

VETERINARY CERTIFICATE FOR EXPORT OF FEED ADDITIVES FOR CATS AND DOGS AS WELL AS FOR HEAT TREATED PREPARED PET FOODS FOR CATS AND DOGS, TO THE CUSTOMS TERRITORY OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION (EAEU) – 8544NFG

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV) AND EXPORTER

Certificate **8544EHC** is based on the model certificate agreed between the UK and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and reflects the requirements laid down in the legislation of the Eurasian Economic Union. As a result, the wording and format cannot be amended. Provided the guidance notes below are followed or relied upon, the certificate may be signed.

The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with the certificate. 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.

Important note for exporters and Official Veterinarians:

The Export Health Certificate 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 A of this document for additional instructions. **BELARUS WILL NOT ALLOW IMPORT OF THIS COMMODITY UNLESS THESE INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN COMPLIED WITH.**

Associated documents: 8544EHC.

1. SCOPE

Certificate **8544EHC** may be used for the export of **feed additives for cats and dogs as well as for heat treated prepared pet foods for cats and dogs** from the UK to the member countries of the EAEU (Russian Federation, Republic of Belarus, Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Kyrgyzstan, and Republic of Armenia), subject to standard restrictions and import permits if applicable.

OVs and exporters should note that **processed animal protein cannot be considered to be a petfood** unless it is mixed in appropriate proportions with other feeding substances which are normally consumed by the relevant species of pet animals. This reflects the definition of "petfood" laid down under point 19 of Annex I to Regulation (EU) No. 142/2011, as amended by Regulation (EU) No. 294/2013 of 14th March 2013, which has been retained in Great Britain as retained EU law as defined in the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018.

Imported finished petfood may be exported to EAEU countries provided that they fulfil the relevant EAEU import conditions as indicated in the certificate.

If there are specific EAEU import conditions that go beyond UK import rules, the imported product has to be accompanied by an additional health certificate certifying with the specific EAEU conditions in addition to the health certificate issued in accordance with UK import rules.

Approval of Manufacturing Establishments

This certificate can only be used for the export of products manufactured in establishments which are specifically approved by the EAEU to export to the EAEU. This is in addition to the standard approval required under UK legislation.

Rosselkhoznadzor (Russia's **Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance**) publishes lists of establishments which they have approved to export to the EAEU.

For the purposes of this certificate, establishments appearing on one or more of the lists published by Rosselkhoznadzor may be considered to be approved by the EAEU to export the specified commodity to the EAEU.

Rosselkhoznadzor's lists of approved establishments are published on their website at:

<http://fsvps.ru/fsvps/importExport? language=en>

Establishments which are not approved to export to the EAEU should contact APHA - Centre for International Trade in Carlisle or DAERA for further information on how they can apply for approval.

2. 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 \(defra.gov.uk\)](http://defra.gov.uk)

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

Foreign text: The Official Veterinarian should note that the foreign text in the certificate is an official translation of the English text and the Official Veterinarian is accordingly authorised to complete the export health certificate, even if they are unable to read and understand the meaning of the foreign text. Any spaces in the foreign text must be left blank and English wording must not be entered. However, if the Official Veterinarian is able to read and write the foreign text and if facilities are available to enter the foreign text in type, the Official Veterinarian can enter the information where appropriate.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Centre for International Trade in Carlisle or DAERA within seven days of issue.

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

3. **GENERAL INFORMATION (SECTIONS 1-3 REFER)**

Particular attention should be paid to the accuracy of the information entered onto the certificate as this information can be subject to close scrutiny at the EAEU's borders.

Incorrect references to dates, code numbers, approval numbers or misspelling of names and addresses can be sufficient cause for consignments to be detained or rejected by EAEU officials.

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.

