EXPORT OF DAIRY PRODUCTS TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC - 7796EHC

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE CERTIFYING OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

Associated Documents: 7796EHC and 618NDC

IMPORTANT
These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7796EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7796EHC. 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 OF THE CERTIFICATE**

Export health certificate 7796EHC may be used for the export of dairy products **of UK origin only** from the United Kingdom to The Dominican Republic.

2. **CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)**

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

OVs must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any ink colour **OTHER THAN BLACK.**

Certified Copy Requirements – England, Wales and Scotland

Guidance concerning return of certified copies of EHCs has changed and only specific certified copies are required to be returned to the APHA. Certifying OVs must return a certified copy of EHCs only for the following EHC types:

• if the exported commodity is cattle, pigs, sheep, goats or camelids;
• if the certificate was applied for manually and the application documents have been emailed to APHA and not applied for via the Exports Health Certificates Online (EHCO) system.

Certified copies should be emailed on the day of signature to the Centre for International Trade Carlisle (CITC) at the following address: certifiedcopies@apha.gov.uk.

For certificates that have been issued to the Certifying OV via the EHCO system, the Certifying OV must complete the certifier portal with the status of the certificate and the date of signature.

A copy of all EHCs and supporting documentation certified must be retained for two years.

Certifying OVs are not required to return certified copies of other EHCs issued, however CITC may request certified copies of EHCs and supporting documentation in order to complete Quality Assurance checks or if an issue arises with the consignment after certification.

DAERA Export Health Certificates: Provision of certified copies

aPVPs certifying DECOL produced Export Health Certificates must return a legible, scanned copy of the final EHC to the relevant DAERA

Processing Office within 1 working day of signing.

Good quality photographic copies will be accepted by the department, where obtaining a scanned copy is not feasible - for example, where 'on site' certification is undertaken and scanning facilities are not available.

For record purposes, a copy of the final Export Health Certificate and associated Support documents should be retained by the aPVP for a period of 2 years from the date of certification.

The Department will carry out periodic audits of all aspects of export certification to ensure that a high standard of certification is being maintained.

3. **HEALTH INFORMATION**

- Paragraph **IV.1.** may be certified on the basis that processed food facilities/establishments are required to be approved in the UK. The OV should view evidence of approval, such as the facility/establishment official approval number.

- Paragraph **IV.2.** requires the raw milk that the products were made with, to have been produced from animals which have been reared in the UK, or from raw milk legally imported from a third country with FMD freedom without vaccination – in which case the OV must be provided with evidence of an import certificate that attests to this matter.

  However, import conditions state "were produced using milk from animals reared in the United Kingdom", therefore, the reference to imported milk should be disregarded, unless evidence suggests otherwise.

  This paragraph may be certified on the basis of familiarity with the manufacturer's procurement arrangements or the examination of manufacturer's records.

- Paragraph **IV.3** refers: the dairy ingredients used must bear oval marks which demonstrate compliance with EU Regulations (EC) 853/2004 and 854/2004.

- Paragraphs **IV.4. and IV.13.** may be signed on behalf of the Department by an Official Veterinarian provided written authority to do so on form 618NDC has been obtained from the issuing office, within 10 days of shipment;

- Paragraph **IV.5.** and/or **IV.6** can be certified on the basis of evidence of compliance with a suitable heat treatment from those listed in these clauses, as well as:

  - familiarity with the production process operating in the establishment: and

  - checks on company records of processing, quality control checks, etc. for the batches certified; and/or

  - supplementary supporting evidence provided by the responsible Environmental Health Officer.

- Paragraph **IV.7.** This can be certified on the basis of checks on company records of processing and storage conditions and visual inspection of packaging.

- Paragraph **IV.8.** This requires procedures to be in place to avoid any possible contamination or cross-contamination by materials not similarly certified.

- Paragraph **IV.9.** All member states of the EU are required by Council Directive 96/23/EC to operate a monitoring programme for specified residues in milk. This Directive is implemented in the UK by the Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations 1997 and the programme in question is referred to as the National Surveillance Scheme (NSS).

  On the basis of this scheme, it can be considered that milk and milk products do not contain levels exceeding the limits permitted in the European Union of any antibiotic/veterinary medicinal product; any beta-agonist or any substances having a thyrostatic, oestrogenic, androgenic or gestogenic action, which do not occur naturally; any pesticide; or any heavy metal, known to be harmful to human health. The NSS also covers PCBs, although a maximum residue limit (MRL) has not been set.

4. **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, Carlisle or DAERA, via the link or e-mail address below:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-apha

DAERA – Email: vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk