

No:

EXPORT OF DAIRY PRODUCTS TO COSTA RICA - 5508EHC

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE CERTIFYING OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

Associated Documents: 5508EHC 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 5508EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 5508EHC. 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 5508EHC may be used for the export of dairy products of bovine origin from the United Kingdom to Costa Rica.

2. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

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

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

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the issuing office in GB - the Centre for International Trade, Carlisle - within seven days of signing.

The OV should keep a copy for his/her own records - in Northern Ireland, DAERA will retain a copy of the original certificate issued by the DAERA OV.

3. OVAL MARK ON PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN - POAOs

EU hygiene regulations require that food of animal origin carries an oval health or identification mark, and official controls are carried out by enforcement authorities to ensure the appropriate marking has been applied.

Domestic legislation has been introduced to ensure these requirements continue to apply in the UK, following our departure from the EU.

- The **health** marks indicate that food products are fit for human consumption and
- the **identification** marks show when foods of animal origin have been produced in officially approved establishments which are compliant with retained EU food hygiene Regulations (EC) No 852/2004, (EC) No 853/2004 and (EU) No 2017/625.

The primary food legislation in England, Wales and Scotland is

The Food Safety Act 1990 (as amended) and The Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order, as amended, applies in Northern Ireland.

[Guidance on health and identification marks that apply from 1 January 2021 | Food Standards Agency](#)

Relevant text on the EHC can be certified on the basis that the primary, secondary and/or shipping packaging on food products of animal origin show the identification mark.

4. HEALTH INFORMATION

- Paragraphs IV. 1 and 3 refer: the dairy ingredients used must bear oval marks which demonstrate compliance with retained EU Regulations (EC) 853/2004 and 854/2004.
- Paragraph IV. 2 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.
Regarding Tuberculosis, the animals must come from an Official Tuberculosis Free (OTF) zone (e.g., Scotland) or from a OTF herd.
The certifying OV must seek assurance from the exporter that the animals originate from a OTF zone or OTF herd.
- Paragraph IV. 4 refers.
This can be certified based on the OV's familiarity with the producing establishment, the presence of an oval identification mark and evidence that the raw milk/dairy product was manufactured in an approved establishment listed by the UK for exports which indicates that it complies with the requirements in the listed legislation, including that for microbiological monitoring. This may be supported by the examination of laboratory results or assurances from the local authority's supervising EHO.
- Paragraphs IV.5 and IV.6
Annex III, Section IX, Chapter 1 of Regulation 853/2004 requires, among other things, that the holding of origin of the raw milk is OBF and OTF. It provides for raw milk from holdings which are not OTF (or OBF) to be pasteurised or undergo a treatment.

The rest of the requirements in Chapter 1 concern dairy hygiene. If the animals are resident in the UK this can be certified based on the Dairy Hygiene inspections regularly carried out by APHA on behalf of FSA/FSS to monitor compliance with hygiene legislation.

- Paragraph IV.7
Compliance with the microbiological criteria set out in Regulation No. 2073/2005 can be certified if the products originate in a GB approved premises, or an EU approved premises in NI, that bears a UK or the EU oval ID mark.

- Paragraph IV.8 can be certified based on written declaration from the exporter/FBO verifying compliance with this.
- Paragraph IV.9,(a),(b)and(c)
Points (a) and (b) can be certified only if the OV has test results that show compliance with Article 29 of Directive 96/23/EC, Regulations 853/2004,37/2010, 396/2005 and 1881/2006.

Point(c) may be certified on the basis that the national surveillance scheme implements Regulation 396/2005, which are transposed into national legislation by The Pesticides (Maximum Residue Levels) Regulations 2008 (as amended) and The Contaminants in Food Regulations 2013 (as amended) with devolved administration Equivalents.

- Paragraph IV. 10 - Radioactivity
This may be signed on the basis of the following:
The Food Standards Agency, in association with the UK environmental agencies, monitors food and the environment in the UK. They publish an annual report - Radioactivity in food and the Environment - which summarises the results of monitoring.
The results of these monitorings supports the conclusion set out in the paragraph.

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#centre-for-international-trade-carlisle>