- (a) **COUNTRY (COUNTRIES) OF TRANSIT (SECTION 1.4):**
This refers to any country of transit, including EU MSs, countries of the EAEU and any other countries through which the consignment will pass on its way to the final destination.
- (b) **CERTIFICATE NO (SECTION 1.5):**
This MUST consist of a unique number in the following format: *two digits for the year/issuing office identifier number and individual certificate unique number. This will be automatically assigned when an EHC is applied for.*
- (c) **COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (SECTION 1.6):**
The country of origin of product should be entered (preferably pre-printed) as '*UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND (GB)*'
- (d) **CERTIFYING COUNTRY (SECTION 1.7):**
This is pre-printed in the certificate as '*UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND (GB)*'
- (e) **COMPETENT AUTHORITY OF THE EXPORTING COUNTRY (SECTION 1.8):**

This is pre-printed in the certificate as '*DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS (DEFRA)*'.

- (f) **CERTIFYING ORGANISATION IN THE EXPORTING COUNTRY (SECTION 1.9):**
This should be pre-printed as '*ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH AGENCY*' (APHA) for consignments certified in Great Britain.

OR

'DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, AND RURAL AFFAIRS OF NORTHERN IRELAND' for consignments certified in Northern Ireland.

- (g) **POINT OF ENTRY INTO THE CUSTOMS TERRITORY (SECTION 1.10):**
The exporter should complete this when applying for the EHC. Alternatively, the OV could ask the exporter for this information if not completed at the time of application. If an import permit is issued, then if the entry point into the EAEU is mentioned in the permit, this should match the entry made in the certificate.

- (h) **ORIGIN OF PRODUCTS - NAME, REGISTRATION NUMBER AND ADDRESS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT (SECTION 3.1):**

Establishments manufacturing petfood from unprocessed animal materials must be approved in accordance with Regulation (EC) 1069/2009 (as amended), which has been retained in Great Britain as retained EU law as defined in the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018. In England, this is enforced by the Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2011 (as amended). Similar legislation exists in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Alternatively, establishments which manufacture petfood using processed ingredients of animal origin must be approved or registered in accordance with Regulation (EC) 183/2005 laying down requirements for feed hygiene, which has been retained in Great Britain as retained EU law as defined in the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018. In England, this is enforced by the Feed (Hygiene and Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2010 (as amended). Similar legislation exists in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The appropriate approval or registration number should be entered into this section. If the establishment is in possession of approval/registration under both of the abovementioned Regulations, then the number entered should reflect the number which is used on product labels or on other paperwork, including the details listed by EAEU or as indicated in the import permit, associated with the export.

- (i) **ORIGIN OF PRODUCTS - ADMINISTRATIVE-TERRITORIAL UNIT (SECTION 3.2):**

The Administrative-territorial unit may be interpreted to mean the UK County, District or Isle in which the exporting establishment is located. In the case of outbreaks of notifiable disease subject to Regionalisation agreements, this section should be completed in line with updated advice at the time (these guidance will be updated as necessary).

4. **VETERINARY CERTIFICATION (SECTION 4 REFERS)**

Taking into consideration the additional guidance below, the health attestation may be certified on the basis of the OV's familiarity with the sourcing, processing, handling and storage arrangements in place at the processing establishment and/or examination of relevant records and documentation.

If any of the health attestations are to be certified on the basis of a declaration, the declaration should be from an authorised signatory of the transporting company and 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.

OVs are reminded to follow the RCVS Guide to Professional Conduct. <https://www.rcvs.org.uk/setting-standards/advice-and-guidance/code-of-professional-conduct-for-veterinary-surgeons/supporting-guidance/certification/>

(a) Section 4.1

This paragraph may be certified based on notifiable disease clearances for the whole of the UK, or the relevant regions if a regionalisation agreement is in place in the event of occurrence in the UK or more of the diseases listed in this paragraph of the certificate.

The animal health restrictions relate to diseases to which the species from which the product was sourced are susceptible, at the time of their dispatch/certification from the establishment.

The OV should, if necessary, check with the plant operator and/or APHA Specialist Service Centre - International Trade, in Carlisle to confirm that the petfood plant is not under any animal health restrictions.

OVs may certify this paragraph on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland.

