

**EXPORT OF MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO THE PEOPLE'S  
REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

**NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER**

**Associated Documents: 6288EHC**

**IMPORTANT**

**These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 6288EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 6288EHC.**

**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.**

**CONSISTENCY IN RECORDING DETAILS:**

**Both the OV and the exporter should note that it is imperative that the details on the EHC, and on all documents accompanying the consignment, match the details displayed on the GACC approval list and that consistency is maintained across all accompanying documentation.**

**1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE**

Export health certificate 6288EHC may be used for the export of Milk and Milk products from approved establishments in the UK (see part 3 of these notes) to the People's Republic of China.

Dairy ingredients (excluding raw milk) used in the manufacture of the final dairy product may have been imported from premises approved for dairy export to China.

**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 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 a veterinarian employed by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs - Northern Ireland (DAERA).

Any certifying OV/VO must have their details registered with the Chinese authorities - see part 4 of these notes for further information.

OVs/VOs should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV/VO 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.

This is not required in Northern Ireland as a copy is saved to the official record HPRM.

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

### 3. EXPORTER APPROVAL WITH GACC

All establishments must be approved by GACC (General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China), the relevant Chinese authority.

#### **CONFIRMATION THAT THE EXPORTER IS APPROVED BY GACC**

The Certifying Officer **MUST** confirm that the exporter is approved and listed by GACC, the China competent authority, to export dairy products before signing the EHC.

This may be checked by following the steps below:

1. Click the link below:  
[Registration information of overseas production enterprises of imported food \(singlewindow.cn\)](http://singlewindow.cn)
2. Under Country(region), select United Kingdom.
3. either:
  - a) use the drop-down category to find **by product type** (Dairy is Category 17),
  - or: b) type in the manufacturer's Approval Number at **OVERSEAS REG. NO.**
  - or: c) if known, the FBO's Chinese Registration Number, under **CHINA REG. NO.**

Note, this system may not be updated straight away - it is possible a manufacturer has been registered with GACC but their details are yet to be input into this database.

Alternatively,

- a) via proof supplied by the exporter, which the Certifying Official must keep on file
- b) if the exporter has difficulty ascertaining their status, they should contact the Exports Team at APHA and enquire.

#### **\*\*\* IMPORTANT \*\*\* REFERENCES TO APPROVAL NUMBERS FROM 01/10/2020**

The format of the approval/registration number **without the "UK" prefix** or the "EC" suffix shall be used and entered in the relevant sections of 6288EHC export health certificates signed after 30/09/2020.

Illustrative example:

<b>Format to be used in export health certificates SIGNED AFTER 30/09/2020</b>
AB 123

THE NEW FORMAT APPLICABLE FROM 01/10/2020 MUST BE USED IN ALL DOCUMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH EXPORTS OF DAIRY PRODUCTS TO CHINA, INCLUDING INTERNAL MOVEMENT CERTIFICATES OR SUPPORT HEALTH ATTESTATIONS SIGNED FROM THAT DATE.

The Chinese authorities will expect that the details of the establishments entered onto the certificate are both correct, consistent and in accordance with their own records of approved establishments. Approval codes, and other details, should exactly match the details as listed on the China GACC veterinary authorities' website.

Approved establishments are listed by reference to their UK approval number. Within the approvals for dairy/dairy products, specifically approved products are listed, e.g. butter, cheese, sterilized milk, milk powder, etc. An establishment cannot export a dairy product if it does not have approval for that specific category of product.

#### **CIFER**

From January 2022, applications for addition of, modification to, and/or extension to an exporter's details on this list can only be made online, on CIFER, GACC's online database.

The procedure requires facilitation and final submission by Defra, but the individual dairy establishment is responsible for accurately entering their own details.

Once details are submitted to GACC on Cifer, UK authorities have no control of the time taken for approval and updating of additions or modifications to the GACC listings. Several weeks should be allowed for this to take place.

**Further details, and the necessary forms, can be obtained from APHA (in GB) or DAERA (in NI).**

#### **4. OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN REGISTRATION WITH GACC**

Any Official Veterinarians providing final export certification for milk and milk products are required to have provided their name and a specimen of their OV stamp to the Chinese authorities. They must be provided to China before exports take place.

It is recommended that the name and specimen copy of the stamp of an alternative OV is also provided to allow for absences such as sickness and holidays. Unless there are changes, specimen stamps only need to be sent once, and will be held on a list by GACC for future certification.

APHA and DAERA will send the information on to Defra in London for onward transmission to China. Updates to the list will be sent to China quarterly and, on each occasion, several weeks should be allowed for the information to be processed by the authorities in China and forwarded to ports.

Exporters should, therefore, plan ahead and ensure any likely changes or additions to their OVs details are communicated well in advance. This information must be provided on the form attached at Appendix 1. The form must be scanned and sent by e-mail to APHA Carlisle (for OVs in GB) or DAERA (for VOs in NI).

**It is imperative that the certifying OV/VO, the exporter and/or the importer ensure that the CIQ (port of entry into China) to be used has a copy of the certifying OVs stamp on file prior to signing this EHC.**

#### **5. HANDWRITTEN AMENDMENTS TO CERTIFICATES**

The CIQ (China Inspection and Quarantine) import control posts in China, under the supervision of GACC, have indicated a preference for there to be no handwritten amendments to the certificate made by OVs. However, this is not official advice, and it is known that the majority of certificates with handwritten details are accepted with no concerns. Handwritten amendments **can**, therefore, be made to certificates but any such certificates are to be **used at the exporter's own risk**.

## 6. PARAGRAPH NUMBERING

The paragraph numbering at section II of the 6288EHC reads II. a), b), d), e). The omission of c) does not invalidate the EHC and OV's are able to continue to sign the certificate. No required information will be missed due to this omission.

## 7. HEALTH INFORMATION

Paragraphs IV 4 and 5, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet point of IV 1, may be signed on the basis of the oval mark, which demonstrates compliance with EU Regulations (EC) 853/2004 and 854/2004. In the UK, the EU Regulation is implemented by the Food Hygiene Regulation 2016. The Regulation requires that raw milk must come from animals:

- (a) that do not show any symptoms of infectious diseases communicable to humans through milk;
- (b) that are in a good general state of health, present no sign of disease that might result in the contamination of milk and, in particular, are not suffering from any infection of the genital tract with discharge, enteritis with diarrhoea and fever, or a recognisable inflammation of the udder;

Also, under the Food Hygiene Regulations 2016, milk from tuberculin /brucellosis reactors cannot be used for human consumption and must be disposed of.

Further guidance on this can be found at:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/raw-cows-drinking-milk>

Paragraph 7 and Annex 4 refer.

If the certifying OV has any doubts or concerns about compliance with this requirement, then the certificate must not be signed, and further advice sought from the issuing office.

Bullet point 4: the OV may certify after receiving confirmation from milk producers or collectors that the raw milk used to produce dairy products intended for China does not originate from animals that have received vaccination against anthrax; or if vaccination has taken place, the raw milk was **not** collected within 21 day after vaccination against anthrax.

## 8. Paragraph IV. 2. refers.

Where non-UK ingredients have been used, the OV must have sight of evidence that the establishment of origin has been approved to export dairy to China; also, where non-UK dairy ingredients have been used that have been imported from outside the EU, a health certificate should have accompanied the imported milk. Copies of these documents should be retained on file by the certifying OV.

## 9. Paragraph IV. 3. should be completed with the details of the processing methods used during the manufacture of the product. This paragraph may be certified on the basis of:

- (a) knowledge of the production process operating in the establishment;
- (b) checks on company records of processing, quality control checks, etc.  
for the batches certified;
- (c) supplementary supporting evidence provided by the responsible Environmental Health Officer.

#### **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 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:

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

**APPENDIX 1**

**List of Official Veterinarians Requesting Authorisation to Certify Consignments of Dairy Products to the People's Republic of China**

**GUIDANCE FOR SUBMITTING STAMPS/SIGNATURES:**

- Please ensure that the stamp is perfectly upright.
- Please ensure that the stamp, printed name and signature fall well within the boxes provided.
- If the stamp, printed name or signature go beyond the borders, it might cause confusion at the Chinese CIQ (border point) if the line is misconstrued as being part of the standard stamp or name.
- You may expand the boxes if necessary and add extra rows as required.
- The stamp must be sharp and wholly legible, as must be the name. A new stamp should be acquired if necessary.
- The Official Veterinarian's name must be typed and not handwritten.
- The signature must be handwritten and not submitted as a digital signature.
- The stamp should be in a colour other than black, preferably the colour to be used on actual certification to China.

OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN'S NAME  (Typed in capital letters)	SIGNATURE	STAMP  (Upright and in any colour other than black)
