

EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR AQUATIC ANIMALS FOR RETAIL USE OR FOOD SERVICE FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO CANADA – 8605NFG

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS (OV) AND EXPORTERS

Disclaimer: The destination country has informed Defra that 8605EHC available on Gov.uk is valid until a new EHC is agreed. The wording of this EHC is based in the agreed EHC between the EU and Canada. A new EHC will be agreed in due course. Defra is not liable if the consignment is rejected at the border.

References in our guidance and certification to such EU instruments should be taken to be references to “UK retained EU law”. Also, when EU is mentioned, it should be read as UK. Under the Withdrawal Act, the UK has adopted EU legislation which remain in force under UK Statutory Instruments.

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and are issued to you to be used with export certificate 8605EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8605EHC.

Exporters are strongly advised to verify the requirements of the importing country by contacting the veterinary authorities, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

1. Scope of the Certificate

This EHC is based on the previous EU harmonised EHC with Canada. Canada has agreed that this certificate may be used for the import of aquatic animals for retail use or food service from the UK.

2. Certification by an Official Veterinarian (OV)

This certificate may be signed by an Official Veterinarian authorised on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Scottish Government, Welsh Government or an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland (DAERA), who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation, or who is an Official Veterinarian (OV) on the appropriate panel for export purposes.

OVs/AVIs should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV/AVI stamp in a colour that must be different to the colour of the printing of the certificate

Instructions on certified copies, retention and returning of the same can be found in APHA Vet Gateway, please make sure you follow the latest government guidance.

[OV Instructions \(defra.gov.uk\)](https://www.defra.gov.uk)

The OV/AVI should keep a copy for his/her own records.

3. **Schedules**

Paragraph I.25 refers: A separate schedule may be used to identify the commodities certified. This schedule must contain the same information as that required in paragraph 1.25 and paragraph 1.25 must be annotated "See attached schedule". Each page of the schedule must bear a page number and the health certificate reference number and must be signed, dated and stamped by the Official Veterinarian (OV).

The schedule must be stapled inside the health certificate and the OV should "fan" and stamp over the pages of the schedule and certificate. The top stapled corner of the schedule and certificate should be folded over and stamped also.

4. **Completion of Part II - Health Attestation:**

Point II.1- Certifying Officer (CO) can certify this point based in their knowledge of relevant UK/EU legislation, and any supporting evidence that they deem necessary to certify compliance with clauses under this point.

Point II.2.1- This point can be certify based in compliance with obligations of reporting of the relevant notifiable diseases. Directive 2006/88 is implemented in the UK by the Aquatic Animal Health (England and Wales) Regulations 2009, the Aquatic Animal Health (Scotland) Regulations 2009, and the Aquatic Animal Health (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2009.

Point II.2.2- Can be certified based on CO personal knowledge, record checks, and inspections. If an increase morbidity or mortality are identified, this should be reported to the UK's competent authority.

Point II.2.3- Can be certified based on personal knowledge and when required based on information obtained by the UK's competent authority.

Point II.2.4- Can be certified based on CO personal knowledge and/or based on written evidence received from the exporter about added transport water, whether other aquatic animals will contact the consignment and any treatments applied, which must be kept on record together with a copy of the certificate. Certifying Officers should verify the circumstances, as appropriate, to certify these requirements.

Point II.2.5- If the aquatic animals are live this point must be certified. This can be certified based on inspection of the consignment.

Points under II.3- may be certified on the basis of the certifying officer's personal knowledge, or based on written evidence received from the exporter, which must be kept on record together with a copy of the certificate. Certifying Officers should verify the circumstances, as appropriate, to certify these requirements.

5. **Disclaimer**

Please take into consideration the disclaimer at the top of the guidance.

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 APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle, via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening>