite products, containing meat products manufactured in countries with different BSE risks you will need to complete multiple EHCs.

At the time of writing England and Wales are listed in the Annex to Decision 2007/453/EC as having “controlled BSE risk”. Scotland is understood to have lost its negligible risk status

and the attestations for a controlled risk country should also be certified in the case of Scotland.

In the middle “controlled risk” section, attestation (a) and the first (b) may be certified on the basis of the meat having been processed at an EU approved/listed establishment and on the understanding that UK import policy continues to implement specified risk material (SRM) controls that meet the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001. The next two (b) options are only applicable in the case of products containing treated intestines originally sourced from a negligible BSE risk country. If intestines are used in the composite product and they are not derived from animals slaughtered in England, Scotland or Wales, then evidence of the origin (negligible BSE risk county/region) and continuous residence there since birth is required. The last 4 meters of bovine intestine cannot be used, unless there is evidence that they were derived from animals which were born and continuously reared in a negligible BSE risk country which has never had an indigenous case of BSE (e.g. Australia and New Zealand).

II.3.B Not-shelf stable dairy products or colostrum-based products

(a) The words “not-shelf stable” in the title refer to the shelf stability of the final composite product and not the shelf stability of the dairy product component.

The list of third countries/parts of countries eligible to export dairy products to the EU are listed in [Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/404](#). Great Britain and the Crown Dependencies have been added to the lists in this regulation by [Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/634](#).

One of the two “either”/”or” option in (a) should be kept and the other struck through

For dairy products produced in the UK, the first (“either”) option can be certified on the basis of the UK’s listing to export dairy products to the EU (as above), UK freedom from foot and mouth disease and rinderpest (see Notifiable Disease Clearance paragraph 8 below) and on the basis that vaccination against these diseases is not permitted in the UK.

If certifying the second (“or”) option a copy of the current table of minimum treatments required is included below.

For dairy products that originate in the EU, enter the ISO Code of the EU Member State where the processed products were produced (where the certificate requests a zone code).

The “and” attestation that follows must be kept and the EU approval number(s) of the establishment(s) of origin of the dairy products or the colostrum based products must be stated.

RISK MITIGATING TREATMENTS FOR MILK AND DAIRY PRODUCTS		
	A	B
Species of origin of the milk and the dairy products	<i>Bos Taurus, Ovis aries, Capra hircus, Bubalus bubalis and Camelus dromedarius</i>	Other than <i>Bos Taurus, Ovis aries, Capra hircus, Bubalus bubalis and Camelus dromedarius</i>
Animal health status of the third country	1. Third countries not officially free of foot and mouth (FMD) for the preceding 12 months 2. Third countries where vaccination against FMD is practised	Any
Sterilisation process, to achieve an F ₀ value equal to or greater than 3	Yes	Yes
Ultra-high temperature (UHT) treatment at not less than 135 °C in combination with a suitable holding time	Yes	Yes
High temperature short time pasteurisation treatment (HTST) at 72 °C for 15 seconds applied twice to milk with a pH equal to or greater than 7,0 achieving, where applicable, a negative reaction to a alkaline phosphatase test, applied immediately after the heat treatment	Yes	No
HTST treatment of milk with a pH below 7,0	Yes	No
HTST treatment combined with another physical treatment by either: (i) lowering the pH below 6 for one hour; or (ii) additional heating equal to or greater than 72 °C, combined with desiccation	Yes	No
No : treatment not permitted Yes : acceptable treatment		

Copy of Annex XXVII to [Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2020/692](#), correct in March 2021

- (b)** Keep the relevant attestation depending on the country/zone of origin of the dairy product.
- (c)** From the list of species within the square brackets under the first “either”, delete any non-relevant species.

Declare the heat treatment(s) used. Delete any statements that do not apply. The EU Commission have confirmed that this section can be deleted for unpasteurised dairy products provided that the country of origin of the dairy product is listed in Annex XVII of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 and the milk used to produce the product originated in that third country, another third country listed in that Annex or from a Member State.

In the first main “either”, please delete any non-relevant species.

- ⁽¹⁾ either [~~*Bos Taurus, Ovis aries, Capra hircus, Bubalus bubalis, Camelus dromedarius*~~] and prior to dispatch to the Union have undergone or been produced from raw milk which has undergone

In the other main option under “or” the species should not be crossed out.

- ⁽¹⁾ or [animals other than *Bos Taurus, Ovis aries, Capra hircus, Bubalus bubalis, Camelus*

dromedarius] and prior to dispatch to the Union have undergone or been produced from raw milk which has undergone

(d) Only applicable for colostrum-based products. Otherwise delete.

(e) Insert the date or date range of production. A date range can be used so the precise date of production does not have to be known for this statement to be certified. The start of the date range must be on, or prior to, the earliest date of production of the processed dairy products in the consignment. The end of the date cannot be a future date however the date of issuing the certificate may be stated if the most recent date of production is not known. Where supporting information is provided via a GEFS support attestation (see collection of evidence section below) the support attestation may be used to verify the earliest date of production of processed dairy products contained within the composite products being supplied and the commercial declaration provided by the supplier can be used to verify that this information remains correct.

II.3.C Fishery products

Insert the EU approval number of the establishment where fishery products were processed and country of origin. The country of origin must also be authorised for export of fishery products to the EU. See lists in Annex I and Annex II to [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2019/626](#) as amended.

II.3.D Egg products

State the zone of origin, which must be authorised for export of egg products to the EU.

The list of third countries/parts of countries eligible to export egg products to the EU are listed in [Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/404](#). Great Britain and the Crown Dependencies have been added to the lists in this regulation by [Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/634](#)

For egg products that originate in the EU, enter the ISO Code of the EU Member State where the processed products were produced (where the certificate requests a zone code).

The establishment processing the eggs must be approved (in accordance with the relevant requirements of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004).

The establishment (farm) that the eggs came from must have been free of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and Newcastle disease (ND) virus for at least 30 days before the eggs were collected.

There is the option to certify *either* the notifiable disease freedom attestation in II.3.D.1 *or* to certify that the eggs have been heat treated to meet one of the options in II.3.D.2

If certifying II.3.D.1, for eggs originate in Great Britain, refer to guidance below on notifiable disease clearance and to APHA Vet Gateway “guidance for certifying officers obtaining clearance for avian influenza” available at:

<http://apha.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/Guidance/exports/ehc-online.htm>

8. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

For guidance on certifying paragraphs relating to Avian Influenza see APHA guidance for “Certifying Officers Obtaining Clearance for Avian Influenza” available here:

<http://apha.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/Guidance/exports/ehc-online.htm>

Certifying Officers (Official Veterinarians (OV) and Environmental Health Officers (EHO)) can certify certain disease clearances paragraphs within this EHC, on behalf of the Department, provided written authority to do so has been provided/obtained on form 618NDC from APHA’s Centre for International Trade – Carlisle (CITC).

The clearance will be provided by CITC on form 618NDC. It will specify the statements on the certificate that it covers, and is only in relation to the official GB disease status specified in the relevant paragraphs. All other matters such as residency, vaccination status, status of premises in respect of other diseases not covered by the 618NDC and disease status of countries, areas, premises outside the UK, are for the Certifying Officer to check and verify, obtaining support certification where necessary including support certification for products of animal origin that have originated in Northern Ireland.

9. RESIDUE CHECK GUARANTEES

The UK has a surveillance programme in place to monitor for residues of authorised veterinary medicines, prohibited substances, and other contaminants in domestically produced foodstuffs of animal origin. Sample collection is conducted at the point of production i.e. at farm and slaughterhouse. The requirement for this monitoring is outlined in The Animal and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) (England and Scotland) Regulations of 2015 and equivalent legislation in Wales ([2019](#)) and Northern Ireland ([2016](#)). The monitoring conducted in GB is in accordance with the legislative requirements of Directive 96/23 (EC), 96/22 (EC), Decision 97/747 (EC) and 470/2009 (EC) concerning residue testing of products of animal origin. The residues tested in the programme are in accordance with Annex I and II of Directive No 96/23 (EC), specifically, and include veterinary medical products, banned substances and environmental contaminants.

