

**EXPORT OF BEEF AND BEEF PRODUCTS TO ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES - 8526EHC
NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS**

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 8526EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8526EHC.

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

Export health certificate 8526EHC may be used for the export from the United Kingdom to St Vincent and the Grenadines of fresh meat and meat products that meet the following requirements:

- they are derived solely from animals of the bovine species;
- they are derived from bovine animals of United Kingdom origin only;
- they must bear a UK health mark or identification mark;

Fresh meat means all animal parts (including offal) fit for human consumption whether chilled or frozen.

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.

2. IMPORT PERMIT

Exporters are advised to contact the veterinary authorities of St Vincent and the Grenadines prior to export for the latest information on requirements for any import documentation.

3. SCHEDULES

Section I refers. A separate schedule may be used to identify the commodities certified. In this case, Section I 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 OV.

The schedule must be stapled to 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. Any blank spaces in the schedule or certificate must be deleted with diagonal lines.

4. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

In **England, Scotland and Wales**, this certificate must be signed by a Veterinary Officer of the Department or by an Official Veterinarian

(OV) appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government as such and holding the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ (V)) authorisation.

In **Northern Ireland** (NI), this certificate must be signed by a Veterinary Officer/Inspector (VO/VI) of the Department or an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed as an OV to the appropriate export panel for export purposes by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). For the purposes of these notes VOs, VIs and AVIs shall be referred to as OVs unless a specific reference is required.

OVs must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in ink of a different colour to that of the printing.

In **England, Scotland and Wales**, a certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the APHA Centre for International Trade (CIT) at Carlisle within seven days of signing.

The OV should also keep a copy of the signed certificate and any supporting documents for at least three years after signature or receipt/dispatch of the consignment, whichever is later.

5. LEGAL STATEMENT - RETAINED EU LAW

Existing EU legislation, with which the UK already complies, will be incorporated into UK domestic law as 'retained EU law' under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018.

References in guidance and certification to such EU instruments should be taken to be references to this retained EU law. Under the Withdrawal Act, the UK will ensure that current EU standards remain in force, without amendment, in the immediate months after EU exit as part of UK domestic law (apart from corrections to make the EU legislation fully operable).

6. ORIGIN OF ANIMALS FROM WHICH THE EXPORTED MEAT IS DERIVED

Paragraph IV(a) refers. The certifying OV must carry out the necessary checks to verify that the exported meat is derived from bovine animals solely of UK origin. This may be on the basis of knowledge of the operational conditions and purchasing patterns at the slaughterhouse and/or verification of cattle passports. OVs may also wish to obtain a written declaration from the slaughterhouse operator confirming the origin of the bovine animals from which the exported products are derived.

7. FITNESS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Paragraphs IV(c), IV(d), IV(e), IV(f) & IV(g) may be certified on the basis of the health mark or identification mark and evidence that the slaughterhouse, cutting plant, meat products plant (if applicable) and cold store are officially approved and operating in accordance with Regulations Nos. 852/2004, 853/2004 and 2017/625 (The EU Hygiene Regulations).

In the UK, the primary food legislation providing the framework for all food legislation in England, Wales and Scotland is The Food

Safety Act 1990 (as amended). Similar legislation applies in Northern Ireland.

Enforcement of the General Food Law Regulation (EC) 178/2002 and implementation and enforcement of the EU Hygiene Regulations is provided through secondary legislation in England by The Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended) and parallel legislation in Wales and Scotland. In Northern Ireland it is provided by The Food Hygiene Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 (as amended).

These Regulations are enforced in the UK by the Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland.

Paragraph IV(h) may be certified on the basis of knowledge of the operational and transport conditions and/or declaration by the exporter.

8. NOTIFIABLE/REPORTABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

For meat bearing a UK health or identification mark and derived from animals resident in the UK at the time of slaughter, OVs may certify paragraph IV(b) on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA CIT at Carlisle or via disease clearance procedures in DAERA.

9. TRANSMISSIBLE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (TSE) STATEMENTS

Section V - BSE Information refers. Provided that the exported beef products meet the requirements of traceability and UK origin, paragraphs IV(i) - IV(l) may be certified on the basis of compliance with retained EU Regulation No. 999/2001 (as amended). The Regulation sets out the requirements for TSE monitoring, animal feeding and the removal of specified risk material.

In the UK, enforcement of the above Regulation takes place through the following national legislation:

- **England:** The TSEs (England) Regulations 2018 (as amended);
- **Wales:** The TSEs (Wales) Regulations 2018;
- **Scotland:** The TSEs Regulations (Scotland) 2010;
- **Northern Ireland:** The TSEs Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018.

The UK competent authorities (Defra, the Devolved Administrations, the Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland) ensure compliance with the legislation.

10. 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 responsibility of the exporter to check the certificate against any relevant import permit or advice provided by the competent authority in the importing country, if these are available. If the permit or advice do not match the assurances provided on 8526EHC, in the case of export from Great Britain, the exporter should contact the APHA CIT at Carlisle at product.exports@apha.gov.uk or by phone at 03000 200 301.

For export from Northern Ireland, exporters should contact the DAERA Trade Administration Team for meat and dairy exports by e-mail at: vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk or by telephone at 028 77442 060.