Certification of freedom from 'other anaerobic' infections is limited to clostridial infections and should be certified on the basis of the information in the Food Chain Information accompanying the animals to slaughter and ante and post-mortem examination of the animals from which the materials are derived. This may be supported by declarations provided by the managers of the farms of origin or their veterinarians.

(b) Section 4.2

That the raw materials used in the manufacture of the feed comes from slaughtered animals and has undergone post-mortem veterinary and sanitary inspection may be certified on the basis of the OV's familiarity with the sourcing, processing, handling and storage arrangements in place at the processing establishment and/or examination of relevant records and documentation and on the basis of raw materials being marked either as fit for human consumption or as the relevant Category 3 animal by products which are eligible for use in pet food manufacture

(c) Section 4.3

The relevant recommendations by the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code can be found here: [Terrestrial Code Online Access - OIE - World Organisation for Animal Health](#)

In the UK SRM material is Category 1 ABP and must be disposed of by rendering and/or incineration under the TSE Regulations, and the contents of stomachs and intestines must be disposed of at the abattoir also ensuring that there is no cross-contamination of the meat.

Note the following Oie recommendations for ruminant-derived meat-and-bone meal or greaves in Article 11.4.13:

1. Ruminant-derived meat-and-bone meal or greaves, or any commodities containing such products, which originate from a country, zone or compartment defined in Article 11.4.3. [negligible risk], *but where there has been an indigenous case of BSE, should not be traded if such products were derived from cattle born before the date from which the ban on the feeding of ruminants with meat-and-bone meal and greaves derived from ruminants had been effectively enforced.*

2. *Ruminant-derived meat-and-bone meal or greaves, or any commodities containing such products, which originate from a country, zone or compartment defined in Articles 11.4.4.[controlled risk] and 11.4.5. [undetermined risk] should not be traded between countries.*

The product must therefore not contain any ruminant PAP originating from GB or other countries/zones/compartments with a controlled or undetermined risk status.

Exporters should confirm (e.g. via their importer) that the importing authorities will accept their specific products on the basis of species, source and nature of the ingredients of animal origin used to make them.

(d) Section 4.4

This paragraph may be certified as follows:

Absence of botulinum toxin (only relevant to canned petfood): this may be certified on the basis of manufacturing standards of canned products at Fc3 level, as supported by ongoing verification checks by operators and official surveillance. N.B. the statement on bacterial count does not apply here since the requirement is for absence of the toxin.

Salmonella and enterobacteriaceae:

The petfood must satisfy the microbiological standards laid down in Regulation (EC) 142/2011 (as amended)(as retained in Great Britain as retained EU law as defined in the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018) with regards to both Salmonella and Enterobacteriaceae.

HACCP controls may be relied upon to certify compliance with the microbiological criteria indicated. If such controls are not in place, or the results have not been satisfactory, batches intended for export must be tested to ensure compliance before the consignment is certified for export. The heat treatment required in paragraph 4.5 of the certificate should ensure compliance with the microbiological standards, provided appropriate measures are in place to prevent contamination and ensure preservation of the product after manufacture.

However, it is strongly advisable that the batches intended for export are tested individually and the information on the date

of testing and the laboratory used indicated in the certificate or its schedules as required in the certificate.

Regardless of which sampling and testing methods are used, it is in the exporter's interest to be confident that their product would be able to pass any laboratory tests which may be carried out on the consignment upon its arrival in the EAEU. Accordingly, the HACCP plan should be sufficiently robust to ensure minimal risk of any contamination of the product.

The tests must be carried out by UK government accredited laboratory.

(e) Section 4.5

This section may be certified on the basis that the unprocessed animal by-products or the petfood itself have either been subjected to the treatment indicated or to an appropriate processing standard provided by Regulation (EC) 142/2011 (as amended) which implements Regulation (EC) 1069/2009 (as amended, retained in Great Britain as EU law as defined in the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018). In England, the aforementioned regulations are enforced by the Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended). Similar legislation exists in Scotland and Wales.

(f) Section 4.6

In the absence of any specific EAEU requirements with respect to packaging materials used for petfood, this paragraph may be certified on the basis of compliance with standard UK practices.

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

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

Annex A

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