With regards to maximum levels used to determine sample non-compliance, for authorised veterinary medicines GB work to the GB Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) published [here](#); these MRLs are aligned to the EU veterinary MRLs published under Reg (EU) [37/2010](#). If a pesticidal compound has an MRL for food-producing species then this MRL is used as the respective non-compliance threshold, but if a pesticide does not have a foodstuff MRL then the MRLs as listed in Regulation (EC) 396/2005 are applied. For contaminants, such as heavy metals and mycotoxins, the limits as set out in Reg (EC) 1881/2006 are used to determine sample non-compliance.

The results of the statutory surveillance programme 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 programme, which complies with the relevant EU legislation.

The national monitoring programme for pesticide MRLs in food and feed in place under Regulation 396/2005 is underpinned by national legislation, The Pesticides (Maximum Residue Levels) Regulations (England and Wales) 2008 (as amended) and devolved administration equivalents. A national monitoring programme for Maximum Residue Levels is managed by the Health and Safety Executive. This involves testing a selection of produce that has already been placed on the market in Great Britain to provide assurance that only authorised pesticides, within permitted levels, are present. The results are published in an annual report. Annual reports can be found on gov.uk:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/expert-committee-on-pesticide-residues-in-food-prif-annual-report>

Any EHC residue pesticide requirements can be certified based on evidence of compliance with the pesticide residue monitoring scheme:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/pesticide-residues-in-food-results-of-monitoring-programme>.

10. 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 OV's 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 consulting the [GEFS membership list](#) or emailing the exporter's name, GEFS membership number and the address of the exporting premises to GEFS@defra.gov.uk

11. CONSIGNMENTS OR PARTS OF THE CONSIGNMENT ORIGINATING FROM NI, EU MEMBER STATES OR FROM THE THIRD COUNTRY (TRIANGULAR TRADE)

NI origin:

Consignment could potentially contain animals or animal products which have originated in Northern Ireland. For raw materials which have then been processed into a final product in GB, or are presented in their original state and bearing a UK(NI) identification mark, the CO can certify certain matters relating to EU compliance at a national level.

Where the EHC refers to matters of compliance indicated by EU approval status of the premises of origin or manufacture in NI, compliance can be certified on the basis that from 1st January 2021, under the terms of the Withdrawal Agreement between the EU and UK and the Ireland / Northern Ireland Protocol, approved and registered premises in Northern Ireland will implement the full requirements of Regulation (EC) Nos. 852/2004, 853/2004, 2017/625 and all relevant supporting EU legislation as set out in Annex 2 to the Protocol. This compliance is indicated by the presence of the EU oval health and identification marks applied to the products in the required EU format, for products placed on the market in NI.

Some examples, but not a complete list, of how assurance can be established at national level are listed below.

Compliance with the microbiological criteria set out in Regulation (EC) No. 2073/2005 can be certified if the products originate in an EU approved premises in NI, and bearing the EU oval ID mark.

Public health statements referring to compliance with EU requirements for testing for residues as set out in Directive 96/23/EC, (repealed by OCR Regulation 2017/625) 96/22

(EC) and 470/2009 (EC) can be certified by the CO on the basis of a national residue surveillance programme implemented in NI under The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for residues and maximum Residues Limits) Regulation (NI) 2016. This forms part of the UK national surveillance programme.

With regards to controls for Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies, guidance provided in this document relating to statements about the method of slaughter of animals in GB also applies to animals slaughtered in NI and can be certified by the CO on that basis.

Disease clearance for animals or products originating in NI can be completed using auto-clearance NDC found here:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/notifiable-diseases-northern-ireland>

Where regional or local level disease clearance is required, this can be certified upon request on the basis of information from NI in the form of a declaration or a supporting health attestation.

