

VETERINARY CERTIFICATE FOR THE EXPORT OF CANNED FOOD, SAUSAGES AND OTHER TYPES OF READY-TO-EAT MEAT PRODUCTS TO THE CUSTOMS TERRITORY OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION – 8591NFG

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE EXPORTER AND CERTIFYING OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

Associated Documents:

Export of canned food, sausages and other types of ready-to-eat meat products to The Customs Territory of the Eurasian Economic Union – 8591EHC.

Important note for exporters and Official Veterinarians

The authorities in the importing country may require bespoke approval of the manufacturing establishment of origin and/or countersignature of the certificate by a Russian veterinary inspector prior to despatch. The import permit should be consulted to establish what is required.

[Rosselkhoznadzor - Import. Export. Transit \(fsvps.gov.ru\)](http://fsvps.gov.ru)

Certificate 8591EHC is based on a UK-EAEU agreed model certificate which reflects the requirements laid down in the legislation of the Eurasian Economic Union. As a result, the wording and the details cannot be amended. However, the following guidance has been prepared on the basis of bilateral correspondence with the Eurasian Economic Union. Provided the guidance notes below are followed or relied upon, the certificate may be signed.

The 8591EHC to which these guidance notes refer can be used for any of the countries in the Eurasian Economic Union, subject to standard restrictions and import permits if applicable. If the final destination of the consignment is BELARUS please also refer to Annex 2 of this document for additional instructions. BELARUS WILL NOT ALLOW IMPORT OF THIS COMMODITY UNLESS THESE INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN COMPLIED WITH.

As per Regulation on the **Common Procedure of Veterinary Control at the Customs Border of the Customs Union and the customs territory of the Customs Union (CU Decision N317 as of June 18, 2010)**, no manual corrections are to be made to the printed certificate, with the exception to the following sections: *name and address of Consignor, name and address of Consignee, means of transport (Number of railway carriage, truck, container, flight number, name of ship), country(ies) of transit, customs border crossing point*. Such corrections are allowed if made by the OV without breaking certification rules and the correction does not alter the character of cargo and its intended use according to the importing country legislation. These corrections have to be accompanied by the OV signature and stamp.

Unless otherwise stated, any reference to 'certificate' shall mean 8591EHC.

1. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

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)

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

2. SCOPE

The certificate (8591EHC) can be used for the *final* export to the Eurasian Economic Union of a food product which is packaged for the final consumer (i.e. finished) containing ingredients of animal origin, and for 'composite products', defined as foodstuffs intended for human consumption which contain both processed products of animal origin and products of plant origin. There are some composite products that could be exempt from veterinary certification - please see draft guidance at **Annex 1**. If it is intended to export 'exempt' products, **exporters are advised to study the import permit carefully to ensure no veterinary certification is required.**

This certificate only covers ready-to-eat meat products that can be eaten without cooking. Products that are fresh and need to be cooked are not covered by this form.

3. FINISHED FOOD PRODUCTS CONTAINING PORK / PORK PRODUCTS (8591SUP)

If the animal product to be exported contains any pork ingredient, 8591SUP must be certified in addition to 8591EHC. This annex/supplementary certificate provides options for the inactivation of the African Swine Fever (ASF) virus.

All non-applicable options must be deleted to leave only the treatment/s applied.

Compliance with the treatment/s option may be certified on the basis of:

- knowledge of the production process operating in the establishment;
- checks on company records of processing, quality control etc. for the batches certified;
- HACCP plans

4. GENERAL INFORMATION (Sections 1-3 refer)

Country of transit (Section 1.4): This refers to the *third country* of transit, NOT to EU MS through which the consignment may pass.

Certificate No: (Section 1.5): This number will be pre-printed by the issuing competent authority.

Country of origin (Section 1.6): This is the country of origin of the raw material used in the product.

Point of crossing the border of the customs territory (EAEU) (Section 1.10): The OV must ask the exporter for this information.

Establishment details (Section 3.1) and Administrative-territorial unit (Section 3.2): This refers to approval by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) under UK legislation.

The Administrative-territorial unit is the county in which the establishment of despatch is located.

5. VETERINARY CERTIFICATION (Section 4 refers)

Sections 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, & 4.5: This can be signed on the basis of the following:

These may be certified on the basis of oval marks which demonstrate compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations 2006. In addition to this general principle, the following should also be taken into account when signing the certificate:

- Ensure that any starting material of animal origin used in the product meets the specific Food Hygiene Regulations
- Ensure that the finished product meets the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations 2006 (see below for the additional monitoring necessary to comply with the Russian microbiological and chemico-toxicological requirements).
- Approval and supervision of milk/meat/products establishments can be delegated by the 'Competent Veterinary Service' to a service which has competence in this area. In the case of Great Britain, this has been delegated to the FSA. Establishments supplying meat/milk/fish intended to be used in the finished food product do not have to be listed on the Rosselkhoznadzor website, but all ingredients in the finished food product must be traceable to source.

Section 4.3:

This requires products to originate from establishments or cold stores in administrative territories free from the former OIE list A diseases mentioned in the bullet points underneath, at the time of manufacture of the product. This can be certified on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so on form 618NDC has been obtained from the issuing office within 10 days of shipment.

OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code: <https://www.oie.int/doc/ged/D10905.PDF>

Section 4.4 and 4.5:

4.4

For meat from animals slaughtered in the UK this paragraph can be certified on the basis that the national surveillance scheme implements Council Directive 96/23/EC, which is/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 other devolved administrations. UK is listed in Decision 2011/163/EU. For meat that originates from an approved establishment in a third country which has been legally imported into the UK, evidence must be provided (e.g. a copy of the health certificate used for import) to demonstrate compliance with this attestation.

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. For meat that originates from an approved establishment in a third country, and has been legally imported into the UK, evidence must be provided (e.g. a copy of the health certificate used for import) to demonstrate compliance with this attestation.

4.5

Regarding radiological parameters it is possible to certify this statement on the basis of the following information describing radiological monitoring within the UK:

Current EU Codex guideline levels for radionuclides (in internationally traded food) apply only following accidental nuclear contamination.

Agricultural imports from Third Countries contaminated by the Chernobyl accident may not exceed a limit of Cs-134 + Cs-137 above 600Bq/kg. (EC Regulation 737/90 and amendments). However, the EU has recommended that milk and mixed diets are monitored within the Member States. In support of this recommendation the FSA monitors milk at several dairies across the UK and complete meals from large consumption areas such as canteens and restaurants.

The FSA, in association with the environment agencies, publishes an annual report - Radioactivity in the Food and the Environment - which summarises the results of such monitoring and any additional monitoring carried out on the basis of risk, e.g. around nuclear power plants. The most recent report giving the 2003 results demonstrates that even the most exposed members of the public received radiation doses from consumption of food and exposure to environmental radioactivity due to discharges and direct radiation that were below the statutory United Kingdom annual personal dose limit of 1 mSv (millisievert), which is also below EU limits.

Microbiological: Foodstuffs of animal origin may present intrinsic hazards, due to microbiological contamination. To protect consumers from microbiological risks in food products, UK legislation sets out numerous hygienic measures (such as HACCP based principles, meat inspections, etc). Microbiological criteria are tools that can be used in assessing the safety and quality of foods. Due to reasons related to sampling, methodology and uneven distribution of micro-organisms microbiological testing of finished food products done alone is however insufficient to guarantee the safety of a foodstuff tested. The safety of the foodstuffs must principally be ensured by a more preventative approach, such as product and process design and the application of Good Hygiene and Manufacturing Practices (GHP, GMP) and the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) principles. If the manufacturing plant has such a HACCP plan, then UK rules will be met.

Chemical-toxicological: Council Directive 96/23/EC is implemented by The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations 1997 and a programme referred to as the National Surveillance Scheme (NSS).

Sections 4.6, 4.7, 4.8 and 4.9:

This can be signed on the basis of OV's personal knowledge of the processing and inspection of the products.

6. 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 Centre for International Trade - Carlisle, via the link below:

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

VETERINARY CERTIFICATION OF COMPOSITE PRODUCTS

In order to clarify veterinary certification of exports of composite products from the UK to EAEU, the Parties have agreed as follows:

1. "Composite product" means a foodstuff intended for human consumption that contains both processed products of animal origin and products of plant origin.
2. Composite products exported from the UK to the EAEU have to be accompanied by the "Veterinary certificate for finished food products".
3. By way of derogation from paragraph 2, composite products not containing any meat product but containing less than half of their substance of any other product of animal origin are exempted from veterinary certification provided they are:
 - (a) shelf-stable at ambient temperature, or by their appearance and characterisation have clearly undergone in their manufacture a complete cooking or heat treatment process throughout their substance, so that any raw product is denatured;
 - (b) clearly identified as intended for human consumption;
 - (c) securely packaged or sealed in clean containers; and
 - (d) accompanied by a document and labelled, so that the document and labelling together give information on the nature, quantity and number of packages of the composite product, the country of origin, the manufacturer, and the ingredient.
4. As a further derogation from paragraph 2, the following Composite products are exempted from veterinary certification:
 - (a) Biscuits
 - (b) Bread
 - (c) Cakes (excluding any fresh cream content)
 - (d) Chocolate
 - (e) Confectionery (including sweets)
 - (f) Unfilled gelatine capsules
 - (g) Health foods and supplements containing small amounts of animal product, and those including glucosamine, chondroitin, or chitosan
 - (h) Meat extracts and meat concentrates
 - (i) Mayonnaise made from pasteurised eggs
 - (j) Olives filled with products of animal origin other than meat products
 - (k) Pasta and noodles not mixed or filled with meat product
 - (l) Soup stocks and flavourings containing meat extracts, meat concentrates, fish powders or fish extracts or animal fats

Annex 2

Additional instructions for consignments with final destination of Belarus

To allow any goods into Belarus, the Belarussian authorities have asked for prior notification from the UK competent authority of consignments requiring veterinary certification, with details of the arriving consignment. If this notification has not been received by the Belarussian authorities, the consignment will not be allowed entry into Belarus.

Following certification of the Export Health Certificate(s) (EHC) by an Official Veterinarian (OV), the OV should complete an **electronic** version of the table containing information as shown below in Table 1. If the OV does not hold an electronic copy, one can be requested by emailing the below address or contacting APHA Product Exports on 03000 200 301. Once completed, the OV should email this table and a certified copy of the EHC(s) to:

PLT@apha.gov.uk

These documents **must be emailed on the same day as certification** to allow time for APHA to send the notification to Belarus and then for further distribution to the relevant border controls.

Table 1:

Notification to Belarus of UK Export Certification					
Certificate No.	Description of the products	Exporter/Consignor	Importer/Consignee	Name of Official Veterinarian & SP Number	Date of OV signature