

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

In relation to 8687EHC titled:
EXPORT TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA OF ANIMAL FEED AND ANIMAL TREATS
CONTAINING HAY

Associated Documents: 8687EHC

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but always in conjunction with certificate 8687EHC. 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.

1. Scope

This certificate may be used for the export to United States of America of animal feed and animal treats containing hay.

In accordance with paragraph IV(b) of the certificate, the products must not contain any animal origin material. This includes, for example, vitamin D3 derived from wool grease.

This certificate is intended to facilitate compliance with the veterinary certification requirements of the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection service (USDA APHIS). These veterinary certification requirements may be contained within a **specific import permit** or **standard APHIS guidelines** or **specific correspondence from APHIS**.

In all cases, a reference to the source of the veterinary certification requirements must be entered in the space provided at paragraph IV of the certificate. It is also advisable for a copy of the source information to either be attached to the certificate or to otherwise accompany the consignment.

2. Certification by an Official Veterinarian (OV)

This **certificate** must be signed by a whole-time salaried Veterinary Officer (VO) of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), or Scottish Government, or Welsh Government or Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland (DAERA).

Veterinary Officers should sign and stamp the health certificate with their official stamp in any colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be retained by Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Specialist Service Centre for International Trade, Carlisle, or by DAERA as appropriate.

3. **Paragraph IV - Health information**

The health information may be certified on the basis of the following specific guidance in conjunction with the RCVS Principles of Certification. OVs should develop due familiarity with the sourcing, procurement, segregation, processing, handling and storage arrangements in place at the establishment. This should be supported as necessary by physical inspection and by examination of relevant documentation or other records including commercial documentation, veterinary statements, laboratory analysis and valid declarations.

(a) **Paragraph IV - Import permit/official correspondence:**

The opening paragraph must be completed with the details of the source of the USDA APHIS veterinary certification requirements being followed, as referred to in paragraph 1 above.

(b) **Paragraph IV - Health information:**

The health information must be completed on the basis of the declaration provided by the manufacturer which, in turn, must satisfy the USDA APHIS veterinary certification requirements being followed.

Depending on the specific veterinary certification requirements, it may be necessary to delete some of the paragraphs or to add additional information into the space provided at paragraph IV (g) of the certificate.

If there is insufficient space to enter all the necessary information, **additional schedules or supporting documentation should be used**. These should **cross-refer** appropriately, be **securely attached** to the certificate and **fan-stamped**.

Any such deletions or additions must be done clearly and accurately.

If the manufacturer is unable to provide a complete declaration, the exporter must obtain revised USDA APHIS veterinary certification requirements via their importer.

4. **SUPPORTING DECLARATIONS**

Where declarations are relied upon to support the completion of this certificate, these must be signed by someone who has knowledge of and responsibility for the relevant parts of the production process and/or declared intended use. The managing director (or equivalent) of the company should provide a letter giving the name(s) and job title(s) of those authorised to give the declaration and the basis on which the declaration is made.

The declaration should include a clause indicating that the signatory is aware that making a false declaration is an offence and that he/she accepts full responsibility if any problems arise with the export should there be any dispute relating to the matters being declared.

Where possible, supporting evidence should be called for and put on file.

5. **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 APHA Centre for International Trade (CIT) - Exports in Carlisle, via the link below:

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

In Northern Ireland, contact the DAERA trade administration team:
e-mail- tradeadminpost@daera-ni.gov.uk
Phone - 0289 0520989