Animal health statements which refer to the prohibition of certain vaccination programmes e.g. against FMD or CSF or ASF can be certified at a national level by the CO on the basis that NI also enforces a ban on such vaccinations in accord with EU regulations.

Statements relating to implementation of a national system for identification and registration of bovine animals can be certified on the basis of the requirement to register all bovine animal births, moves and deaths on the DAERA database.

Animal welfare statements can be certified by the CO on the basis that relevant inspections, monitoring and controls are implemented in NI through The Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing Regulations (NI) 2014 as amended, in compliance with Regulation (EC) No. 1099/2009.

Animal By Products are handled in accordance with EU Control Regulation 1069/2009, which is implemented by the EU Implementing Regulation 142/2011, and ABP statements for materials originating in NI, can be certified on that basis.

When the certificate requires specific information to be included, such as the date of slaughter or the date of introduction into NI, the exporter must also request this information from the exporter in NI. The NI exporter may forward the request to the relevant NI CO to provide the necessary information requested by the UK exporter/ CO. This supporting information must be in writing and kept by the UK CO. The CO is not required to attach it as a supporting document to the EHC, unless requested by the EU Border Control Post or told otherwise.

EU origin:

It is possible that some consignments may contain animal products that are of EU origin and were exported to the UK on a Commercial Document or Intra-Trade Animal Health Certificate (ITAHC). The Commercial Document may not contain enough information to allow the Certifying Officer (CO) to sign an EHC.

In such cases, the CO will need further information from the EU member state regarding particular attestations on the EHC that cannot be signed by the CO without further information. Thus, the UK exporter must request from the EU exporter a written declaration or a replica 'Third Country to EU' certificate completed to the extent possible that will provide the required information to the CO to certify the relevant attestations on the EHC. The exporter may wish to obtain these directly from the EU CO who has inspected the animal products before export from the EU.

When the certificate requires specific information to be included, such as the date of slaughter or the date of introduction into the EU member state, the exporter must also request this information from the EU member state exporter. The EU exporter may forward the request to the relevant EU CO to provide the necessary information requested by the UK exporter. This supporting information must be in writing and kept by the UK CO. The CO is not required to attach it as a supporting document to the EHC, unless requested by the EU Border Control Post or told otherwise. Exporters/COs must be aware that in some cases, the certificate does not provide an option to re-export EU origin products e.g. EU origin meat being re-exported as meat.

Third country origin:

It is also possible that some consignments may contain animal products that are of non-EU (Third Country) origin, which UK exporters intent to export to EU (known as Triangular Trade). In these cases, Certifying Officers may obtain the necessary supporting information from a copy of the original EHC used for import of these products into the UK.

The CO in the UK is not required to attach a copy of the Third Country EHC as a supporting document to the UK-EU EHC, unless requested by the EU Border Control Post or told otherwise.

It is the UK exporter's responsibility to ensure timely request of information from the EU member state exporter/Third Country exporter, to allow the EHC to be signed and stamped in good time before export to the EU.

12. CERTIFIED COPIES OF EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATES

When completing export certification, the CO and, if applicable, FCCO must make photocopies of, or scan and save all documents they certify. OVs must retain copies of certification documents in accordance with RCVS Certification principles:

<https://www.rcvs.org.uk/setting-standards/advice-and-guidance/code-of-professional-conduct-for-veterinary-surgeons/supporting-guidance/certification/>

COs must retain copies of all export documentation for a period of two years. A certified copy of this EHC does not need to be returned to the APHA CITC. For the purposes of completing routine Quality Assurance checks on export certification, CITC may request certified copies of certification from COs.

Further details on Post Certifying Procedures, 'certified copies' of certification and the types of documents that should be retained by COs can be found on the [APHA Vet Gateway](#).

13. LEGAL STATEMENT

The existing EU legislation that the UK complied with prior to the end of the Transition Period has been 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". The EU standards that this legislation includes continue to remain in force, without substantive amendment, as-part of UK domestic law (apart from corrections to make the EU legislation fully operable

14. 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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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at

product.exports@apha.gov.uk

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