

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

In relation to 8727EHC titled:

EXPORT TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA OF MEDICAL FOOD, INFANT FORMULAS, DRINK, DRINK MIXES AND NUTRITIONAL POWDER MIXES CONTAINING INDIVIDUAL AMINO ACIDS DERIVED FROM BIRD FEATHERS AND VITAMIN D-3 DERIVED FROM SHEEP WOOL GREASE

Associated Documents: 8727EHC

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but always in conjunction with certificate 8727EHC. 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

This certificate may be used for the export to United States of export to the United States of America of medical food, infant formulas, drink, drink mixes and nutritional powder mixes containing individual amino acids derived from bird feathers and vitamin d-3 derived from sheep wool grease.

This certificate is intended to facilitate compliance with the veterinary certification requirements of the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection service (USDA APHIS). These veterinary certification requirements may be contained within a **specific import permit** or **standard APHIS guidelines** or **specific correspondence from APHIS**.

In all cases, a reference to the source of the veterinary certification requirements must be entered in the space provided at paragraph IV of the certificate. It is also advisable for a copy of the source information to either be attached to the certificate or to otherwise accompany the consignment.

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.

Veterinary Officers should sign and stamp the health certificate with their official stamp in any 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

Authorised Private Veterinary Practitioners (aPVPs) certifying DAERA Export Certification On-Line (DECOL) produced EHCs 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. Paragraph IV - Health information

The health information may be certified on the basis of the following specific guidance in conjunction with the RCVS Principles of Certification. OVs should develop due familiarity with the sourcing, procurement, segregation, processing, handling and storage arrangements in place at the establishment. This should be supported by examination of relevant documentation or other records including commercial documentation, veterinary statements, laboratory analysis and valid declarations. Where necessary, physical inspection may be required.

Clauses (a) to (d) may be certified on sight of a valid manufacturer's declaration and any supporting documentation required to support the declaration.

Clause (e) may be completed with any import conditions set out in the import permit or other official correspondence that are not addressed in clauses (a) to (d). If necessary, this information may be provided on a separate schedule; appended, signed and fan stamped by the certifying officer in the usual manner.

Where declarations are relied upon to support the completion of this certificate, these must be signed by someone who has knowledge of and responsibility for the relevant parts of the production process and/or declared intended use. This person would ideally be a registered veterinarian who is familiar with the manufacturing plant and is able to carry out any necessary documentary checks. If the declaration is not signed by a registered veterinarian, the managing director (or equivalent) of the company should provide a letter giving the name(s) and job title(s) of those authorised to give the declaration and the basis on which the declaration is made.

The declaration should 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.

Where possible, supporting evidence (e.g. treatment records) should be called for and put on file.

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 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